

4-H Outreach Summer Intern –Washington County

Situation Statement:

In the spring of 2006, the Washington Co. 4-H Leaders Association sponsored a Youth Outreach Meeting for 30 youth and adults representing 20 different agencies and organizations to identify ways to reach youth in Washington County. The program was facilitated by teams of 4-H youth and adult leaders.

Two themes that surfaced were: increasing the visibility of 4-H in the urban area and increasing 4-H membership in the Hartford area where there currently is not a 4-H club. There was also a need to reach out to underserved youth.

These needs are consistent with needs that were identified in the last Civil Rights Review and Plan of Work to reach more youth in the Hartford area and Hispanic youth. This need to reach new audiences has been identified in the Washington Co. 4-H Leaders Association program planning the past four years. They have developed a Spanish brochure, staffed booths at outreach meetings and made an effort to reach new audiences.

The project was to pilot having a Summer 4-H Youth Development Intern to focus their efforts on reaching a potential audience new to 4-H in the urban areas and also Hispanic youth. There is an opportunity to partner with Casa Guadalupe which reaches Hispanic youth as well as with the Hartford Recreation Department and WNEP to reach youth in the Hartford area.

Response:

Washington Co. has never had a summer 4-H Intern. The project was to hire an intern who would focus their program efforts at expanding the 4-H program through outreach efforts at the Hartford and West Bend playgrounds, partner with Casa Guadalupe, and integrate these efforts into the current 4-H community club program.

This pilot project would help to reach a new audience in Washington County. One aspect of the project was to hold a Hispanic summer day camp. If it was successful, it could be replicated in other counties. The day camp was explored with Casa. Due to timing, it was put on hold until the summer of 2009.

Four main goals:

- Provide 4-H program experience for Hispanic youth in grades K-5th grade.
 - Hispanic youth were reached at both playground programs as well as the Casa Guadalupe outreach efforts
- Reach out to the underserved audience in Hartford by partnering with Hartford Rec. Dept. and WNEP
 - Partnered with West Bend and Hartford Recreation Departments to offer programs once a week at 4 parks for 7 weeks. There was a different theme each week based on 4-H projects and a service experience of making bird houses for the community. There were over 25 bluebird houses and 40 oriole feeders built and donated to local senior homes and nature centers.
- Implement the Youth Outreach Project with youth on the 4-H Leaders Board
 - Youth and adult leaders were identified to help plan and teach the weekly programs at West Bend and Hartford as well as at Casa. 35 youth and 24

adults were involved in delivering the programs at the parks and Casa. Youth were responsible for planning an educational experience that involved youth in the project. The goal was for youth leaders to apply their leadership and teaching skills through this outreach effort. This involved youth and adult leaders beyond the board membership.

- Explore, design and implement new strategies to promote 4-H
 - A 4-H day for non 4-H families was designed and implemented where youth who had attended the playground programs, Casa, or the County Fair could sign up to attend workshops focused on a project area. The workshop was designed for families so they could have a better understanding of the 4-H project experience. This wrap around concept tied the outreach efforts to youth integrating into 4-H clubs.
- A power point report was developed and given to the county Education & Culture Committee and the 4-H Leaders Association Board by the Outreach Intern, Jocelyn Ritger.

Evidence:

- These programs helped us to reach out in the community in new ways.
 - Playground programs reached about 100 youth each week for a total of 700 youth. Youth at the playground program indicated they learned about solar cars, making bird houses, electricity animal tracks, llamas, using a compass and rockets. Youth rated the program 4.4 on a 5 point scale. 72 out of 98 youth would like 4-H to do this program again next year. Forty wanted more information about joining 4-H.

The adult leaders at the park found the program was well organized and the youth really enjoyed the 4-H activities that were taught. The parks would like us to return and we are exploring adding another community in 2009.

- Casa Guadalupe reached about 80-100 youth. This program is scheduled to continue throughout the year once a month. Casa cited 4-H as a partner in their news stories that were printed in the papers.
- The 4-H day for non 4-H families reached about 45 people. Twenty – eight youth attend the workshop with parents. The workshop was rated 4.5 on a scale of 1-5. Comments: “This is a great opportunity for my son to become involved with the science in 4-H.” “Sessions were very informative – rockets were really fun!”
- Over 35 youth and 24 adult leaders helped with the planning and implementation of the program.
- At least five families from playground programs, Casa and outreach programs attended the 4-H Open House. We were not able to track all playground programs. We know of families joining 4-H that were involved in the outreach programs. Enrollments are not due until December so final numbers are not in.
- County community partners are looking at continuing funding for this 4-H outreach position.