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ETHICAL LEADERSHIP FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

Louise Biggers* and Patricia Gruber

ABSTRACT:

Teamwork and leadership have been emphasized in educational programming for years. The importance of incorporating ethics in leadership and teamwork will be highlighted in this presentation. Participants will learn that to be an effective leader one must be an ethical person. Adult and teen leaders must take personal responsibility for their ethical and moral decisions and behaviors. It is critical that teens and adults model the behaviors that they try to instill in others. The CHARACTER COUNTS!* Six Pillars of Character, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship will be featured as the core values taught by the certified trainers. The Six Pillars provide a common language that can be accepted by all. The session will include a variety of hands-on activities that can be used to increase the awareness of and the importance of embracing ethics in leadership development. The learning activities can be used in teen and adult training for any type of groups. Participants will have fun as they get creative ideas to copy, adapt, and use for their volunteers.

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GOING BEYOND THE BLUE RIBBON: A CREATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO RECOGNITION

JoLene Bunnell* and Kriss Jacobson

ABSTRACT:

Recall the joy in a child the first time they receive a blue ribbon for their cookies at the county fair. 4-H has always been a leader in providing an environment that nurtures a sense of confidence, a feeling of accomplishment and a heightened level of competence through its use of recognition. In this poster session, numerous examples will be given that go beyond that blue ribbon to other more creative and comprehensive ways of utilizing recognition to enhance growth and development in our 4-H youth. Recognition should be an integral part of all 4-H educational experiences. The National 4-H Recognition Model of: participation, progress towards self-set goals, standard of excellence, peer competition, and cooperation will be used as a framework to create a balanced countywide 4-H recognition system that meets the changing needs of today's youth. Innovative approaches to recognition will be shared that have successfully been used to strengthen as well as build participation in countywide 4-H events. A few of the examples to be shared include: "4-H Service Dollars" for cooperating as a group that can be cashed in towards the cost of 4-H camps and retreats; earning achievement points for the numerous events that a youth participates in throughout the year that equate to a cash award; and participation certificates for all contest to AUTHOR: a few. Come away with several ideas to take your county recognition beyond the blue ribbon.

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4-H YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREATS: WHO LEADS THEM--YOU OR 4-H YOUTH?

Elaine Husted* and Janice Cowan

ABSTRACT:

Have you tried to design, implement, and manage an older youth leadership retreat but can't get the kids excited about registering, let alone show up? The Eastern Oregon Regional Leadership Retreat program has been filled to capacity with teenagers wanting to attend the retreat and more exciting, the teens are vying to be on a Governing Board. The selected teens design, implement, and conduct the retreat. The success of the Governing Board session parallels a successful retreat. Twelve youth come together to plan the agenda, plan class topics and teaching strategies, plan the meals and social activities of the retreat. An Evaluation Survey of the Governing Board training will be shared, showing the impact of how well the youth bonded, were prepared to teach leadership classes, were prepared to create an agenda, and how well they knew the importance of evaluating their progress in leadership skill development. The role of the 4-H Extension Agents is to provide a safe environment where the youth can learn how to work as a team, how to teach their peers leadership and communication skills, and how to be an effective leader. This poster display will share a synopsis of our teaching process at the Governing Board training and at the retreat itself. Handouts will be available outlining our programs.

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I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU: BRINGING TEENS ONBOARD

David G. Mitchell Ph.D.*

ABSTRACT:

Nationwide the group of tenth through twelfth graders make up less than 10 percent of the total enrollment in 4-H. However, youth in this grade grouping are some of the most creative and energetic of all 4-H members. A dilemma for many youth workers is how to bring more of this group onboard the 4-H "train." This seminar will involve both dialog and hands-on activities to help participants explore proven ways to get teens onboard as partners and resources. Teens are "gold" waiting to be mined, and once they are "brought to the surface" they provide immeasurable value to a local or state 4-H program. Learn how to take advantage of this youth resource and walk away with ideas that can enhance any older youth 4-H program.

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YOUTH AS ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS

Jeannette Rea-Keywood*

ABSTRACT:

Demands on our environment continue to be a major issue. We are faced with issues related to air, land and water. How should we dispose of and manage solid waste? We must continue to address these concerns while maintaining a balance between the environment, human health and the economy. Today's young people as future leaders must take action to address these issues and create change. The 4-H Environmental Ambassador Program is a 3 day/2 night conference for youth in grades 5-7 from a three-county region. They explore waste management and environmental conservation and their goal is to become ambassadors in their schools and communities and make a difference. Topics include recycling, landfilling, effects of incineration and how we can impact the environment by handling trash effectively. Hands-on activities such as building a mini incinerator and landfill, exploring trash and studying habitats are reinforced by visits to waste management facilities. The tour sites include a materials separation and recycling facility, landfill, waste-to-energy plant and composting center. Role-play situations and an environmental town meeting give participants a means to apply the information learned from the activities and tours. This poster session will provide Extension educators with information on developing, conducting and evaluating a 4-H Environmental Ambassador Program. Topics that will be highlighted include collaborations, funding sources, hands-on and journal activities, tours, evaluation results and more.

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4-H AMBASSADORS, TEENS, LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS

Toni W. Riley*

ABSTRACT:

Leadership--a word that seems synonymous with success in today's world. How does one learn leadership? How are people empowered to become leaders? Are people natural leaders or can leadership be developed? According to Independent Sector (1994) teens are an underdeveloped volunteer and leadership source. Teens are, therefore a new peoples for leadership development. To tap this underdeveloped and previously unserved audience, Ambassadors; Christian County 4-H is a program developed to empower teens with responsibility, communication skills and the confidence to develop leadership and life skills. This program has taken a group of teens who were selected for their communication skills, service to their community and the 4-H/Youth Development Program and provided them with leadership responsibilities. The teens were selected to represent the demographics of Christian County (the most diverse county in Kentucky) and also involve 4-H members from Fort Campbell Army base. Ambassadors was developed to increase the teens leadership through opportunities to coordinate a community service project and represent the Christian County 4-H program on TV, radio and newspaper reporting, as volunteer leaders and role models, while learning and enhancing their communication, self confidence and organizational skills. This workshop will outline the process through which Ambassadors: Christian County 4-H was developed, it goals and objectives and the outcomes of the program. It will unveil the leadership training modules that were employed to teach interviewing techniques, newspaper writing, creative problem solving, public speaking and techniques for meeting people.

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ENGAGING YOUTH IN EXTENSION ADVISORY GROUPS

Rita Natale Saathoff*

ABSTRACT:

Engaging youth as full partners in decision-making provides the ideal opportunity for maintaining interest in and developing future leadership for all Extension programs. There are a variety of models which focus on the philosophical issues related to youth involvement, including how adults view youth in these roles, the degrees of youth participation, and the like. Once the philosophical issues are addressed, there are still many practical concerns in bringing together a chronologically diverse group to plan programs, solve problems and address community issues. Within the Extension system, advisory groups are a natural place to begin the process of youth involvement in decision making. Turning this into a reality involves selling the idea to both youth and adults, and preparing both parties through training. Once that is accomplished, there are still many other factors, such as physical and social needs, to address. Through presentation and group discussion, participants in this session will gain an awareness of factors affecting the attendance and active participation of youth in "adult-oriented" advisory groups. As a result of this presentation, participants will be prepared to implement a variety of strategies to facilitate the active engagement of youth in Extension advisory groups. Engaging youth as full partners in Extension advisory groups will provide both young people and adults leadership opportunities which will enrich their lives, while strengthening Extension programs and the communities they serve.

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OLDER YOUTH CAN LEAD TODAY!

Tammy Skubinna* and Mike Knutz

ABSTRACT:

Older youth are a strong resource for 4-H programs if they are utilized to their full potential. Teens can plan and organize county events, run leader meetings, and be partners with adults in shaping goals and direction for 4-H programming. Two county extension agents will share successful programs they are currently doing with older youth and a model for getting youth into leadership positions in a county program. One county will also have results from an evaluation of their Junior Leader Training program. Programs that will be summarized in this poster session include (1) County 4-H Ambassadors; (2) Required Junior Leader training (ten-year history); (3) Junior Toastmasters Public Speaking program; (4) Teen Club that does countywide community service; (5) After school program instructors; (6) County Leader group & Advisory Council officers; (7) County workshop & event coordinators; (8) Camp Counselor Club. Methods of training adult leaders to work with older youth, handouts describing programs, and job descriptions for older youth positions will be shared. Wherever you and your county 4-H program are with utilizing the talents of teens, this poster session will have something for you!

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PROMOTING POWER OF YOUTH PROGRAMS

Greg Yost*, Vickie Mullins and Debbie Nistler

ABSTRACT:

4-H professionals have a wealth of experience in working with youth, especially in the diverse and significant ways we encourage youth decision making in their clubs, communities and lives. Other individuals, both within NAE4-HA and across the nation, could learn much from how youth are involved at the local level. Organized by the Youth in Governance Task Force of the NAE4-HA Programs Committee, this poster session: (1) celebrates the Power of Youth Award national and regional winners for their success in involving youth in organizational and community decision making; (2) recognizes the Beyond Youth Leadership Grant winner for taking the initiative to involve youth in significant decision-making roles; (3) shares models of successful youth-led programs and youth/adult partnerships; (4) encourages NAE4-HA membership to apply for these awards and grants. Created in 2001, the NAE4-HA Power of Youth Award recognizes outstanding programs that empower youth to take active decision-making roles. Abstracts of the award winners from 2003 will be available at this poster session for professionals to use as models for similar programs in their own communities or to expand existing youth leadership efforts. The Beyond Youth Leadership Grant was initiated in 2003 to encourage 4-H professionals to create new or expand existing programs that involve youth participation in significant ways. The first grant recipient will be highlighted in this session. Details about the award and grant will be provided to NAE4-HA members who stop by and visit. Resources and information will be available to assist future award submissions.

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