

Douglas County 4-H

*is the youth development program of
Douglas County & the University of
Wisconsin Cooperative Extension*

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Douglas County 4-H

Youth Development Program

2010 Impact Report

4-H is a **community**
 of **young**
people
across **America**
who are learning
leadership,
citizenship and
life skills.



4-H Members Report Gaining Life Skills

Each fall 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 2010:

“Leadership experiences through 4-H have had a major impact on my life. They have given me confidence, which makes me want to help my community, and 4-H provides many learning opportunities to acquire the skills to do it.”

“Through my involvement in 4-H I have developed into a well-rounded person. 4-H has given me the courage to be myself, speak in front of other people, voice my opinion, share my ideas, and be creative. 4-H has made me a better citizen by encouraging me to care about my community and become involved. Thanks to 4-H I am not afraid to take on tasks and new experiences.”

“Being a leader has given me opportunities to grow up. I have worked on team work, negotiations, being responsible, and showing respect for others around me.”

“Learning new skills, how to communicate with others, how to be a leader, how to be a member of a team are things that I will need to use for the rest of my life and I have been learning these things all while having fun in 4-H.”

New 4-H Club Organizes in Superior

This year we welcomed a new Douglas County 4-H community club – The Knowledge Seekers! This club formed when a group of parents invited Sarah Wilcox to meet with them and discuss how to start a 4-H club. In fall of 2009 the families met to decide on a club name and elected youth officers to lead their club. Wilcox taught “Volunteer Orientation” for six of the parents who are now certified 4-H leaders.

In late fall Wilcox taught “Club Officer Training” and five youth from this new club participated. Youth gave positive evaluations of the workshop, indicating that it taught them the responsibilities they have in their officer roles, how to use parliamentary procedure, and how to organize their club meetings. When asked what they learned that they intend to use in their clubs, responses included:

- To better carry out my position
- How to start and organize a meeting
- Not to be overpowering at meetings
- How to vote

Parents who attended the workshop said, “You kept it light yet very educational.” “Thank you so much for all your help in getting this group going.” “[The workshop] was taught in a way that was fun and interactive yet was still very informative.”

The Knowledge Seekers set goals for 2010 that included “creating an atmosphere of education” and doing community service projects.

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Northern District 4-H Winter Camp

Approximately 50 teens representing 4-H clubs from across Northern Wisconsin came together in January for an action-packed weekend of leadership, teamwork, and learning. Sarah Wilcox facilitated a workshop on how to make 4-H meetings more fun and engaging. A main educational focus of this year's camp was designing and constructing wind turbines that could generate electricity. Campers worked on their wind turbine kits in small groups and were challenged to design, test and modify the blades. Using fans as "wind," they were able to measure the energy produced with multi-meters. They even hooked them all together to make a "Wind Farm." This project was made available by a multi-state "Power of Wind" grant from 3M.



Campers completed evaluations which revealed:

- 86% learned how to use experiments to explore and develop scientific knowledge.
- 95% learned or used skills that they can apply in other areas of their lives.

National 4-H Conference

National 4-H Conference is the premier youth development event for high school 4-H members who are actively engaged in 4-H programs across the U.S. and its territories. The conference, administered by 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the USDA, upholds a tradition of developing the next generation of future leaders since 1927.



In March, Sarah Wilcox had the privilege of chaperoning six Wisconsin 4-H delegates to this conference in Washington, DC. At the conference, participants learned and shared information on current trends and issues relevant to 4-H and youth. Delegates also engaged as citizens by meeting with their congressional representatives to discuss issues affecting their communities. In the picture above, two Wisconsin youth share their ideas with Congressman Ron Kind. Wisconsin youth said, "We learned that without voicing an opinion and being involved, we would be missing a key component of citizenship." "I learned that I have the power to truly make a difference."

Douglas County 4-H member Robert Blair has been selected as a conference delegate in 2011.

4-H Leaders Learn to Improve Meetings

UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development staff provide 4-H club leaders with training, advice, and support to assist them in their roles. In turn, leaders mentor youth in their leadership and educational experiences at club meetings. 4-H members are more likely to value club meetings if they are welcoming, effective, and enjoyable. This year's topic for the annual Douglas County 4-H leader workshop was "4-H Meetings that Shake, Rattle, and Roll!"

Sarah Wilcox co-taught the workshop with a 4-H youth leader in May. They used hands-on activities, games, and questions to explore the following topics:

- 91% of participants increased their understanding of how to create a welcoming environment at club meetings.
- 100% of participants increased their understanding of ways to incorporate fun into meeting agendas.
- 100% of participants increased their understanding of ways to assess 4-H club meetings.

All 20 participants said they plan to use information from the workshop in the future. Comments included:

- I am determined to help our club president take our meetings to the next level.
- I plan to make sure people feel welcome at our meetings so they'll continue coming.
- I found the information useful and necessary.
- I enjoyed the training.

4-H Inspires Future Scientists & Engineers

The United States is falling behind other nations in developing its future workforce of scientists, engineers, and technology experts. The Douglas County 4-H Youth Development Program and Superior School District coordinated a fully grant-funded "4-H Gateway Academy" this summer to introduce middle school students to engineering concepts and careers. Students built rockets, solar cars, and catapults and used computer programs to design airplanes and houses. They also programmed robots, toured energy efficient buildings at UWS, and took a field trip to Genesis Attachments. When asked for feedback, all of the students said they would recommend the 4-H Gateway Academy to their friends. Comments included: "The academy helped tie what we learn in school to real life" and "It got me more interested in technology." Many parents indicated that the 4-H Gateway Academy increased or reinforced their child's interest in science and engineering. A teacher said, "I think the students leave the camp with a feeling of accomplishment and excitement that they do have the ability to be a future engineer."

