4-H and the Year of Science

Sherri Hood, 4-H Agent in Wakulla County, is using the Year of Science to help market 4-H in her county. The Year of Science is led by the COPUS network (Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science); a grassroots effort to engage sectors of public in science to increase their awareness of the nature of science and its value to society.

COPUS has identified scientific themes for each month that youth development professionals can tie into to help promote science within their organization. For example, in January, Sherrie hosted an Arbor Day event, and in February, it was a program during the Wildlife Heritage Festival. In March, Sherri plans to have a club display recycled crafts during a green living expo.

This is a great way to support our mission mandate on 4-H SET. The table to the right lists the themes for the rest of the year, and suggested 4-H project activities that tie into that theme.

For more information about the Year of Science, visit http://www.yearofscience2009.org/home/.

The New Youth Development Math

Impact = \( P \times E \times Q \times PI \)

- \( P \) = number of youth participants
- \( E \) = extent that youth are engaged
- \( Q \) = quality of program delivered (+1 to −1)
- \( PI \) = potential impact (design of program)

During a recent Youth Development Webinar, Dale Blyth, Associate Dean for Youth Development at the University of Minnesota, and the Director of the Extension Center for Youth Development presented a lesson on the New Math of Youth Development as a tool to help determine or even predict the impact of a youth development program. The formula demonstrates that we can strengthen impact through:

1. Improving quality (Q);
2. Deeply engaging youth (E); and/or
3. Assuring access and availability (E).

How much impact do your programs have? Might be an interesting exercise to conduct with your Advisory Committee!
Call for Congress Proposals– Due April 1st

It is that time of year again! Congress is fast approaching (July 27 - 31) and the state events office is eagerly awaiting proposals for Educational Tracks (Workshops). As in year’s past, these tracks will be based on 4-H Life Skill Areas: Animal Science, Citizenship & Leadership, Communication Arts, and Career Education, Environmental Education, Plant Science, Individual Family Resources, Science and Technology. Workshops will take place all day on Thursday, July 30th.

As you are developing your proposal, keep in mind that the most positive feedback comes from those workshops that are interactive. You will find a Request for Workshop Proposal, as well as last years’ workshop information, on the NW Share Point folder called 4-H PIT (just click on shared documents). Proposals are due April 1st.

Get Funded- Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Florida Foundation for Responsible Angling (FFRA) will be accepting proposals for grants (up to $12,000) that promote sports fishing education and responsible angling ethics. Proposals are due May 1st. For more information, visit their website at http://www.ffra.org/.

Florida Ag in the Classroom (FAITC) grant proposals are due March 13th! FAITC awards grants for innovative programs that help youth and volunteers improve their agricultural literacy. For more info, or to download an application, visit their website at: http://www.flagintheclassroom.org/programs/grants/grants.html

Awards Deadline Extended to April 1st!

Nope, it’s not an April Fool’s Joke! The deadline for state and national awards has been extended an entire month–April 1st! Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity by submitted at least one award!

Many times there is only one or none award applications in a category because no one has had time to apply. But with an extra month this year, there should be no excuses!

Also, don’t forget that FAE4-HA offers two professional development scholarships (up to $500.00) that can be used to help pay for continuing education, tuition, books, or conference fees for 1st time attendees to NAE4-HA. All award information is available on the website: http://fae4-ha.ifas.ufl.edu/awards.htm.

Reminder– Camp Timpoochee Counselor Training

Don’t forget! The counselor training for Camp Timpoochee was rescheduled for April 3rd-4th. Cost is $55.00 per person. Forms are due to Neva no later than March 27th. The registration form is posted on the NW4-H PIT Share Point Site (click on shared documents).
Tech Tool of the Month – E-Learning Acronyms

Like it or not, as our society and clientele become more techno-savvy, we have to keep up! In the near future, we may be delivering more and more programs via the internet (especially with the looming cut-backs). The University is currently reviewing its online course management system, so now is a good time to review (or learn) some of the current acronyms for e-learning. Thanks to Germaine Pointer, South District RSA for providing the following definitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-Learning</td>
<td>where the medium of instruction is computer technology: it is defined as a planned teaching/learning experience that uses a wide spectrum of technologies, mainly Internet or computer-based, to reach learners. Lately in most Universities, e-learning is used to define a specific mode to attend a course or programs of study where the students rarely, if ever, attend face-to-face for on-campus access to educational facilities, because they study online.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLE</td>
<td>Managed Learning Environment- where the focus is on management; a system that uses technology to enhance and make more effective the network of relationships between learners, teachers and organizers of learning, this is done through integrated support for richer communications and activities; sometimes used interchangeably with LMS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LMS</td>
<td>Learning Management Systems– software for delivering, tracking, and managing training. Delivers courseware and e-tutoring online (Intellum, FlexTraining, Scholar360).</td>
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<tr>
<td>VLE</td>
<td>Virtual Learning Environment– software system to support teaching and learning in an educational setting. Works on the internet to track students, make assessments, and questionnaires (Omnibus Learning).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>Course Management Software– provides instructor with a set of tools and a framework that allows the relatively easy creation of online course content and the subsequent teaching and management of that course including various interactions with students taking the course (Web CT, Moodle, Angel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Collaborative Tools– software designed to help people working on a common task to achieve goals by file sharing, white boarding, etc (Share Point, Google Groups).</td>
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Day Camp Planning Tips: Outcomes & Evaluation

Most counties are in the process of planning their summer programs. According to Connie Coutellier, author of Day Camp from Day One, the first step is to identify your outcomes. Your outcomes will determine the life skills you are targeting. Sample outcomes might include: increase ability to work with others; increase ability to make decisions; or to increase physical activity. Once you have identified your outcomes, rank them from most important to least important. Next, identify which life skills you are targeting. How will you measure these outcomes? There are several methods. One of the most commonly used is pre/post tests to measure knowledge gained. A post self reflective survey is valuable for measuring knowledge gained and behavior change, but is appropriate for 5th grade and up. A follow-up survey is also good for measuring behavior change. Another method that we may not consider often enough is

Continued on page 4
## Day Camp Planning Tips: Outcomes and Evaluation

the use of skill-a-thons to collect data. **There are several sample evaluations for download on the Florida 4-H Website at http://florida4h.org/staff/Evaluation/index.shtml.** You can also contact your local RSA for help!

Once you have decided on the outcomes, targeted life skills, and evaluation method, you are ready to begin planning your camp! You will want to make sure that both the activities taught, snacks served, and the site selected support those outcomes.

For more information, *Day Camp from Day One* is an excellent resource. The book includes a CD with sample forms, checklists, and worksheets. It is available from the American Camping Association Bookstore [http://www.acabookstore.org/](http://www.acabookstore.org/) and costs $32.95. A good edition to your professional library!

**Next month: Risk Management Tips for Camp.**

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### Learning by Doing

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### Regional Specialized 4-H Agent, NW District

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### (*all Times Eastern) March 2009

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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 NAE4-HA 2012 Polycom, 2-4PM FCAT TESTING</td>
<td>4 West Florida Livestock Show and Sale, Quincy FCAT TESTING</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 Deadline for 4-H Blitz Reg (Leon County) FCAT TESTING</td>
<td>7 State Horse Judging Contest</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Geocaching Workshop, Defuniak Springs, 10:30AM-3PM FCAT TESTING</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 Multi-state meeting via WEBCT FCAT TESTING</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 4-H Blitz, NFREC, Quincy; State Archery Match, Camp Ocala; State Hippology Contest</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 4-H Online Update–11-12PM (Polycom) and 2-3PM (Elluminate)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 1st Draft of 3-Year Packets Due to Dr. Vergot! 3rd Executive Board</td>
<td>21 State Shotgun Match, Polk County 3rd Executive Board</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Timpoochee Camp Counselor Registration due to Neva!</td>
<td>28 District 1 Centennial Celebration, Langley Bell 4-H Center; National 4-H Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 National 4-H Conference</td>
<td>30 National 4-H Conference</td>
<td>31 National 4-H Conference</td>
<td>4-H Award Applications Due for FAE4-HA and NAE4-HA!</td>
<td>National 4-H Conference</td>
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