About this Report

This annual report presents the impacts and contributions of Minnesota Urban 4-H Youth Development. In collaboration with 46 partners, Urban 4-H reached 1078 youth living in Ramsey and Hennepin counties with quality youth programs. We also reached 376 adult volunteers, interns, partner staff, and others working in the fields of youth development and education through collaborative programming, training, and program support.

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Urban Youth Development Office

The Minnesota Urban Youth Development Office (Urban 4-H) works with and on behalf of youth living in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the surrounding suburban and rural communities to measurably improve their learning and leadership through educational programs and applied research.

Driving our work is the critical need for youth to understand that they can thrive, despite economic, educational, and social challenges. Urban 4-H helps young people overcome these barriers by providing intentional space for them to discover their interests, develop focused skills, and then connect these skills and interests to future possibilities.

Our signature curricula, *Urban Youth Learn, Urban Youth Lead*, and *WeConnect*, infuse into our programs the skills and concepts of self-directed learning, innovative leadership, and global citizenship as 21st century skills that can help youth carve positive pathways.

We envision a community where all youth thrive in their learning, forge their own paths, and bridge across difference to transform our world.
Urban 4-H Engages 1st Generation Families

4-H is a national organization, over 100 years old. Participation in 4-H has become a tradition for some families, who want their children to carry that legacy on. But what about those families who don’t know what 4-H is or have never heard of it? How do we welcome new audiences into a 100-year-old tradition? In order to ensure that we continually strive to meet the changing needs of society, Minnesota 4-H reaches out to “first generation 4-H families”—those families whose parents or grandparents were not involved in 4-H. The Urban Youth Development Office, which conducts 4-H programming in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, has over 13 years of demonstrated success developing 4-H programs focused on serving families new to 4-H. In the context of our largely urban area, this means that our audience is diverse—racially, ethnically, geographically, and economically. Youth participation in Urban 4-H exceeds the racial and ethnic diversity of our location’s population. And our programs have a track record of helping young people (including homeless and highly mobile) carve positive future pathways despite numerous odds against them. This success can be attributed to a culturally responsive approach to partnering that develops programs to harness the unique assets of every young person. See pages 6 and 7 for more information about our partners.

“4-H is important to me because it doesn’t just help me learn. But I see that it helps others in a way. It helps them become something they thought they will never be. 4-H helps others change in a good way, that’s why it is important.”
—Urban 4-H 8th grader
Advancing the Field of Youth Development

PRESENTATIONS

4-H Campus Immersion: Addressing Educational Inequities Through Local Collaborations
Meeting Society’s Grand Challenges Through Community-Engaged Research, Teaching, & Learning
Minneapolis, MN

Imagining New Futures Through STEM: The Urban 4-H Camp Model
Youth and U, St. Paul MN

Minnesota 4-H County Ambassadors
National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, Portland, OR

Models of Partnering that Strengthen Youth Programming
Youth and U, St. Paul, MN
Minnesota Community Education Association Leadership Academy, Chanhassen, MN

Strategies for Engaging First Generation Youth in the 4-H State Fair Experience
Youth and U, St. Paul, MN

WeConnect: A Global Youth Citizenship Curriculum
National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, Portland, OR

Youth As Assessors: Engaging Youth in Program Involvement
Young Teens On Campus: Preparing for Higher Education
Extension Youth Development Brown Bag Webinar Series

PUBLICATIONS


Urban 4-H is partnering with Ramsey County libraries to deliver Urban 4-H STEM Clubs at Maplewood Library and Shoreview Library. During the summer of 2016, youth living near the libraries attended introductory STEM workshops, where they built Rube Goldberg machines, learned about strawberry DNA extraction, light spectrums, and video production. These workshops reeled in youth interest and functioned as a “kick-off” summer event to segue into regular after school programming that began in the fall of 2016.

“\textit{I think 4-H is important because it teaches us about the outdoors....I also learned how to set coordinates, which will help me in school. 4-H is a new and fun experience for all of us. You might end up learning something new!}”

-Urban 4-H 8th grader

Over the spring and summer, 75 youth participated in Splash Screen, a pilot project that fostered environmental stewardship of water resources by youth living in urban Minnesota communities. Urban 4-H partnered with Twin Cities Public Television, with funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Eight Splash Screen 4-H camps were delivered in Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park, where youth explored local water resources using tablets to record observations and share learning. Youth presented to the community through a final project, which several shared at the Minnesota State Fair on STEM Education Day. There, youth were recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Information Technology, and Governor Mark Dayton.
Our Partners

These organizations collaborated with or received training and support through a partnership with Urban 4-H.

3M
24th St. Urban Farm Coalition
Asian Media Access
AT&T
Bell Museum of Natural History
Center for Democracy and Citizenship, Augsburg College
C.H. Robinson
Emma Norton Services
Harriet Tubman Center
Hennepin County Libraries
Humboldt Senior High School — Future Farmers of America
Ignite Afterschool
Ka Joog
Khmer Cultural Center
Minneapolis Foundation
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
Minneapolis Public Schools (21st Century Community Learning Centers, Area Learning Centers, and Community Education)
Minnesota Office of Higher Education—Get Ready
Minnesota STEM Network
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
National 4-H Council
Neighborhood House
Neighborhood Learning Community
Ramsey County Fair Board
Ramsey County Libraries
Richfield Public Schools
Riverton/Franklin Housing Cooperative
Science Museum of Minnesota
Sprockets St. Paul
St. Paul Parks and Recreation
St. Paul Public Schools (21st Century Community Learning Centers and Community Education)
Three Rivers Park District
Twin Cities Public Television—SciGirls
University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
University of Minnesota Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Minnesota Department of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Fretanae Student Group
University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
University of Minnesota STEM Education Center
University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Polymers
University of Minnesota Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)
Urban Strategies - Heritage Park
Waite House/Pillsbury United Communities
Women’s Environmental Institute
Ventura Village Neighborhood Association
Youthprise!
Media Features and Awards

- Urban 4-H team members and other Extension Youth Development colleagues were awarded the University of Minnesota Extension Dean’s Award for Diversity and Inclusion for their work with the CYFAR project (Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk), which ignites youth learning about STEM and global citizenship while preparing them for higher education.

- Hennepin County 4-Her and Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador Rudo Abdikadir was interviewed in Twin Cities Public Television’s "MN 4-H at the State Fair" episode (minute 19:22). [www.tpt.org/4-h-at-the-minnesota-state-fair/episode/2016/](http://www.tpt.org/4-h-at-the-minnesota-state-fair/episode/2016/)

- Two Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors, Laura Wyatt (Anoka 4-H), and Lucía Dávila Álvarez (Ramsey 4-H) were featured in KARE 11’s "Kids who KARE" series. [www.kare11.com/life/family/kids-who-kare/4-h-helps-to-build-tomorrow-s-leaders/315197250](http://www.kare11.com/life/family/kids-who-kare/4-h-helps-to-build-tomorrow-s-leaders/315197250)

Urban 4-H STEM Clubs with a focus on engineering received an $11,000 donation from the AT&T foundation. Minnesota AT&T President Paul Weitz and Senator Dan Sparks presented the check to the 4-H youth. [kstp.com/news/4h-att-stem-grant/4252054/](http://kstp.com/news/4h-att-stem-grant/4252054/).
The Franklin Library 4-H Club won the Red Wagon Award from the MN Alliance with Youth. This award honors young people in grades 6-12 in Minnesota who show resilience in overcoming obstacles to academic gains, give back to their community, and grow to become leaders amongst their peers. [http://z.umn.edu/lbpz](http://z.umn.edu/lbpz)


- Betsy Vowry Moss, one of our partners from COMPAS, describes her experience as a 4-H judge at the Ramsey County Fair in her blog article. [www.compas.org/blog/2016/8/26/a-state-fair-experience](http://www.compas.org/blog/2016/8/26/a-state-fair-experience)

- The Splash Screen project, carried out in partnership by Twin Cities Public Television’s Sci-Girls and Hennepin County Urban 4-H was presented with a certificate signed by Governor Dayton (presented to them by Commissioner Baden) at STEM Day at the Fair for their accomplishments in protecting Minnesota’s watersheds. [twitter.com/cambraycrozier/status/768913589528911873](https://twitter.com/cambraycrozier/status/768913589528911873) and [twitter.com/cambraycrozier/status/768925985567870976](https://twitter.com/cambraycrozier/status/768925985567870976)

- Ka Joog 4-H Club is featured in the Star Tribune in an article entitled, “Minneapolis 4-H Program Brings Science, Technology to Somali Youth.” [m.startribune.com/minneapolis-4-h-program-brings-science-technology-to-somali-youth/390387791/](http://m.startribune.com/minneapolis-4-h-program-brings-science-technology-to-somali-youth/390387791/)
2015-2016 Evaluation Results

LEARNING AND LEADING IN URBAN 4-H¹

Learning and leading are the two major program outcomes that Minnesota 4-H youth should achieve from their experience with the program. In the spring of 2016, an outcome survey was sent to Minnesota 4-H youth grade 6 and older in Hennepin and Ramsey 4-H. A total of 130 youth responded to the survey.

Results demonstrate that youth are learning and leading in 4-H.

IN URBAN 4-H, YOUTH ARE LEARNING

As a result of their experience in 4-H, youth responded that they were most likely to experience the following learning benefits.

Youth reported learning something new and receiving encouragement from adults.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I learned something new.</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had an adult encourage me to learn more.</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I became better at working on a team.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I explored my own views.</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I reflected on what I learned.</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned about youth with different backgrounds than me.</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These results show that youth are learning new things in 4-H, and that they are having the opportunity to work together. They are also receiving encouragement to learn from adults and exploring their own views. Research shows that youth programs are necessary for the learning and development of young people today.

“4-H has helped me become a better leader by presenting the importance of communication, teamwork, and cooperation.”
IN 4-H, YOUTH ARE LEADING

As a result of their experience in 4-H, youth responded that they were most likely to experience the following leadership benefits.

**Urban 4-H youth are leading by presenting in front of others, tackling a challenge, and recognizing their role in the community.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I saw that youth were an important part of the community.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I presented in front of others.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I tackled a challenge.</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt like I was part of my community.</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 4-H, youth are giving presentations and learning about the important role they can play in their community. Youth are also taking on challenging tasks and feel like they are part of their community.

COMMENTS

Youth were asked to share comments about learning and leading in 4-H. They provided a variety of answers when asked about the most important thing they learned in 4-H. About one-fourth of the 45 youth who answered this question mentioned something about **teamwork**, and about one-fifth mentioned **leadership**. One youth said, **“I learned how to interact and work together with people from different backgrounds.”** Other key takeaways included kindness/connection with others, the importance of communication, and self-acceptance.

Youth were also asked in what ways 4-H helped them become leaders, and 82 youth provided an answer. Over one-fifth said that 4-H helped them develop confidence with their **communication and presentation skills**. One youth stated, **“[4-H] helped me a lot with knowing how to handle certain situations with younger kids and how to speak to them and keep them focused and interested in the task at hand.”** Another reported, **“It has helped me become more comfortable speaking in front of groups.”** Other common responses included cooperation/teamwork, pushing themselves to try new things, learning how to connect with others, learning new skills, the importance of role-models, and managing responsibilities.

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1This portion of the Impact Report dedicated to the Learning and Leading survey was written by Samantha Grant, Evaluation Director for Extension Center for Youth Development.
Why is 4-H Important to You?

Essays serve as a tool to capture youth voice. For this part of the evaluation, three themes were drawn from 141 essays written by Urban 4-H youth answering the question, “Why is 4-H important to you?”

**Theme 1: Kindness**

Urban 4-H is helping youth become kind and respectful.

“I’ve learned many things about being the best person I can be and how to help everyone around me. What I like about 4-H is how everyone, even though they are different than me, can all come together and tackle a problem.” —8th grader

“There is nothing I dislike about 4-H. I can help others and give my time and charity back to my community. I love 4-H because we are all like one giant family.” —9th grader

“I have learned to help my community better. Have a better feeling around people, communicating better with other people.” —5th grader

“We always learn about kindness every year and I’ve been here for three years.”
Theme 2: Expanded World View
Urban 4-H helps youth consider different perspectives and develop a better awareness of the world around them.

“What I have learned in 4-H is having a view of different perspectives. This is a major significance to me. What I like about 4-H is how people treat others and caring and sharing. When it comes to conflicts, like in school, solve them in the way the 4-Hers do. 4-H changes people’s perspective in their community, also makes them feel they are welcome in their community.”

“I have learned that it’s okay to have different opinions/ideas in a group. 4-H provides a safe place for different values/ideas to be shared and acted upon. I like 4-H because everyone is accepted and/or given many challenges to not only do things that interest you, but also learn about new things.” —9th grader

Theme 3: Comfort With Strangers
Urban 4-H brings people from diverse backgrounds together in a way that helps youth learn to relate to each other. Youth see 4-H as a place where everyone belongs.

“I learned to work with people different from me…. 4-H keeps everyone happy and respects everyone. 4-H is important to me because it’s a place where I can have fun and be respected and give respect to others.”

—9th grader

“I learned to always be open to new friends. I like to play with my new friends.”

—5th grader

“4-H is important to me because it has given me the opportunity to work with others who have much different background than my own. It has helped me in indescribable ways. I’ve learned things I couldn’t learn anywhere else.”

—12th grader
Youth Demographics

RACE/ETHNICITY
of Urban 4-H Youth Participants

More than one race 3%
Native American .2%
Asian 11%
Black/African American 17%
White 58%
Hispanic/Latino 11%
Total population in both counties 426,393

81% Non-His/Latino 19% His/Latino

Total Urban 4-H Youth Participants: 1,078

GRADE
of Urban 4-H Youth Participants

37% K-4 46% 5-8 17% 9-13

ZIP CODE
of Urban 4-H Youth Participants

24% St. Paul 11% Suburban Ramsey 30% Minneapolis 35% Suburban Hennepin
Adult Demographics

**RACE/ETHNICITY**
Of Urban 4-H Adult Participants

- **1%** No Report
- **1%** Native American
- **6%** Asian
- **18%** Black/African American
- **1%** More than one Race
- **73%** White

86% Non-His/Latino  13% His/Latino  1% No Report

Total Urban 4-H Adult Participants: 376
Learning       Leadership      Global Citizenship