



4-H Afterschool

Creating a safe place to be after the bell rings

One third of Wisconsin's K-12 children take care of themselves after school. On average, these children spend about seven hours a week unsupervised. Studies show that these children are at increased risk for becoming involved in gangs, crime, drugs or alcohol, or sexual activity in the hours after school.

University of Wisconsin Extension's 4-H Youth Development program, in partnership with schools, public libraries and other community groups and organizations, offers 4-H clubs and 4-H activities in after-school settings in communities all around Wisconsin. 4-H Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

In 2005, almost 2,000 youth were enrolled in 4-H Youth Afterschool programs in 27 counties. Each program is unique – designed to fit local needs and resources. For example:

Lincoln County

- A 4-H after school program started in 2004 with 68 middle school students – an average of 12 a day.
- In the 2005-2006 school year, participation increased to about 60 youth. Organizers added a tutoring program, with high school students and adult volunteers tutoring 31 of the after-school participants.
- Organizers have raised more than \$26,000 in grants as well as donations of activity supplies, snacks and a refrigerator.

Douglas County

- 4-H Afterschool Clubs meet regularly in five elementary schools in Superior with 249 students enrolled.
- \$1,000 in grants from the University of Wisconsin-Superior funded a summer health and fitness program and allowed staff to buy pedometers and fitness equipment for youth in school and Superior Public Library programs. Students who have participated in the fitness programs reported that they now do some form of physical activity at least five days a week.

“The ...program has caught a few of our students (who could have) fallen through the proverbial crack.” Jill Seaman, Seventh Grade Teacher, Merrill, Wis.

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