



University of California

4-H Youth Development Program

State IMPACT

2010-2011

4-H Makes a DIFFERENCE in California...

4-H Participation in Science



4-H Members Excel in Science

4-H youth (regardless of their background, socio-economic status, race, and gender) when compared with youth not in 4-H:

- Are 1.9 more times as likely to plan to pursue science, engineering, or computer technology programs.
- Are 2.6 times as likely to participate in afterschool science, engineering, or computer technology programs.
- Are 1.4 times as likely to report doing well in science, engineering and computer technology courses.

Science literacy is critical for America's future workforce of scientists, engineers, and technology experts. However, despite America's rich legacy of innovation and global contributions, as a nation we are facing declining proficiency in science and a significant workforce shortage in these fields.

In 2010, the California 4-H Youth Development Program enrolled thousands of youth in science projects:

- 59,795 in 4-H environmental education
- 46,658 in 4-H animal science
- 10,921 in 4-H biological sciences
- 10,252 in 4-H technology & engineering
- 5,020 in 4-H plant sciences

Mentored by 14,000 adult volunteers!

The University of California 4-H Youth Development Program in nearly 1,000 California communities, *grows youth to thrive!*





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4-H is Making a Difference!

4-H science programs combine the strengths of 4-H nonformal, experiential education with positive youth development and strong youth-adult partnerships to address content as defined by the National Science Education Standards.



4-H Creates the Next Generation of Scientists and Innovators

- High school students who participate in science-related 4-H programming take more and higher level science courses than their non-4-H peers.
- Youth and adults in 4-H science clubs spend more time experimenting and spend more time talking to others about science.
- 4-H members involved in 4-H robotics projects demonstrate improved conceptual understanding of the engineering design process.
- High school youth engaged in water conservation education show improved knowledge around water resources and environmental science.
- 59% of 4-H members would like to have a job related to science when they graduate.
- 71% of 4-H members enrolled in a 4-H science project reported science is one of their favorite subjects.

*"I was able to share my passion for science by being the teen leader for the 4-H science project."
– Jessica, teen 4-H member*



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