

2024 Southern Region Biennial Conference

Educational Exhibits & Poster Sessions

Educational Exhibits

Serving those Who Serve: The 4-H Military Partnership

*Jenny Jordan, Harriett Edwards, David Brittain, & JC Johnson
North Carolina State University*

Service is integral to 4-H. With an understanding of military culture, we explore projects that not only serve our service members and families but also help 4-H'ers learn more about military culture and experiences. Our exhibit provides resources to explore and experience projects that can be replicated locally or statewide.

4-H Yoga Program

*Amanda Welch
University of Arkansas*

4-H Yoga is a healthy living program developed by a team of state Extension specialists and county Extension agents. More than a physical activity program, 4-H Yoga promotes self-acceptance, self-regulation, hones the ability to focus, and promotes stress coping as a life skill. This educational exhibit will introduce the program and research results.

Enhancing Creativity, STEM, and Career Exploration Through a Mobile Woodworking Training Lab

*Creenna Bocksnick
University of Arkansas*

The objective of this exhibit is to introduce attendees to AR 4-H Camps' NEW Mobile Woodworking Lab. Participants will learn how the mobile lab was funded, associated expenses, projects youth can complete, how the mobile lab can be modified for other programs, and a virtual tour of the mobile lab.

Poster Presentations

The Georgia 4-H District Officer Experience: Helping Young Leaders Thrive

Lee Anna Deal, Melinda Miller, Kelle Ashley, Lori Bledsoe, & Al Parker

University of Georgia

This presentation will consider the implications and indicators of the 4-H Thriving Model as it relates to 4-H experiences in leadership development, particularly the district 4-H officer experience in Georgia. Impacts of this program were tracked through surveys and focus groups that met periodically throughout their year of service.

Teen Leadership Council: Doing Business with Friends

Julia S. Kelly & Victoria A. Prevatt

University of Florida

Teen Leadership Council provides teens with programming designed for their developmental needs. During the first year, the group shifted from adult-youth partnership to youth-adult partnership by independently creating a SMART goal and Action Plan for the year. This resulted in high retention of teens-an age group that often leaves 4-H.

Ignite The Spark: Strategies Volunteer Engagement

Karla Knoepfli on behalf of SR Volunteer Specialists

Oklahoma State University

Southern Region Volunteer Specialists collaborated to design and teach a five-part virtual volunteer engagement series. Series topics included Recruitment, Engagement, Retention, Volunteer Program Readiness, and Personal Readiness. The sessions enabled professionals to interact and engage, share ideas, and to understand the issues being faced are not unique to their state.

4-H Junior Entomologist Program

Sabrina Hayes & Thailer Jones

Florida A&M University

Delve into the fascinating world of insect science and explore ways to celebrate these tiny yet essential creatures.

Balance in Motion: Introducing youth to healthy living, problem solving, and teamwork through paddle boarding

Lane Fritch

University of Arkansas

The goal for this poster is to share the benefits of having paddleboards as a summer activity and equipment needed. This poster will share different uses for paddleboards in programming. Participants will learn how this activity teaches problem solving skills and teamwork to campers. "Participants will learn about the benefits of using paddleboards as a summer activity. They will learn about the variations of sessions that were introduced during the summers of 2022 and 2023. Participants will be able to access materials used for teaching this activity. The viewers will learn about the introduction of paddle board yoga during the summer of 2022. Participants will also be able to learn about a variation of games that were used as an activity during camp. The viewers will also learn about the safety procedures put in place to ensure safety among campers, adults, and staff. Paddle boarding was introduced to Arkansas 4-H during the summer of 2022. Through the help of interns and county agents, we were able to teach many sessions and workshops using the boards on our onsite lake. It was added to create a new activity campers could learn to use during recreation and during structured activity time.

Making a Difference: The 4-H Military Partnership

Jenny Jordan, Harriett Edwards, David Brittain, JC Johnson

North Carolina State University

The Department of Defense and 4-H have partnered since the 80's to support military-connected youth. Our poster shares what makes this partnership successful and how you can create connections in your community that create mutually beneficial programs. As a model, the Partnership is learning tool for collaboration to leverage resources.

Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program: Forging Industry Alliances to Grow Next-Generation Water Leaders

David W. Smith

Texas A&M University

Industry partners are critical to the success of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program. Groundwater conservation districts, river authorities, water utilities and water industry organizations have contributed approximately \$500,000 to support participating 4-H youth. Industry partners host field trips, provide hands-on and virtual learning, award academic scholarships, and provide internships.

Southern Region 4-H PYD Champion Network

*Patricia Whitener
Clemson University*

The Southern Region 4-H Thrive Champions (SR Champions) represent twelve states that work collaboratively in support of consistent, correct, and complete delivery of the 4-H Thriving model. Data provides a snapshot of the collective efforts over the past 3 years and highlights impact and best practices demonstrated by SR Champions.

Photography Camp: Capturing creativity by developing skills behind the lens.

*Lane Fritch
University of Arkansas*

Photography Camp was a three-day camp developed to engage youth in Arkansas with an interest in photography. Over the course of three days, we were able to teach the basics of photography, shooting in manual, landscape photography, portrait photography, and more.

Peer to Peer: A Georgia 4-H Faculty Peer Review Process

*Jenna Daniel, Mandy Marable, Lori Bledsoe, Craven Hudson, Al Parker, & Kasey Bozeman
University of Georgia*

Peer to Peer: A 4-H Faculty Peer Review Process provides an efficient mechanism to identify and lift up research-based programming resources created within the Georgia 4-H organization. This process eliminates duplications, reinvention of the wheel, and frustration associated with programming resources. It established a process and place to give 4-H Faculty and Staff a location to gather resources and tools for 4-H programming, while simultaneously highlighting the individuals who had created them.

Modifying the 4-H Experience for Youth with Unique Abilities

*Heather Pogue
University of Florida*

Meeting the requirements to support children with special needs in the 4-H program can seem arduous. Yet, it can be accomplished with greater ease than you might imagine. Through practical accommodations, modifications, and fostering a supportive, inclusive environment, the 4-H program can help these children thrive and acknowledge their achievements.

Closing the Gap: Retention of Under-represented Youth and First-Year Families in 4-H

*Sarah Hensley, Meggan Franks, & Candi Dierenfield
University of Florida*

Retention is an operational priority of youth development programs and critical to the long-term wellbeing of underrepresented youth. In this session participants will review findings of the Multi-state Youth Retention from a culturally inclusive lens. Participants will be presented with key themes and strategies for retaining youth in 4-H programming.

Keep ALL Youth Coming Back for More: Findings from the Multi-State Youth Retention Study

*Sarah Hensley, Meggan Franks, & Candi Dierenfield
University of Florida and Louisiana State University*

While youth and first-year families are eager to join 4-H, multistate data demonstrates they are not being retained. Because the U.S. youth population is growing increasingly diverse, more inclusive retention strategies are needed. This poster will highlight the YRS findings through a culturally responsive lens, providing strategies for youth retention.

Treasures of PYD Unlocked by 4-H Members: Three Year Qualitative Study of Youth

*Sarah Hensley
University of Florida*

Youth programs that are intentionally planned and conducted to provide a rich developmental context, with activities that enhance thriving, lead to the achievement of the program's developmental outcomes (Arnold & Gagnon, 2019). This study collected qualitative data from graduating seniors for three consecutive years and identified impacts resulting from participation in 4-H and elements that contributed to an impactful experience. Findings from the study show promising insight into quality PYD practices that result in meaningful outcomes.

Georgia 4-H's Ag Tech Outreach Program

Kasey Bozeman & Katie Bowker

University of Georgia

As technological advancements increase within the agriculture sector, many farmers are reluctant to adopt these new advancements. Recognizing the power of youth-adult partnerships and issue-based Extension programming, Georgia 4-H began the Ag Tech program for county teams to plan and conduct programming for farmers to learn about emerging ag technologies.

Flying Drones & Electroshocking Fish: The Georgia 4-H Natural Resources Exploration Camp

Kasey Bozeman & Charlie Wurst

University of Georgia

The UGA Warnell School for Forestry & Natural Resources and Georgia 4-H offered a first-of-its-kind Natural Resources Exploration Camp in 2023. The camp's goal was to expose youth to various forestry, wildlife, fisheries, and other natural resource topics while also sharing college and career opportunities.

AmeriCorps Members Increase the Capacity of Georgia 4-H to Better Serve Youth

Kelle Ashley, Jennifer Cantwell, & Jenna Daniel

University of Georgia

AmeriCorps Members (ACM) support the mission of Georgia 4-H while expanding the number of youth served, expanding educational programs, and developing quality educational experiences. In 2023, ACM delivered in-school educational programs to over 17,000 students, supported nearly 1,000 youth in public speaking demonstrations, and recruited over 200 new 4-H volunteers. ACM expand Georgia 4-H's capacity in the areas of in-school programming, Project Achievement (public speaking), and volunteer recruitment and development:

Helping Volunteers THRIVE! Connecting the 4-H Thriving Model and updated VRKC resources

Ashley Burns (SC), Candi Dierenfield (FL), Karla Knoepfli (OK), Keri Hobbs (GA), Laura Huebinger (TX), Daniel Sarver (TN), Meggan Franks (LA), Ken Culp (KY), Hope Bragg (AR), & Harriett Edwards (NC)

Clemson University, University of Florida, Oklahoma State University, University of Georgia, Texas A&M, University of Tennessee, Louisiana State University, University of Kentucky, University of Arkansas, & North Carolina State University

Southern Region Volunteer Specialists collaborated to design and taught a five-part, professional development series. The series connected topics of the 4-H Thriving Model's developmental context with practical application of updated resources in the Volunteer Research Knowledge Competency (VRKC) taxonomy. The virtual sessions had 366 live attendees put content into context.

As a result of this poster session (session objectives), participants will be able to

- Recognize points of alignment between the 4-H Thriving Model and the VRKC taxonomy
- Describe the evaluation outcomes of the Helping Volunteers THRIVE! professional development series.
- Identify various, replicable collaboration and delivery strategies used to engage the target audience in the professional development series including content development, marketing/recruitment, registration, delivery, evaluation, resource sharing, and digital badges.
- Discuss practices that enhance application of 4-H Thriving Model

Foundational Competencies for 4-H Volunteers

Gemma Miner, Meggan Franks, & Jenna Hoyt

University of California & Louisiana State University

The Volunteer Research Knowledge and Competency Taxonomy (VRKC) identifies volunteers' competencies to effectively deliver 4-H programs. This poster will provide participants with an overview of the 43 updated VRKCs including information on where to access and download each training resource, VRKC lesson plans, and activities for each competency.

The Volunteer Research Knowledge and Competency Taxonomy Model (VRKC) is a research-based taxonomy that identifies volunteers' competencies to effectively deliver 4-H Youth Development programs and activities. This taxonomy provides 4-H professionals with a national focus and direction related to the levels of competency and the perceived needs of 4-H volunteers. In addition, the VRKC provides 4-H professionals, including agents, specialists, state staff and administrators, with an outline and resources for volunteer development training.