

Wyoming



Youth Leadership Education develops youth capacity

Situation:

Workforce preparedness training is a focus of programming for youth. 4-H provides youth with life skills they can use as adults. With the Daniel's Fund identifying some of those same areas, 4-H educators in Converse and Natrona counties provided programming that directly correlated with the need for workforce preparedness training.

The Converse County Junior Leaders had identified the need for training in workforce preparedness, and the decision was made the Converse, Natrona, and Niobrara (CNN) Area would use Daniel's Fund monies for a WYLE training for the CNN Area. The three-day event was in Casper in November 2009.

Educators partnered with 4-H leaders and the Strong Families, Strong Wyoming program to provide sessions on relationships, communication, workforce preparedness, and leadership skills. The program was planned for 50 youth, but 75 participants from three counties registered. Six different presenters conducted this training.

Objectives of the program included:

Youth will become better leaders in their 4-H programs and in their communities.

Youth will gain better communication skills and self-confidence in all areas of their lives, particularly their interpersonal relationships and social situations.

Youth will be able to communicate more effectively and will be tolerant of other people and ideas.

Youth-adult interactions were used – critical to the program's success.

Impacts:

A leadership skill pre-test and post-test determined knowledge gained. Youth ranked themselves in leadership qualities and indicated if

they had that quality, are pretty good at it, and need to work on or need help. There were 10 areas: enthusiasm, preparedness, communication with others, caring, creativity, problem solving, character, adaptability, dependability, and cooperation. Post-test scores determined that knowledge increased in all areas.

Youth were asked to share one idea they plan to use:

- *"I am going to project my ideas more than I have been because I've found out I have some good ones."*
- *"I have learned a lot of leadership skills and life skills I will be taking back to my school, my home, and my community. Thank you!"*
- *"I'm going to try and be a better leader to everyone. I am going to try to see the good in others and not the bad."*
- *"I'm going to continue to be a great leader but this time with more experience under my belt."*
- *"I will work harder to be more accepting of others."*

Adult leaders have reported youth in WYLE are demonstrating their leadership skills more frequently at 4-H events by being active participants in club and county events, helping club leaders, and mentoring younger 4-H members more often.

Tansey Sussex
Converse County 4-H/Youth Educator
Converse County
(307) 358-2417
Sussex@uwyo.edu

Colleen Campbell
4-H Program Associate II
Natrona County
(307) 235-9400
ccampbell@natronacounty-wy.gov

