

National 4-H School Enrichment Survey



conducted by the National Experiential Learning Design Team
Keith G. Diem, Ph.D., Principal Investigator
Summer 1999



Nature and purpose of study

Nationwide, school enrichment has become the most widely used delivery mode in providing educational experiences through the 4-H youth development program, with 3.7 million youth reached annually. Unfortunately, not much is known about how 4-H school enrichment is offered throughout the country since it varies greatly in each state and locality. This study aims to find out more about how school enrichment and other delivery modes are used and viewed by local Extension staff.

National definition of school enrichment

“Groups of youth receiving a sequence of learning experiences in cooperation with school officials during school hours, to support the school curriculum. Involves direct teaching by Extension staff or trained volunteers, including teachers.” (Note: Definitions of other 4-H delivery modes are included with this questionnaire.)

Who should complete the survey?

This survey is to be completed by the County Extension Agent or staff member who is most responsible for organizing and conducting, or coordinating 4-H school enrichment programs in your county, parish, or locality. If school enrichment programs are not conducted in your county, please complete only questions #1-5D.

This survey should take only about 5-10 minutes to complete. Results will be treated confidentially – individual results will not be shared with anyone. To avoid receiving a reminder letter, please be sure to return your completed survey by **August 1, 1999** to the address listed on page 7. This survey can also be completed online at the following web address: <http://www.fourhcouncil.edu/mis/survey99.htm>.

1. Is 4-H school enrichment conducted in your county?

- YES. Please skip to question #2 to continue this survey.
- NO. Please answer only questions 1A through 5D.

1A - If NO, which of the following would describe your reasons for not conducting school enrichment? Please check ALL that apply.

- No demand from potential clientele.
- Limited time available to develop or conduct such programs.
- Has not been expected of me by my supervisor.
- I don't consider it a useful delivery mode.
- Other (Please name _____)

2. Youth reached by 4-H

Based on the number of youth reached annually, please rank the following delivery modes used in your county. (1 = highest enrollment, 7 = lowest enrollment. Use a “0” for any mode not used during the past year.) National definitions of 4-H delivery modes are included with this survey.

- ___ Organized 4-H clubs
- ___ 4-H special interest/short-term programs/day camps
- ___ 4-H overnight camping programs
- ___ 4-H school enrichment programs
- ___ 4-H individual study/mentoring/family learning programs
- ___ 4-H school-aged child care education programs
- ___ 4-H instructional TV/video programs

3. Opinions about 4-H delivery modes

A - Potential effectiveness

How would you rank (1-7) the potential effectiveness of each delivery mode in having the most positive impact on youth involved? (1 = Yields the greatest impact on youth involved, 7 = Yields the least impact on youth involved) National definitions of 4-H delivery modes are included with this survey.

- Organized 4-H clubs.
- 4-H special interest/short-term programs/day camps.
- 4-H overnight camping programs.
- 4-H school enrichment programs.
- 4-H individual study/mentoring/family learning programs.
- 4-H school-aged child care education programs.
- 4-H instructional TV/video programs.

B - Staff Interest

If each of the 4-H delivery modes was equally easy to do, supported, and valued, please rank them in the order (1-7) which you would be interested in devoting your time to conducting. (1 = I would devote the most time, 7 = I would devote the least time.)

- Organized 4-H clubs.
- 4-H special interest/short-term programs/day camps.
- 4-H overnight camping programs.
- 4-H school enrichment programs.
- 4-H individual study/mentoring/family learning programs.
- 4-H school-aged child care education programs.
- 4-H instructional TV/video programs.

4. Respondent information

A - Job title

Which of the following best describes your job title? Please check only ONE answer:

- County 4-H Agent (100% 4-H responsibility)
- County Extension Agent (less than 100% 4-H responsibility)
- Professional Extension program support staff (degreed position)
- Para-professional Extension program support staff (non-degreed position)

B - Experience level

How many years have you been employed by Extension?

_____ Years

C- Gender

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

D - Age

What is your age?

_____ Years

5. Your county situation*A - Type of county*

Which of the following would best describe the county in which you work? Please check only ONE answer:

- Rural/farm and towns under 10,000
- Towns and cities with populations of 10,000 -50,000 and their suburbs
- Suburbs of a central city over 50,000
- Central city over 50,000

B - Extension staff devoted to 4-H

How much staff time is devoted to 4-H in your county (by Extension agents, program staff, para-professionals - but not clerical staff)? Please check only ONE answer:

- Less than 1.0 FTE*
- 1.0 FTE
- Greater than 1.0 FTE

*An FTE (Full Time Equivalent) = 1 person working full time for 4-H. 0.5 FTE would be a full-time person devoting half of his or her time to 4-H. programs.

C - State

In what state or territory is your 4-H program located?

D - Staff time devoted to 4-H school enrichment

Of all of the staff time that is devoted (by any paid staff) to 4-H in your county, what is the estimate of the percentage of this time that is devoted to school enrichment annually? Please check only ONE answer:

- School enrichment is not conducted in this county. (Do not continue answering the following questions. Thank you for completing this survey.)
- Virtually none. School enrichment is coordinated and conducted by volunteers or others.
- Less than 10 percent
- 11-25 percent
- 26-50 percent
- Greater than 50 percent



Questions 6-20 pertain only to 4-H school enrichment programs

The remaining questions pertain only to 4-H school enrichment programs

6. Purposes of school enrichment in your locality

Please rank order (1-7) the following reasons why you conduct 4-H school enrichment programs in your county (1 = most important, 7 = least important.):

- To increase numbers of youth that can be reported on enrollment reports (such as ES-237).
- To meet demand from school teachers or administrators who request it.
- To reach youth with educational programs not reached through other 4-H delivery modes.
- To promote 4-H.
- To develop interest in longer-term delivery modes such as 4-H clubs.
- School enrichment is easier to do than 4-H club programs.
- To make up for dwindling enrollment in 4-H clubs.

7. Topic selection methods

Which method would best describe how topics for school enrichment are selected to be offered in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- Based on interest and expertise of staff/volunteers conducting the program.
- Based on requests of teachers or school administrators.
- Based on survey of needs/interests of youth.
- Based on curriculum standards or mandates of the school system.
- Based on prior interest in the subject, based on past enrollment.

8. Teaching Staff

Who, primarily, teaches 4-H school enrichment programs in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- County Extension Agent
- Extension staff or paraprofessional
- Youth or adult 4-H volunteers (recruited and trained by Extension)
- School teachers using curriculum or training from Extension
- School staff (such as teachers' aides) using curriculum or training from Extension
- School volunteers (recruited by schools) using curriculum or training from Extension

9. Schools Served

Which is the predominant way in which schools are able to participate in 4-H school enrichment programs in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- Any schools that contact 4-H (as limited by time available to meet requests) are served by 4-H.
- Schools are targeted by 4-H to be approached or invited, based on specific purposes (such as geographic location, type of student population, etc.).
- Equal combination of the above.

10. Promotion of 4-H school enrichment programs

Which of the following ways are used to promote 4-H school enrichment programs in your county? Please check ALL that apply:

- No formal, planned promotion of school enrichment programs is done. Only informal, word-of-mouth.
- Public mass media (such as news releases sent to newspapers, radio, t.v.)
- Targeted mailings (letters, brochures, flyers, etc.) sent to school principals/teachers.
- Presentations at parent-teacher organizations or teacher conferences.

11. Curriculum needed

Please list educational materials that you would like developed for use in your county's school enrichment program. Examples include leader/teacher guides, student guides, posters, videotapes, etc. Please be as specific as possible, including topic name.

12. Method of delivery

Which would best describe the method of delivery for school enrichment units taught in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- One classroom period, taught by teacher/school staff trained by Extension (or using 4-H lesson materials)
- One classroom period, taught by Extension staff or volunteers
- Multiple classroom periods, taught only by Extension staff or volunteers
- Multiple classroom periods, taught by teacher/school staff trained by Extension (or using 4-H lesson materials)
- One classroom period taught by Extension staff or volunteers and followed up with additional classroom periods taught by school staff or volunteers.
- Multiple classroom periods taught by Extension staff or volunteers and followed up with additional classroom periods taught by school staff or volunteers.

13. Contact hours

What is the average total time devoted to instruction for each school enrichment unit (lessons with single or multiple sessions) taught in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- Less than one hour
- 1-1.9 hours
- 2-2.9 hours
- 3-5 hours
- More than 5 hours

14. Curriculum sources

Which would best describe the typical source of curriculum used in teaching 4-H school enrichment programs in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- Developed or adapted by 4-H locally (County Extension agent/volunteer/instructor)
- Developed or adapted by 4-H at the state or national level
- Developed or adapted by the school system (locally or beyond)
- From other sources beyond Extension/4-H or the school

15. Fees

Which would describe how fees, if any, are charged for 4-H school enrichment programs in our county? Please check ALL that apply:

- Equipment/curriculum is loaned free-of-charge.
- No fees are charged. (Costs are covered by 4-H.)
- Fees only for consumable supplies are charged and collected directly from each student participating.
- Fees only for consumable supplies are charged and paid by the school (such as by the teacher, PTA, school system, etc.)
- A fee is charged to the school (collected from students, teachers, or the school), to cover costs beyond just consumable supplies.

16. Teaching methods

Which method is the predominant teaching method used in school enrichment programs in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- Lecture or demonstration
- Experiential (hands-on) learning using the 4-H experiential learning model (Do-Reflect-Apply)
- Balance of experiential learning and lecture/demonstration

17. Evaluation

A - Method of evaluation used

Which of the following best describes the type of evaluation of school enrichment typically done in your county? Please check ALL that apply:

- Only data collection for enrollment statistics is done, with little or no evaluation of program quality or impact. (Please SKIP to question #18.)
- Informal observation or verbal feedback from teachers/students
- Written evaluation form given to teachers for their assessment of what students learned
- Written evaluation form given to students for their assessment of what they learned
- Written testing (ie. pretest/posttest) of student learning

B - Frequency of evaluation

Which of the following best describes the degree to which you evaluate the quality or impact of school enrichment programs in your county? Please check only ONE answer:

- Once per school year
- Periodically throughout the school year
- Every time a unit is taught.

18. Benefits achieved

Which of the following describes the benefits that have been achieved as a result of conducting 4-H school enrichment programs in your county? Please check ALL that apply:

- Enrollment in school enrichment allows us to claim a higher total number of youth participating in 4-H.
- 4-H has earned credibility in view of formal education community (eg. school teachers, principals, etc.)
- From positive experiences and promotion youth receive in school enrichment programs, enrollment in longer term delivery modes (such as 4-H clubs) has been increased.
- Collaborations with other community/education agencies have been developed.
- Students have increased knowledge/skills in subject areas taught (as demonstrated through program evaluation).
- Greater positive media coverage of 4-H.
- Greater diversity of under-represented youth served (eg. at-risk audiences, geographic areas, minority populations, etc.)

19. Problems encountered

What problems have been encountered in the process of offering 4-H school enrichment programs? Please check ALL that apply:

- Traditional clientele view school enrichment as something that diverts time and funds from "traditional" programs such as clubs.
- Having to learn and teach topics I am not familiar with.
- Schools want free service without contributing their fair share of funds, supervision, supplies, etc.
- School enrichment efforts have replaced efforts devoted to offering 4-H clubs in the county.
- Other (Please name _____)

20. If you have any other comments relating to this issue, please attach or add them here:

Thank you for completing this survey! Please return by August 1, 1999 to:
 Keith G. Diem, Ph.D., Educational Design Specialist
 104 Waller Hall, Rutgers University
 59 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8524
 Voice: 732-932-9705/Fax: 732-932-3126/Email: kdiem@aesop.rutgers.edu

National definitions of 4-H delivery modes

1. Organized 4-H clubs.

Members of an organized group of youth, led by an adult, with a planned program that is carried on throughout all or most of the year. 4-H clubs may meet in any location and typically have elected officers and a set of rules approved by the membership to govern the club.

2. 4-H special interest/short-term programs/day camps.

Groups of youth meeting for a specific learning experience for one or more sessions, which involves direct teaching by Extension staff or trained volunteers, including teachers. Such a program is not part of school curriculum and cannot be restricted to members of 4-H clubs.

3. 4-H overnight camping programs.

Youth taking part in an Extension planned educational experience of group living in the out-of-doors which includes being away from home at least one night (resident, primitive or travel camping). This experience cannot be restricted to members of organized 4-H Clubs.

4. 4-H school enrichment programs.

Groups of youth receiving a sequence of learning experiences in cooperation with school officials during school hours, to support the school curriculum. Involves direct teaching by Extension staff or trained volunteers, including teachers.

5. 4-H individual study/mentoring/family learning programs.

Planned learning which occurs independent of a formal group setting such as a club, as an individual, paired, or family learning effort. Self-directed, usually with limited adult involvement except for parents (or mentor). Examples include self-study, home study courses, mentoring or shadowing with an "expert," whole families learning together.

6. 4-H school-aged child care education programs.

Educational programs offered to youth outside of school hours, usually in a school or other community center and incorporating 4-H curricula. The primary purpose is to provide care for youth while parents are working or unavailable. (Youth who are members of 4-H clubs in school age child care settings are considered members of "organized 4-H clubs".)

7. 4-H instructional TV/video programs.

Youth offered learning experiences through Extension via broadcast or closed circuit television, including satellite transmission, or videotape replays of such series.