

impact

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

4-H summer day camps offer STEAM activities for Bonner County youth

AT A GLANCE

After two years of not holding summer day camps, the program this year was expanded and well received by area youth.

The Situation

In the past, Bonner County 4-H had held one day camp aimed at youth 5-7 years old. These camps had been discontinued for the past two years due to COVID-19. Parents had indicated that they were interested in having more opportunities for their children. They also indicated that older children would also be interested in attending day camps.

Our Response

Bonner County 4-H offered three summer camps for youth 5-10 years old. We were able to secure an AmeriCorps member who made these camps possible. We also enlisted the help of our Idaho Master Gardener's and Master Food Safety Advisors to help prepare and deliver specific activities during the camps.

We researched based STEAM activities to offer at the three camps. We offered a "Red, White and Bloom" Camp, Farm Camp and a Nature Camp. Activities were then centered around these themes.

The camps were advertised through our traditional 4-H program as well as around the county on community bulletin boards. We had between 14 and 20 youth attend each of the camps.



Youth participants tour the University of Idaho-Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center during the Farm Day Camp.

Program Outcomes

The "Red, White and Bloom" Camp played off of that year's fair theme. Youth participated in red, white and blue themed science and art projects, some of which were then used as fair decorations in the 4-H section of the exhibit hall. Youth also spent at least 30 minutes on physical activity and created nutritious snacks to promote healthy habits. Youth who had participated were eager to show off the tie-dye shirts they had made. Five of the participants from this first workshop signed up for the second camp.

The second day camp we offered was Farm Camp. This camp was held at the University of Idaho Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center. Participants toured the facility and learned about the orchard and animals at

the center. The youth were able to pick raspberries, create freezer jam and make their own butter. Again, physical activities and nutritious snacks were incorporated into the camp to promote healthy habits. One parent indicated that their child had continued to make butter on a regular basis at home for several weeks after this day camp. A total of 20 youth participated in the camp. Idaho Master Gardener's and Master Food Safety Advisors were able to help make this camp a success.

The final day camp of the summer was the Nature Camp. The AmeriCorps member took the lead on this camp and taught the participants about the flora and fauna of northern Idaho. Fifteen youth participated in the animal and plant identification activities, a hike for physical activity and prepared nutritious trail mix, among other activities.

The Future

Bonner County 4-H was able to secure grant funding for supplies and part time personnel to offer summer day camps in 2023. Again, these camps will focus on STEAM activities for youth 5-13 years old. We are exploring 4-H Junior Master Gardener and Explorers of the Deep curriculum for these activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jennifer Jensen, Extension Educator • University of Idaho Extension, Bonner County • 208-263-8511 • jenjensen@uidaho.edu

Rhea Scott, 4-H Program Coordinator • University of Idaho Extension, Bonner County • 208-263-8511 • rheas@uidaho.edu

40-22-jjensen-day-camps • 11/22