

4-H Grows Future Scientists

Youth explore interests from animal science to aerospace, resulting in increased interest in science at a rate three times that of non-4-H peers. Interest in science is a predictor for young people to choose science-related careers. This interest in science, along with 4-H members 70 percent greater likelihood to go to college than youth participating in other out-of-school programs, is helping grow future scientists. Future scientists are critical to our state, national and global economy.

(4-H Study of Positive Youth Development)

Economic Stability

Youth participating in 4-H are more likely to enroll in post-high school education and explore career and entrepreneurship opportunities. Higher educational levels result in increased wage earning that contribute to the economic stability of their communities.

(4-H Study of Positive Youth Development)

Leadership and Service

4-H youth participate in service projects and leadership roles where they develop public speaking, leadership, and decision-making skills. These professional skills help them positively contribute to communities as responsible citizens and active public servants.

(4-H Study of Positive Youth Development)

Leadership and Service

Wisconsin 4-H is preparing the next generation of leaders through experiences in decision-making and citizenship activities. Youth in 4-H youth development programs become actively involved and engaged in local groups, clubs and communities. 4-H Youth are 3.4 times more likely to contribute to their communities compared to youth in other out-of-school programs. 4-H youth learn to address local issues and need and participate actively in discussions and programs that benefit others.

(4-H Study of Positive Youth Development)

Workforce Preparation

4-H youth learn the importance of teamwork, communication and critical thinking through involvement in clubs, groups and decision-making activities. The Secretary of Commerce Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS report) identifies the importance of developing a generation of youth with these workforce competencies to prepare for our economic future.

Safe and Secure Food Systems

The diverse animal and plant science programs of Wisconsin 4-H youth development offer youth the opportunity to acquire the life skills of responsibility, management, decision-making and goal setting. They exercise independence, self-discipline and responsibility through educational programs that assure a safe, quality food supply for a growing world population.

Community Connections

Young people involved in Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development develop competence, confidence,

character and compassion for others at greater levels than their peers. Youth have better and more sustained connections with peers and adults and are more likely to be civically active, making more community and civic contribution than their peers.

Healthy Living

Youth involved in 4-H will be more active and make healthier food choices leading to a lower risk for disease and illness. This increases disposable income for families and reduces long term costs to communities by reducing medical costs and fewer days of missed school and work for youth and their parents.

Healthy Living

Young people in 4-H are less likely than their peers to engage in smoking, drug use, and driving or riding in cars with those who have been drinking alcohol. They are 2.3 times more likely to exercise and be physically active and 3.4 times more likely to delay sexual activity by grade 12. These positive behaviors reduce emotional and financial costs to families and communities and result in savings to publicly supported services.

(4-H Study of Positive Youth Development)

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education

4-H youth learn science, technology, engineering and math implications through a variety of projects, robotics activities that help prepare them for the workforce of the future. 4-H girls are 3 times more likely to take part in science programs than their peers. These skill sets will enable growing Wisconsin businesses to better utilize our own population in our food, fiber, and technology industries.

Volunteerism

The capacity of 4-H Youth Development programs to reach over 355,000 Wisconsin youth is greatly increased by the efforts of 15,000 volunteers. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics values volunteer time at \$21.78 per hour. With an average of over 10 hours a month working on behalf of youth in communities across the state, we contribute a \$42 million value to our counties and state.

4-H Positive Youth Development

When youth develop important life skills through positive and sustained relationships with caring adults, good things happen. Youth develop competence, confidence and character. They become connected to their communities and learn to care about others. These outcomes result in reduced risky behaviors of youth and a positive contributions to their families and communities and a civil society.

(4-H Study of Positive Youth Development)