

Title: 4-H Program Delivery and Administration

Project Leader: Sherrie Guyott

Project Overview:

More than 20% of the population of Massachusetts is under age 18. These young people are the future workforce and leaders of our state and our nation. The healthy development of these youth cannot be left to chance. Since 1919, the Massachusetts 4-H Program has provided support, resources and educational opportunities to Massachusetts youth. The mission of Massachusetts 4-H is to assist youth in developing life and work skills that will prepare them to be capable, caring and competent adults. Massachusetts 4-H is an active participant in the national 4-H "Grow Leaders" campaign as we work to prepare our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow.

A statewide network of thousands of dedicated volunteers and leaders serve as mentors and role models to 4-H youth throughout the state. Volunteers and collaborators lead a variety of clubs, school enrichment activities and special interest programs that emphasize experiential learning and help youth build valuable life skills. 4-H Educators collaborate with volunteers to plan and deliver local programs, such as animal science, visual presentation programs, and community service projects that have a lasting effect on youth and a positive impact on the future success and vitality of Massachusetts.

Activity Summary – 2018

- 4-H Club Community Service Projects (229)
- 4-H Youth Leadership Program (11)
- 4-H Records (447)
- 4-H Volunteer Mentoring System (11)
- Citizen/Leadership Development Programs (3)
- Massachusetts statewide 4-H club program (214)
- Produce 4-H newsletter to communicate information to all 4-H families (4)
- Promotional exhibits/recruitment events (143)
- School enrichment programs: plant science and embryology (268)
- Science Camps (6)
- Science Education & Technology youth programs (36)
- Short term programs in babysitting, plant science, general science and nutrition (445)
- Support local 4-H advisory and program councils (29)
- Visual Presentation Program (11)
- Volunteer and member recognition programs (10)

- Volunteer screening, orientation and placement (11)
- Volunteer training sessions (38)
- Youth project exhibitions at fairs (10)

Total Educational Contacts

| | Youth Contacts | Adult Contacts |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Direct | 51050 | 22454 |
| Indirect | 670 | 3808 |

Narrative Summary and Impact

The 4-H year is a cycle beginning in September and many of the same functions, events and activities happen every year. Reporting occurs in the summer when leaders turn in club and financial reports that must be reviewed prior to them being approved to have a club the following year. All members and leaders must re-enroll on a regular basis. This year we invested quite a bit of time and money in an attempt to streamline 4-H enrollment and use the 4Honline database system for our families to pay the fee but this ended up not working out.

A series of events and activities are planned by staff to support the main projects. Teen Leadership Retreat, Visual Presentation Day, the statewide community service project, and events on campus such as the Veterinary Science Academy, Beef and Dairy Academy and Explore UMass continue to be successful.

We are intentional about trying to reach underserved youth through targeted efforts. 1.3 FTE staff are designated to work in Springfield and Holyoke. Our summer STEM Ambassador program targets youth in underserved areas. This year we reached a total of 180 youth through summer STEM. Both of these programs are partially supported with 4-H Foundation funds.

This year as part of the annual club report we asked club leaders to report the number of hours they volunteer for 4-H. Not every leader reported so this not the total number of volunteer hours spent in support of 4-H but a total of 29,863 hours were documented by 4-H leaders on the report forms.

Our last 4-H plan was developed in 2013. This year we began a new strategic planning process which we hope to complete in 2018-2019.

Participants of the summer STEM program completed an evaluation that came up with the following feedback: I learned how to use the Scratch app, coding is pretty easy, coding is kind of fun, dogbots are cool and I had fun.

Others reported developing skills such as being focused, teamwork skills, patience, respect and leadership.

The following are statements taken from written 4-H records turned into Educators.

- I have really liked taking part in Visual Presentation Day. I used to hate speaking in front of an audience but I am happy to say I got over my fears and I earned a 4-H Public Speaking award. Member age 17
- We (members) work as if we are a family together and the meetings are always fun. Member age 10
- When people at school are presenting they might be too quiet or really unprepared. Because of 4-H I have more experience in public speaking and can usually be more confident in front of groups. Member age 11
- I like the community service events we do in 4-H because I love to help others and the community. I have been able to do this thanks to the 4-H organization and my two awesome leaders Shari and Cindy who have been so patient to help me. Member age 11
- The knowledge I gain in Hippology assisted me in my school science class due to the terminology and general science application. Member age 16.

Collaborating Organizations

- **(4-H) FFA (Formerly Future Farmers of America)**
- **(4-H) Massachusetts 4-H Foundation**
- **(4-H) Massachusetts Envirothon Committee**
- **Whitman-Hanson Public Schools**
- **North Adams Public Schools**
- **Pittsfield Public Schools**
- **Northampton Mayor's Council**
- **Joint Base Cape Cod**
- **Independence House for Domestic Violence**
- **Greenfield YMCA**
- **Citizens for Citizens of Fall River**
- **Wood Housing Development of Wareham**
- **WPI**
- **Springfield Public Schools**
- **Holyoke Public Schools**