

## **4-H Club Participation Contributes to Positive Youth Development**



4-H club work helps to prepare youth to be productive members of society by teaching life skills, career preparation, and by instilling a sense of responsibility. 638 youth in grades K-12, or over 11% of the youth in Gibson County, enrolled in 4-H projects in 2008. At the end of their 4-H tenure youth are surveyed regarding their experiences. Several cited learning leadership, responsibility, communication, and time management skills. One summed up the experience by stating, “My participation in 4-H has made me a stronger leader... I do not know where I would be today if I did not compete in 4-H.”

## **Science Sensation Sparks Interest in Science**



Engaging students in hands-on science experiences through the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Sensation motivates students to learn about science. 369 students participated in a day of hand-on outdoor science education taught by area professionals and university students. As a result of the program, 92.3% of the students said that they now enjoy learning about science. Students related their experiences at Science Sensation to what they are doing in the classroom with 84% of the students citing specific examples. Comments include, “It (Science Sensation) makes science more fun,” and “The experiments allowed me to use my studies in real situations.”

## **Serv Safe Teaches Safe Food Handling**

Gibson County Consumer and Family Sciences Educator organized and/or presented four Serv Safe Food Handlers certification classes in Gibson, Dubois, and Spencer counties in 2008. 53 people participated in the two day classes with 48 passing the certification exam with an average score of 87.9%. 40 Gibson County food service workers at the Toyota Cafeterias and 24 nonprofit volunteers participated in Food Safety Day workshops and received training and knowledge of cooking temperatures, cooling and reheating procedures, storage practices, thawing procedures and hand washing practices. The Gibson County CFS Educator collaborated with Aramark and Toyota Food Service, Gibson County Health Department and local non-profit volunteer organizations for these workshops.

## Reality Store Teaches Life Lessons



As a result of participating in Reality Store, 195 Princeton Community Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders have a more realistic understanding of the money needed for the standard of living which they desire as young adults. Through this program they learned how much it costs to provide a family with housing, transportation, day care, insurance, utilities, and other expenses by interacting with over 60 local volunteers who “sell” them these goods and services. After participating in Reality Store 97% of the students said they are likely to make wise financial decisions, and 97.6% plan to get more education after high school. 96.3% are motivated to try harder in school.

## Master Gardeners Assist the Community



The Gibson County Master Gardeners take care of 17 gardening projects in Gibson County each year. These include the gardens in the city parking lot, the train depot, the Gibson County fairgrounds, Camp Carson, the covered bridge, and other projects in communities throughout the county. They provide educational programs during the year at Lyles Station school, 4th Grade Farm Fair, 7th Grade Science Sensation, and other community functions and schools. These programs reach over 1000 school age children and adults in the county each year.

Last year they donated 1200 volunteer hours to the residents of Gibson County. Purdue values these donated hours at \$17.00 per hour for a total value and benefit for the county of over \$20,000.00. In addition they sponsor awards to 4-H members and open class horticulture exhibits during the county fair and also award a \$500.00 scholarship each year to a graduating high school student studying horticulture related subjects.

## 4-H Camp Builds Leadership Skills in Camp Counselors



4-H'ers develop interpersonal, organizational, and leadership skills by helping plan and run the camp program as camp counselors. They receive training to prepare for their position and then demonstrate that they have learned skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. For many this is their first opportunity to test their leadership abilities and serve as role models to younger children. 100% rated themselves a 4 or 5 on a scale of 5 in six skill areas: communication, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, and their ability to settle difference and handle homesickness.

## 4-H Junior Leaders Learn by Helping Others



4-H Junior Leaders saw that some families needed extra assistance during the Christmas holidays, and they found a way to fill this need. In doing so these teens demonstrated their ability to plan and complete an important project while developing life skills. Over 25 youth raised the funds, worked with a budget, and purchased gifts for the children. By giving to others these young leaders learned much about themselves. Several commented that they are now more thankful for what they have. As a result, 94% of the Jr. Leaders stated that they will participate in community service projects after high school.