

North Dakota 4-H Regional Volunteer Trainings

The Situation

North Dakota 4-H volunteers require research based 4-H project information to use with 4-H members and opportunities to develop connections with other volunteers, Extension specialists, and agents.

Extension Response

The NDSU Extension Specialists from the Center for 4-H Youth Development recognized a need to deliver high quality, 4-H volunteer project trainings. Regional forums hosted by a local Extension agent and youth and adult volunteers taught by Extension specialists, agents, and key 4-H project leaders enable volunteers to obtain information they need at a time and location most convenient for them. 4-H volunteers are then able to utilize information attained with 4-H members throughout the year.

Impacts

From 2008-20016, 1,154 teen and adult 4-H volunteers have participated in 4-H Regional Volunteer Project training across North Dakota.

2016 trainings evaluations reported:

- 96.19% of participants gaining a moderate to high understanding of how to use the new information in their work with 4-H after session participation
- A 70.09% increase in knowledge gained in session topics after session participation
- 87.18% of volunteers learning “a lot” in the overall volunteer training

Feedback

When asked to list one action volunteers will take as a result of the training:

- Give older youth more of a voice in the choices of the club
- Incorporate experiments from Food Science into our 4-H club meetings
- Be able to help my child better in the start of his 4-H journey
- Be more intentional in including the 8 parts of youth development at meetings
- Encourage involvement in Science and Outdoor Skills projects
- I plan on taking this information back to my club and have them share in the excitement of what I have learned.

- I will encourage youth from our county to participate in state and national 4-H leadership opportunities.

When asked the most important things volunteers learned at the training:

- The importance of realizing that not all age groups interact the same way
- There is a large variety of 4-H resources, curriculum/books and help available
- How to learn while having fun
- I learned many new things to help my club as a young leader



Public Value Statement:

Well-trained volunteers are critical to the success of the 4-H Youth Development program and to the positive development of 4-H members. Providing research based 4-H materials leads to life skill development through project based experiential learning.

Collaborators:

Sioux, Richland, Sargent, Mercer, Grant, Logan, Cass, Walsh, Stark-Billings, McLean, Stutsman, Dickey, Oliver, Pierce, Cavalier, Ransom, Foster, Morton, Ramsey, Wells, Barnes, Burleigh, McKenzie, and Grand Forks county agents and volunteers.

Primary Contact

Rachelle Vetter, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & Extension Specialist
Dept. 7280, 219 FLC, P.O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050 P: (701) 231-7541
Rachelle.vetter@ndsu.edu