The Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program provides a supportive setting for youth to reach their fullest potential. Children learn beneficial cognitive and life skills through community-focused, research-based, experiential educational programs. Participation is open to all youth ages 5-18 who reside in Baltimore County. The Clover Program is open to ages 5-7 years and the 4-H Program is targeted toward 8-18 year old participants.

4-H has an over 100 year tradition of voluntary action through strong public-private partnerships at federal, state and community levels. Local volunteer leaders partner with Baltimore County Extension staff to provide direct leadership and educational support to young people in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

4-H youth develop relationships that inspire people to voluntarily help themselves and others as they interact with caring adults and peers.

4-H Program areas include:
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Healthy Living
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Volunteer Development

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Healthy Living/Nutrition

- Fun Food Fest was delivered to 3 Baltimore County libraries.
- Over 50 youth engaged in hiking at a 4-H camp.
- Nearly 50 afterschool youth participated in a trip to the Eastern shore to learn about harvesting local potatoes.

Science, Engineering and Technology

- The Ag Science Series was offered throughout the year.
- Various Animal Science/Leasing programs were offered.
- 3 new robotics clubs launched in 2013.

General Program Updates

- 24 clubs, 3 special interest groups, 16 after school programs, 3 school enrichment programs
- 263 volunteers supported 4-H programs in 2013.
- 29 new volunteers were trained in 2013.
- 2,124 club and program members engaged in 4-H.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2013 4-H PROGRAM:

Library 4-H Afterschool participants learn about good nutrition through easy to prepare recipes.
Teen council members regularly cleaned an adopted highway.

Youth enjoyed 4-H Day in Annapolis while learning about Maryland State Government.

47 youth learned about parliamentary procedure and record keeping during local trainings.

4-H Standout:
More time spent in afterschool is associated with:
• Better work habits
• Improved academic performance
• Gains in self-efficacy
• Improved GPA
• Increased school attendance (*Auger, Pierce & Vandell, 2013)

Citizenship & Leadership
✦ Teen council members regularly cleaned an adopted highway.
✦ Youth enjoyed 4-H Day in Annapolis while learning about Maryland State Government.
✦ 47 youth learned about parliamentary procedure and record keeping during local trainings.

Sweet Potato Kids Afterschool youth visit an Eastern Shore research farm where they learned about harvesting local potatoes.

4-H Goals:
1. 4-H Education and Resources:
✦ Provide various opportunities for youth engagement through experiential learning.
✦ County programs will include: Community Clubs, Afterschool programs, School programs, Ag Science Series, Winter Workshop, Day Camp, Engineering Camp, Growing with Grains school program, County/State Fair, and various local/state/national trips and contests!

1. 4-H Marketing and Communication:
✦ Continue to enhance marketing and communication efforts within the county.
✦ Utilize various forms of technology and social media platforms through our TECH CONNECT (Website, Facebook, Blog, Twitter, Pinterest and e-news) to increase our visibility.

2014 ANNUAL GOALS:

4-H Standout:
National 4-H Youth Development research shows that 4-H youth are more likely to pursue future careers in science, engineering and technology (*Lerner, 2012).


FOR MORE INFORMATION

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