# **Building Strong, Effective 4-H Youth Development Programs**

PowerPoint Presenter's Notes

These notes are intended to be used as a general discussion outline and not as a script to be read.

#### Slide #1

Building strong, effective 4-H Youth Development programs is important to us. During this presentation we'll review the components of a strong program.

First, please take a minute to complete the "4-H Program Check List."

#### Slide #2

A strong 4-H Youth Development program focuses on youth, not just 4-H members but all youth in our county or district.

# Slide #3

4-H is designed to support the positive and successful development of all youth.

#### Slide #4

Youth development research emphasizes the following Essential elements to help us focus on providing the best 4-H experience and creating a positive 4-H learning environment. These elements are: Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity.

## Slide #5

Let's take a closer look at the essential elements. The first is Belonging. All youth need to feel a connection to others in a group. 4-H gives youth many opportunities to connect with others.

#### Slide #6

Mastery is also an essential element. By exploring 4-H projects and activities youth learn to Master skills.

Creating opportunities for youth to develop skills and confidence for leadership is a cornerstone of 4-H. This helps them build Independence.

#### Slide #8

Youth need to learn to be Generous. By exploring 4-H community service activities, youth can connect with their community and learn to give back to others.

## Slide #9

National 4-H Headquarters and Kansas 4-H in their approach to positive youth development, outline the content and context of programming efforts. The two circles represent content and context.

# Slide #10

Content involves the educational subject matter of the core mission areas of Science, Engineering and Technology. Context involves the essential elements of a positive learning environment in which the kids learn.

# Slide #11

Of all the delivery methods for 4-H programming, the club is the 'sweet spot' or has the highest level of content and context.

## **Slide #12**

The other 4-H delivery methods represented on this graphic show that school enrichment and after school programming have high content but low context, and camp has high context but low content.



#### Slide #13

A strong youth development program:

- engages young people
- teaches knowledge and life skills which enhance quality of life
- creates opportunities which promote positive youth development.

# Slide #14

4-H helps youth develop Life Skills. Strong 4-H programs then focus on Life Skill development.

## Slide #15

Think of the five Life Skills as the building blocks to the Kansas 4-H program. These life skills represent those enduring qualities that help young people to become confident, capable, caring, and responsible citizens. Let's look at each one closely.

Sound Decision Making- Youth learn to make sound decisions when they make choices and can apply what is known in a productive way.

A Concern for the Community- Youth develop a concern for the community, by becoming aware of their social responsibility and are willing to be involved in improving the community, both local and global.

A Positive Self Concept- Youth develop a positive self concept by seeking their fullest potential as a person.

Healthy Interpersonal Relationships- Youth learn healthy interpersonal relationships when they get along with others, work and interact with people of all ages.

An Inquiring Mind- Asking why! Youth develop an inquiring mind when they know how to obtain information when it is needed and expect to live in a changing world.

## Slide #16

A strength of 4-H is that members learn by doing.

## Slide #17

To help youth "learn by doing" 4-H uses the Experiential Learning Model. This model is a 5 Step process that helps turn activities into learning experiences. This is how we "teach" in 4-H.

## **Slide #18**

Teaching using the Experiential Learning Model engages children in the activity. This process encourages them to think more, explore, question, make decisions, connect the activity to the real world, and apply what they have learned.

## **Slide #19**

A trait of a strong 4-H program is that it focuses on building caring relationships between youth and adults.

## **Slide #20**

Strong 4-H programs also focus on creating community partnerships.

## Slide #21

Positive family, peer, school, and community support is essential to foster the growth and development of our youth. Community commitment is vital to positive youth development.

# Slide #22

Research by Betts and Dalla show the components of effective programs.

- -Staff and Volunteers: who apply developmentally and culturally appropriate practices and who know of and use community resources.
- -Audience: serves many individuals
- -Program: is comprehensive and involves and empowers youth
- -Outcomes: includes clearly defined outcomes

Let's review the "4-H Program Check List" as you completed them. What areas did you check as "great?" What areas did you note that needed improvement?

# **Slide #23**

We'll end our discussion today with a comment, from Dr. Barbara Stone, State 4-H Leader. She says, "Successful 4-H Youth Development programs provide environments that meet the needs of youth. In partnership with caring adults, 4-H offers opportunities for youth to master skills that prepare them for success."

Thank you for your help and input in providing an effective 4-H Youth Development program.