

The Value of 4-H According to Parents of 4-H Club Members in Somerset County, NJ
by Keith G. Diem, Ph.D., County 4-H Agent & Division Head

Telephone Questionnaire
April-May 1991

(WHO ANSWERS PHONE?)

(ADULT OF CORRECT SEX)

(CHILD, OR ADULT OF OPPOSITE SEX)

Hi. Is this _____ ?

(YES)

(NO)

May I speak with _____ ?

(WHEN RIGHT PERSON IS ON LINE)

(NOT HOME?)

I'm _____, calling on behalf of the
County 4-H Office. We're taking a survey of a random sample of
parents of 4-H club members in Somerset County. May I have about
8 minutes of your time to ask you some brief questions?

(YES)

(NO)

This is very important. It will help 4-H with public relations
and budgets. It will only take a few minutes or I can call
you back at a more convenient time.

(YES)

(NO)

Thank you very much. Your answers will be
kept confidential. Before starting I want to mention
that I would be happy to answer any questions
you might have about the study either now or later. Okay?

Thank you anyway.

(WRITE DOWN START TIME: _____ . THEN GO TO QUESTION 1.)

The major purpose of this survey is to find out how valuable 4-H has been for your child(ren) who are currently or formerly in the 4-H program. For each of the following 8 questions, please indicate whether 4-H has been very valuable, valuable, somewhat valuable, or not valuable to your child:

1. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) learn new knowledge or skills?
(READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT)
Very valuable
Valuable
Somewhat valuable
Not valuable

2. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) get along with other people?
(READ THESE TO RESPONDENT IF NECESSARY)
VERY VALUABLE
VALUABLE
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE
NOT VALUABLE

3. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) develop an interest in learning?
(READ THESE TO RESPONDENT IF NECESSARY)
VERY VALUABLE
VALUABLE
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE
NOT VALUABLE

4. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) speak in front of a group?
(READ THESE TO RESPONDENT IF NECESSARY)
VERY VALUABLE
VALUABLE
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE
NOT VALUABLE

5. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) develop self-confidence?
(READ THESE TO RESPONDENT IF NECESSARY)
VERY VALUABLE
VALUABLE
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE
NOT VALUABLE

6. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) develop decision-making skills?
(READ THESE TO RESPONDENT IF NECESSARY)
VERY VALUABLE
VALUABLE
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE
NOT VALUABLE

7. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) develop a career interest?
(READ THESE TO RESPONDENT IF NECESSARY)
VERY VALUABLE
VALUABLE
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE
NOT VALUABLE

8. How valuable has 4-H been in helping your child(ren) develop an interest in helping others or the community?
(READ THESE TO RESPONDENT IF NECESSARY)
VERY VALUABLE
VALUABLE
SOMEWHAT VALUABLE
NOT VALUABLE

9. Of those 8, which one has 4-H been most valuable for your child(ren)?
(READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT, REPEAT IF NEEDED)
Learning new knowledge or skills
Getting along with other people
Developing an interest in learning
Speaking in front of a group
Developing self-confidence
Developing decision-making skills
Developing a career interest
Developing an interest in helping others or the community
10. Overall, how valuable has 4-H been for your child(ren)?
(READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT)
Very valuable
Valuable
Somewhat valuable
Not valuable
11. Every organization has its strengths. Which 3 of the following 7 items do you believe are the greatest strengths of the 4-H program?
(READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT, REPEAT IF NEEDED)
It offers a variety of projects and activities.
Activities are inexpensive.
Both boys and girls can be members.
4-H is connected with Rutgers University.
4-H offers worthwhile activities.
4-H makes learning fun.
People are willing to help my child(ren).
12. Besides those, are there any other strengths or benefits of the 4-H program you'd like to share?
13. Every organization has its problems and weaknesses. Which 3 of the following 7 items do you believe are the greatest problems faced by the 4-H program?
(READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT, REPEAT IF NEEDED)
The public thinks 4-H is only for kids who live on farms.
Government funding for 4-H is in jeopardy.
Not enough people know about 4-H.
4-H does not offer quality programs.
4-H is not structured enough.
4-H does not offer enough awards, merit badges, etc.
4-H does not serve a wide enough variety of kids
14. Do you have any ideas about how the value of 4-H can be improved?

For each of the following 5 statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree:

15. 4-H is valuable in complementing in-school education.
AGREE
DISAGREE
16. 4-H does not offer anything unique from other youth organizations.
AGREE
DISAGREE

17. 4-H is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension which is funded by federal, state, and county governments. The government should continue to fund the 4-H program in this way.
 AGREE
 DISAGREE
18. I would consider voting for or against a legislator based on his or her support of government funding for 4-H.
 AGREE
 DISAGREE
19. 4-H should aggressively recruit as many kids as possible from all over the county.
 AGREE
 DISAGREE

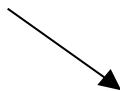
The last few questions are about you and your family.

20. How many of your children have been involved in the 4-H program over the years? _____
 (IF RESPONDENT SAYS "ALL," ASK FOR A SPECIFIC NUMBER, TOO)
21. For how many years have you or your children been involved in 4-H?
 (READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT)
 Less than 1 year
 1-5 years
 6-10 years
 More than 10 years
22. Which of the following types of 4-H projects have your children been involved in over the years?
 You may choose more than one.
 (READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT)
 4-H Prep
 Agriculture-related, including animals
 Home economics-related, such as sewing, cooking
 Other types of projects, such as mechanical science, recreation, hobbies, sports, etc.

(WAS RACE LISTED ON THE NAME LABEL ON THE COVER PAGE?)

YES (SKIP TO QUESTION 24)

NO



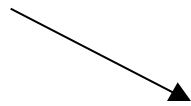
23. Which of the following categories best describes your racial-ethnic background?
 (READ THESE TO RESPONDENT)
 White (CAUCASIAN, NOT HISPANIC)
 Black (NEGRO)
 Hispanic (SPANISH, PUERTO RICAN, ETC.)
 Asian (ORIENTAL, INDIAN)
 American Indian or Pacific islander
 (REFUSAL)

Here's the final question

24. Have your children been involved in other youth organizations besides 4-H, such as Scouts, sports, etc.?

YES

NO



24a. How would you compare 4-H to other organizations your child(ren) have been involved in? Is 4-H:
(READ ALL OF THESE TO RESPONDENT)
More valuable
Less valuable
About the same

25. Thank you for your time. Do you have any other comments related to your child(ren)'s experience in 4-H t

Thanks again. Goodbye.

(WRITE DOWN END TIME: _____ . THEN CALCULATE TOTAL TIME: _____ MIN.)