

**Douglas County 4-H
Youth Development**
is a program of Douglas County & the
University of Wisconsin Cooperative
Extension

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**Douglas County
4-H Youth
Development
Program**

**2013
Impact
Report**

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**Douglas County
Wisconsin**



4-H Members Report Gaining Life Skills

Each fall older 4-H members are encouraged to summarize their accomplishments via a report and interview process with the 4-H Board of Directors. Here are a few comments from 4-H members who did so in 2013:

“I feel that all of my 4-H experiences have impacted my life in many ways. I have learned to talk to people a lot easier, my listening skills have gotten better, and I have learned more about working as a team.”

“By watching all the joy and skills the adult leaders of 4-H handed out by leading great programs, I think that some job I want in the future will have to do with helping people. If that job doesn't work out so well for me, at 4-H camp I learned how to make a grilled cheese on a Hobo stove, so I'm set to handle what the world throws at me.”

“If I was never in 4-H my life would be very different. In 4-H I learned how to interact with others more, I was taught to talk to others and ask them questions. I'm not a shy kid anymore because I learned how to communicate better. Being a leader through 4-H has helped me decide what I want to do for the rest of my life.”

“Attending the State 4-H Conference was an eye-opening experience. I got to explore several career options that I had not considered before. Attending the conference and living with other kids my age in a dorm was also a great experience for me.”

“The most important thing I learned from 4-H this year was don't just trust yourself but also trust others.”

Successful Year for 4-H Afterschool Clubs

4-H Afterschool Clubs experienced a very successful year in 2013. Afterschool 4-H clubs met at Bryant, Northern Lights, Great Lakes, Four Corners and Lake Superior Elementary Schools. The clubs are open to any youth in grades K-5 and we had 264 members who participated. Clubs at Lake Superior and Northern Lights meet twice a month and the other clubs meet once a month.

Club meetings include educational activities, recreation and snack. Joan Wimme, 4-H Youth Development Educator, taught educational programs in the following project areas: science & technology, environmental education, financial literacy and water science.



- 88% of youth (n=176) indicated they better understood why it is important to conserve water (water science)
- 78% of those youth indicated they would adopt at least one action at home to conserve water (water science)
- 86% of youth (n=134) identified the difference between needs and wants (financial literacy)

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4-H Inspires Future Scientists & Engineers

4-H Youth Development is helping develop the future workforce of scientists, engineers, and technology experts. 4-H and the Superior School District coordinated the fully grant-funded “4-H Gateway Academy” in July to introduce 10 middle school students to engineering concepts and careers. Now in its 6th year, students built Boe-bots and bridges, launched rockets and catapults, and designed a boat which they then built out of cardboard and duct tape. They also learned about GPS and geo-caching at Jay Cook State Park and raced their boats out at Barkers Island.



When asked for feedback, students said:

- “The academy showed me that being an engineer is something I would like to do”
- “I would like to study building roads”
- “Being at Gateway helped me like science”

Parents indicated that the 4-H Gateway Academy increased or reinforced their child’s interest in science and engineering. Parents commented,

- “He was excited to wake up every day to learn something new”.
- “I liked the intensive learning and new projects each day”.

Youth in Governance



4-H Youth Development continues to coordinate Youth in Governance programs, including Superior Days. Wimme coordinated activities for 58 Superior Days Youth Delegates, from six counties, during the February 19-21, 2013 event. Our evaluation focus this year was on life skill development in Communication, Citizenship and Teamwork. A sampling of data from that evaluation follows (n=50) and indicates the (*mean*) scores based on a scale of 1-5.

- My Superior Days experience increased my understanding about government (4.50)
- My Superior Days experience improved my public speaking skills (4.16)
- My experience at the mentoring session helped me feel more confident about working with adult partners (4.08)
- My Superior Days experience helped me feel more involved with my community (4.14)

4-H Holds Strategic Planning Retreat

The 4-H Adult Leaders Association and the Board of Directors held a planning retreat in early May. The purpose of the retreat was to identify current programs and unmet needs, and initially develop a two year plan to address those needs. Joan Wimme, 4-HYD Educator and Sheila Fillmore, Board President, led the five hour session.



Eighteen youth and adults participated in the World Café session and developed three areas of focus for the Association and listed in the chart above. The Standing Committees of the Leaders Association will also be realigned to these areas and, in light of changes with the Fairgrounds, the 4-H fair. The new committees will be:

- Membership
- Program
- Volunteer Support
- 4-H Fair

Other 2013 Program Highlights

- 12 4-H Clubs and 3 associated groups successfully completed the state mandated chartering process
- Douglas County 4-H has 394 members and 92 certified volunteers
- 4-H Youth Development reached 2,204 youth in various programs and events
- Nearly 3,000 entries were received for the 2013 4-H Junior Fair
- 28 Youth Leaders, including 9 high school aged youth who completed the Member Evaluation process, and were honored at Achievement Night on October 13th
- 27 youth and 5 youth counselors participated in 4-H Junior Camp in June
- 4-H certified 13 new volunteers
- 4-H outreach efforts included Winter Fest at the Maple School District, Family Fun Fest with the Superior Housing Authority, the Douglas County Youth Fair, Mighty Machines 5 and Take Back the Night events.
- 125 3rd graders participated in Kid’s Ca\$h, a financial literacy program taught by Wimme and Linda Bruce, Family Living Educator.

“My 4-H leadership experiences have impacted my life by helping me become more confident in myself. They’ve encouraged me to share my opinions and believe in my choices. Some life skills I’ve learned are patience, organization and public speaking.”