

4-H Youth Development Community Vitality

The Situation

As communities seek to improve the opportunities for young people to develop life skills, reduce risk factors, and build assets, they are turning to quality programs designed to extend in-school learning to out-of-school opportunities for youth, and resources for adults who support children and youth. These programs take place both in schools and in the community. They provide children and youth with an opportunity to develop skills and interests in a wide range of domains by offering high interest activities designed to extend the learning day for participants and provide opportunities to apply in-school learning to real life situations.

Additionally, according to ACT fewer than three in 10 graduates are career ready. Employers have also indicated major discrepancies in the readiness of their employees. In a report by the partnership for 21st century skills the following areas were identified as major skill needed by incoming employees:

- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Oral and Written Communications
- Teamwork/Collaboration and
- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving.

As the premier Positive Youth Development organization in Kansas, K-State 4-H is uniquely positioned to build the skills and behaviors needed to succeed in the 21st century workplace and post-secondary education systems. K-State 4-H is committed to building outstanding leaders with marketable skills to succeed in today's global society and workplace. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

Community Vitality (Citizenship and Leadership): Fostering youth's commitment to their communities and growing future leaders.

Short-Term (Knowledge)

Youth will increase their knowledge about leadership and how to be an effective leader, team player and communicator.

Youth will acquire decision making skills and gain an appreciation for civic engagement.

Medium-Term (Behavior)

Youth will exercise leadership skills learned during their time in 4-H in clubs, activities and other venues with 4-H and other community organizations.

Youth will engage in community based service learning projects selected to address identified needs.

Youth will indicate increased awareness of diverse issues in their community and personal lives.

Youth will be represented on community decision bodies.

Indicators

Youth will respond positively to survey instruments and observational techniques indicating positive behavioral change.

Long-Term (Change in Condition)

Youth will serve as teen and adult leaders in their communities, community organizations, and as mentors for younger youth.

Youth will use leadership and communications skills needed to be successful in the workplace on a daily basis.

Participants will be engaged, well informed citizens who are active in their local and global communities.

Indicators

Youth will respond positively to survey instruments and observational techniques indicating positive behavioral change.

Public Value

Participation in the 4-H program increases personal responsibility that positively contributes to communities and increases civic engagement to strengthen communities.

Outputs

To be determined