



Youth Leadership

Giving Youth Meaningful Leadership Roles

Young people want to be catalysts for change in their lives, in their families and in their communities. Change happens fastest when young people are given the tools, training, and trust to apply their creativity and energy in meaningful activities in their own lives and in the future of their neighborhoods and communities.

Response

University of Wisconsin-Extension 4-H Youth Development staff work with youth to provide opportunities for them to learn and apply leadership skills both in the 4-H program and in their communities.

Outcomes

During the September 2005 Board of Regents meeting, sixteen Washington County 4-H youth facilitated the luncheon discussion. Kandi O'Neil, Washington County 4-H Youth Development Educator, trained the youth on facilitation skills. The Board of Regents, Provosts, Chancellors, elected officials and other UW-Extension staff had an opportunity to participate with youth leaders in a meaningful dialogue.

Seven older 4-H youth who were part of the 2004 Southern District Leadership Team worked with three 4-H Youth Development staff members to host a one-day leadership conference for 4-H members. A total of 66 youth attended the conference where they learned leadership skills to apply back at home.

About 100 Iowa County youth serve in active leadership roles in the 4-H program at the club or county level. More than 75 community youth and adults attended a county Youth Leadership conference.

Older 4-H youth serve as camp counselors in many Wisconsin counties. These youth plan, organize and lead activities. They mentor young campers through team building, trust building, and clear communication. UW-Extension staff train these counselors for these important roles.

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