



Reporting Template

Introductions & Conclusions

4-H Science

4-H Science Introduction

4-H Science programs create hands-on learning experiences to encourage young minds and help fill our nation's shortage of young leaders proficient in science, technology, engineering, and math. 4-H believes it is important to make STEM fun—engaging youth in hands-on, interactive projects that can bring the textbook concepts to life. 4-H Science programs are designed to include pathways for young people to explore STEM concepts early (as young as age 5); give them access to real-world STEM professionals; and bring STEM concepts to life through hands-on, interactive projects that are tailored to various age groups. Today over 5 million 4-H Science projects are completed by 4-H members annually.

4-H Science Conclusion

Building a pipeline of STEM professionals is critical not only for American business and education, but also for our nation's global competitiveness and national security. 4-H has always demonstrated flexibility in meeting the needs of the changing population and society while continuing to use its signature hands-on learning strategies. This need for 4-H to prepare young people with STEM skills has never been greater as the data has shown that America is not keeping pace with current and projected demand for graduates with STEM skills and training. 4-H is equipped to meet this challenge. The Study of Positive Youth Development, conducted by Tufts University, highlighted that 4-H youth are more likely to pursue future courses in a career in science, engineering, or computer technology.

4-H Positive Youth Development (Universal & 4-H Experience)

4-H Positive Youth Development Introduction

4-H learning experiences are based on the principles and practices of Positive Youth Development. The structured learning, encouragement, and adult mentoring that young people receive through their participation in 4-H plays a vital role in helping them achieve future life success. Positive Youth Development views young people as vital resources with assets and potentials to be developed rather than as problems to be managed. 4-H staff and volunteers intentionally address youths' basic needs by intentionally integrating elements within 4-H experiences that create environments conducive to optimizing youth development.

4-H Positive Youth Development Conclusion

Youth-driven 4-H experiences provide young people access to safe learning environments; challenging experiences that build skills, competencies, and resiliency to address life's challenges and to actively contribute to society; and partnerships with caring adults to help meet youths' basic needs of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Youth who participate in 4-H report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school. They are also nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college. The structured learning, encouragement and adult mentoring that young people receive through their participation in 4-H plays a vital role in helping them achieve future life successes.

4-H Civic Engagement

4-H Citizenship Introduction

4-H Citizenship is the knowledge, skills, attitudes and motivation that give youth the capacity to move beyond one's individual self-interest and to be committed to the well-being of some larger group. 4-H Citizenship programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. By providing them with opportunities to connect to their communities and adult leaders, youth gain a clear understanding of their role in civic events and are able to build their decision-making ability. This solid foundation helps youth understand and acquire the skills that will allow them to be astute leaders now and in the future.

4-H Citizenship Conclusion

Through participation in 4-H Citizenship projects and activities youth have the opportunity to be involved in Community Based Service-Learning to identify and address issues of public concern; Civic Education to cultivate the virtues, knowledge, and skills necessary for political participation; Service through charitable activities performed to benefit someone besides one's self; and Personal Development through assuming leadership roles, growth of mutual respect and understanding, character development, and problem solving.

4-H Healthy Living

4-H Healthy Living Introduction:

4-H Healthy Living engages with youth and families through access and opportunities that achieve optimal physical, social, and emotional well-being. Families are integral to the Healthy Living program as youth decisions are often made within family context. By utilizing research-based information and practices, 4-H Healthy Living programs help create supportive communities that provide access and opportunities through the acquisition of knowledge, skills, positive attitude, development of positive relationships, and engagement in behaviors that enable them to thrive. The 4-H Healthy Living programs have the capacity to mobilize young people and implement sustainable strategies that will create healthy lifestyles for America's families.

4-H Healthy Living Conclusion:

Through our Healthy Living programs, 4-H youth are learning how to lead lives that balance physical, emotional, and social health. They are learning not only how to make smart and healthy decisions for themselves but also giving back to their communities so their friends and families can do the same. 4-H youth are creating change with the issues that matter the most to young people today - nutrition, childhood obesity, drug awareness, bullying, safe driving, suicide prevention, decision-making, and stress management. Working together, we can help shape the next generation of healthy youth.

College and Career Readiness

College and Career Readiness Introduction:

In a world of rapid change, it's never been more important for young people to gather the knowledge, skills, and experiences that will enable them to effectively transition from education into the workforce. Helping youth understand how to navigate their options which will empower them to effectively reach their fullest potential is critical. Through participation in College and Career Readiness programs, youth learn to make meaningful decisions about college and career aspirations and gain professionalism skills that will last a lifetime. Through experiential learning opportunities youth develop the assets to successfully explore their postsecondary education and career options, identify the relationships between career and 4-H projects, and actively explore their future.

College and Career Readiness Conclusion:

Participation in 4-H College and Career Readiness programs prepare youth successfully make meaningful decisions about their postsecondary path. Preparing today's youth for tomorrow's world includes connecting youth with caring adult mentors and business and industry professionals who help them gain confidence, take ownership of their learning, and make informed decisions regarding their personal career path. College and Career Readiness programs can help lead young people to gainful employment, providing sustainable wages and opportunities for advancement in meet the demands of our ever-changing global workforce.

Animal Science

4-H Animal Science Introduction

4-H Animal Science programs utilize real-world modeling of animal handling, care, training, and production to develop competent and caring consumers and industry leaders. 4-H recognizes the importance of empowering youth to make informed decisions that impact the food their animals produce, the wellbeing of their animal, and the larger world around them. Through a variety of engagement opportunities, youth in animal science programs gain valuable life skills, knowledge, and connections that will last a lifetime.

4-H Animal Science Conclusion

Youth Animal Science programs develop the knowledge and skills that are necessary for youth to become responsible animal producers and/or employees in the agriculture or food industry. As a result, this instills a much larger impact of consumer confidence in our food supply. Youth not only learn about animal science, but also learn to share their knowledge with others. Youth animal science projects remain a consistent spark for many young people to develop skills like responsibility and decision making and provide many an opportunity to see science in everyday life.