

2019 NAE4-HA Poster Session Proposal **4-H & FFA Leadership Crossover**

Abstract

The Okaloosa and Escambia 4-H program coordinators and staff worked with local FFA chapter advisors to create the 4-H and FFA Leadership Crossover, with the aim to bring the best of each program together to facilitate a day long leadership training. The series of workshops was designed to introduce youth, in 4-H and FFA leadership roles, to core leadership competencies and life skills, which will be developed in their leadership positions in their clubs and chapters as well as utilized after they age out of the 4-H and FFA programs. Youth participated in four workshop segments: personal growth, networking, conflict resolution, and preparing for the future. Participants were encouraged to socialize with youth from different programs to encourage program idea sharing as well as relationship building between the programs with the intention of building future collaborative programs. One hundred percent of youth participants gained new skills and three FFA participants became 4-H members and one FFA member became a 4-H volunteer. This event can be replicated in any 4-H county that has an active FFA program.

Program Description

4-H and FFA programs often overlap in programming areas, but rarely work together to share knowledge and resources with each other. The Okaloosa and Escambia 4-H program coordinators and staff worked with local FFA chapter advisors to create the 4-H and FFA Leadership Crossover, with the primary objective to bring the best of each program together to facilitate a day long leadership training. With eight FFA chapters and twenty-seven 4-H clubs between the two counties, few programs have been focused on bringing all the chapters and clubs together. The series of workshops was designed to introduce youth, in 4-H and FFA leadership roles, to core leadership competencies and life skills, which will be developed in their leadership positions in their clubs and chapters, as well as skills that will be utilized after they age out of the 4-H and FFA programs.

Youth participated in four workshop segments: personal growth, networking, conflict resolution, and preparing for the future. Youth were led through exercises and group discussions encouraging participants to share their experiences and resources. Furthermore participants were encouraged to socialize with youth from different programs to encourage program idea sharing as well as relationship building between the programs with the intention of building future collaborative programs. The program was evaluated through a youth led reflection and discussion session, along with agent's and advisor's observations.

Research Base

The 4-H and FFA programs provide programming for their youth on similar subject matters, but diverge in delivery methods. The cooperation between the two often starts and ends with livestock events. Research done by Ricketts and Place (2005), suggests that when cooperation between the two programs are successful and maintained, the outcomes are a positive impact. The skills and relationships developed between the two programs is important in today's society (Ricketts & Place, 2005). The two programs have the ability to create a cooperation beyond the livestock subject matter. In both 4-H and FFA, subject matter and opportunities are presented on life skills and leadership development that prepare the youth for society (Hoover, Scholl, Dunigan, & Mamontova, 2007).

Program Evaluation

Evaluation methods included: reflection, discussion, and observation. A youth led reflection and discussion session was held at the end of the event. Youth were encouraged to express knowledge gained in the workshops, life skills developed, and set goals obtained based on the subject matter. Once youth were dismissed, the 4-H agent, 4-H program assistant, and volunteers reviewed the event through discussion. Observations of the youth were discussed and it was determined that 100% of the youth gained and/or expanded on a life skill based on the subject matter taught in the workshop. After the event, three FFA members joined a local 4-H club and one FFA member became a 4-H volunteer for the shooting sports program.

Program Replication Requirements

Replication of a 4-H and FFA Leadership Crossover is attainable as long as the 4-H county and/or district consist of an active 4-H program and active FFA program. The crossover requires 4-H agents and/or volunteers to facilitate the event and teach the workshops along with FFA advisors. Volunteers should be chosen based on their expertise in the workshops' subject matter. Existing 4-H curriculum was utilized to off-set expenses. Funding for this event is minimal and may be raised via 4-H county/district funds, applying for grants, requesting donations from local partners, and/or requiring a set registration fee from participants.