

California 4-H Youth Development Program Military Partnership Corporate Report 2012 – 2013

Staff Training



Over 142 military staff received training to implement 4-H programs and projects. Staff were:

- ◆ Trained to engage youth in projects in new ways.
- ◆ Introduced to basic concepts and principles of delivering effective youth development programs in non-formal, out-of-school, settings.
- ◆ Introduced to the nuts and bolts of what 4-H is about, managing a 4-H program, and were given demonstrations on using 4-H curriculum.
- ◆ Introduced to CA 4-H's Thrive program and curriculum, and provided with suggestions on how to implement the program to youth.
- ◆ Trained to implement curricula such as the Let's Read Together curriculum to promote literacy in youth; and the Military Tech Discovery Kit to promote interest in science and increased science literacy.

Letter from 4-H Military Liaison

At the California 4-H YDP, we were excited to continue our partnership with the military to provide needed experiential, educational services to military affiliated-youth. In doing so, we achieved a number of specific accomplishments, including a few I'd like to share. For the 2012-13 program year, through staff training, we expanded programming, and introduced the 4-H Thrive positive youth development and leadership program to staff. Some installation sites reported that they introduced new projects, engaged more youth in projects, entered local county fairs for the first time, and were able to hire new program leadership and staff which allowed for greater continuity of programs and projects for youth. We look forward to continuing to set high goals and standards for our important work of improving the lives of military youth in California.

~Shannon Horrillo, PhD

Visit the University of California 4-H Military Partnership Program on the web at
<http://4h.ucanr.edu/Programs/MilitaryPartnership/>

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For more information about the national 4-H Military Partnership visit: <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org>.

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Military Youth

Youth from military families face unique challenges. In addition to the issues and needs of typically developing youth, military-affiliated youth must contend with the deployments of caregivers, frequent relocations, having to start over in new schools, and having to make new social connections.¹ As a result, military affiliated youth often require additional services to help them cope with their emotions, adjust to change, and supplement their educational needs. The special needs that military youth have make it important that national, state, and local community programs partner to help serve military youth and their families.

¹ [American Bar Association - The Challenges to Youth in Military Families](#)



Military Presence in California

California is home to 155,985 active duty military personnel, the largest percentage (13.5%) of active duty members nationwide; and is home to 60,300 military reserve members, the largest percentage (7.1%) of military reserve members nationwide.² Due to California's large military population, there are an estimated 176,503 dependents of military personnel, predominantly youth, living in the state.³ California is one of the 54 land grant cooperative university extension systems that supports military child and youth programs nationwide, and as such, the California 4-H Youth Development Program (YDP) is uniquely positioned to help meet the educational needs of military youth in our state.

^{2,3} Military One Source - [2012 Demographic Report \(PDF\)](#)



4-H Military Partnership in California

To support military youth, the mission and goals of the CA 4-H YDP Military Club Partnership were to:

- ◆ Promote and expand programming on installations in the areas of science; health, nutrition and fitness; and citizenship and leadership.
- ◆ Train military staff to implement 4-H Thriving programming to promote resilience and positive youth development.
- ◆ Equip military staff, through training and other professional development opportunities, with the tools and skills to better mentor and support youth to become thriving adults.

Healthy Living

Over **600** 4-H military club members participated in exciting educational **Healthy Living** activities designed to promote physical, mental, and emotional health. More than **400** youth members learned to read food labels and prepare healthy and nutritious meals, food safety, and cultural awareness in cooking projects.

Nearly **200** youth engaged in "expressive and theatre arts" where they displayed their artistic talents to put on a full-fledged theatre production of "Blackbeard the Pirate." Not only did youth star in these productions, but they learned about all aspects of staging a production including set lighting, stage design, and sound.

"I want to learn more about acting now."

~Amaya

Over **70** youth participated in fiber arts activities such as knitting and sewing, learning fashion designing, and creating items such as pillow cases and hand bags. Youth also created scrapbooks, made Chinese dragons, and built African and Mardis Gras masks.

Over **100** youth engaged in physical fitness projects that support obesity prevention, including soccer, softball, baseball, golf, dance (Zumba, hip-hop, salsa), aerobics, bicycling, and more.



Science, Engineering, & Technology

Nearly **500** 4-H youth members enrolled in **Science, Engineering, and Technology** projects. These projects were designed to encourage interest in science as well as increase scientific literacy. Youth participated in "junk drawer robotics," built robots using Legos, built remote control cars, and raced cars they built using solar motors. Youth enhanced their manufacturing skills and creativity through wood-working projects; and their computer skills in projects to create movie special effects, program robots, and edit digital photographs.

Some science projects were focused on natural science and in these projects 4-H youth learned about chemistry, water science, and molecules through experimentation. In environmental science projects youth explored the "three Rs" of conservation: recycling, reducing and reusing. They learned about natural science and biology observing and documenting the lifespan of butterflies. And, youth participated in projects focused on earth—where they engaged in geographical study of rocks and minerals—and sky, in projects where they learned about aerospace and astronaut training.

Over **200** youth members learned about plant science through gardening projects. Many of these projects had a specific nutrition and health focus and youth learned to garden within the context of healthy eating.



Citizenship & Leadership

Close to **400** youth members engaged in projects to build their **Citizenship and Leadership** skills. To develop leadership skills high-quality curricula such as Thrive, Step-Up-to-Leadership, and Character Counts were used. Youth further gained leadership skills by participating in 4-H clubs as members and had opportunities to serve as officers, vote in elections and plan the club's program of work.

"I didn't know I was able to be a leader at anything." ~ Emily

Youth helped contribute to their communities through various community service activities such as delivering blankets to homeless shelters and prepared food to a local Ronald McDonald house. Cultural awareness and sensitivity was incorporated into the Citizenship projects. In one project youth transformed a youth center into a worldwide celebration of winter from around the world and served snacks that represented various cultures in the United States and from around the world.

In other projects, youth developed business, career, and finance acumen. Youth members engaged in mock career interviews, developed a mock bank, and developed a business plan for a restaurant.

Facts: At-A-Glance

The CA 4-H YDP is partnered with:

- ◆ **3** clubs on Army bases, where **1,780** youth participated in 4-H.
- ◆ **5** clubs on Air Force bases, where **436** youth participated in 4-H.
- ◆ **14** clubs on Navy bases, where **1,343** youth participated in 4-H.

Making for a total of **22** clubs on Army, Air Force, and Navy Bases in which **3,559** youth were enrolled in 4-H.

At least **983** youth military-affiliated youth were enrolled in 4-H program off-installations, including clubs, camps, afterschool, and other special interest programs.



Key Outcomes & Impacts

Through intentional programming targeted to improving key youth development outcomes, it is expected that military youth who participated in 4-H will:

- ◆ Have healthier dietary and nutrition habits
- ◆ Be more physically active
- ◆ Engage in less drug, alcohol, and cigarette use
- ◆ Have an interest in and be engaged in science
- ◆ Be more likely to choose a science career compared to other youth
- ◆ Be more caring, confident, competent, leaders of character who are connected to their communities
- ◆ Be more likely than other youth to positively contribute to society
- ◆ Be more resilient and thrive!