

impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

Bonneville County volunteers extend University of Idaho Extension services

AT A GLANCE

Recruiting, training and maintaining volunteers expands the reach of University of Idaho Extension educators with positive impact in Bonneville County.

The Situation

According to the United States Census Bureau (July 1, 2018), Bonneville County has a population estimate of 116,854. Housing units are approximately 43,775. Estimated population under 18 years old is 35,992, and over 65 is 15,542 (1).

There are three University of Idaho Extension educators in Bonneville County, one for youth development, one for healthy lifestyles and one for horticulture and agriculture. It is impossible for them to reach everyone with their various programs and educational opportunities.

Our Response

Idaho is second in the nation when it comes to how much time each individual in the state volunteers to a worthy cause.

In order to reach more people, there is, at times, funding available to hire interns and part time employees. However, the majority of educators reach is extended through volunteers.

4-H club leaders and advisory councils all volunteer their time to run high-quality youth programs. Idaho Master Gardeners volunteer time to help share



Bonneville County's Idaho Master Gardeners answer questions at the Idaho Falls Farmers Market. Photo by Ron Patterson.

research-based information. Volunteers are trained in and help with healthy lifestyle programs.

Program Outcomes

For the 2018 – 2019 reporting year:

- 4-H volunteers in Bonneville County donated 12,507 hours to youth programs and had 10,642 direct contacts throughout the year in the form of club meetings and 4-H activities, including the Bonneville County Fair.
- The 4-H program teaches youth life skills, fosters creativity, grows our future leaders and allows youth to discover their passion under the guidance of caring adults.

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- In 2019, Idaho Master Gardeners in Bonneville County donated 2,358 educational and service hours at such venues as the plant promotion event, diagnostics clinics, sprinkler system checks, farmers market, gardening classes, Eastern Idaho State Fair, Japanese Friendship Garden and others. The University of Idaho Extension's Idaho Master Gardeners in Bonneville County logged 6,404 direct contacts.
 - Gardening activities contribute to better physical and mental health, in addition to community beautification.
- The Strong Women Stay Young program volunteers in Bonneville County gave 106 hours of their time with 901 direct contacts.
 - This program is designed to help prevent bone loss and to strengthen muscle function and endurance in women age 40 and above.

University of Idaho Extension educators in Bonneville County have had a total of 14,020 direct contacts where they are able to provide classes and activities that improve the life of program participants. Volunteers in the various UI Extension programs in

Bonneville County have provided an additional 17,947 direct contacts.

The amount of time volunteers donate through UI Extension classes and activities totals more than 14,971 hours. Independent Sector determined the dollar value of volunteer time in Idaho was \$22.14 per hour in 2018 (2). This calculates the value of volunteer time in UI Extension programs in Bonneville County to be \$331,457.94.

One of the goals of UI Extension in Bonneville County is to provide quality educational classes and activities to as many county residents as possible. Individual educators are limited in how far they can reach into the community. The recruitment and training of volunteers allows more county residents to take advantage of the excellent University of Idaho Extension programs.

References:

(1) United State Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/bonnevillecountyidaho>. Retrieved 12/16/2019.

(2) Independent Sector, https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_details/. Retrieved 12/17/2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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23-20-rpatterson-volunteers-services • 8/20