

Agriculture and Natural Resources Awareness Mini-Grant

Hillsborough County 4-H

Title

Exploring All Creatures Big & Small at Camp Cahoon

Project Leader(s)

Hillsborough Extension 4-H:

Georgene Bender, South Central Regional Specialized 4-H Agent II

Hillsborough Magnet Schools:

Bryan Allen, District Lead Teacher

Collaborators

Extension:

Holly Jordan, Hillsborough County 4-H Club Agent I

Jackie Hunter, Hillsborough County 4-H Expanded Food and Nutrition Youth Agent II

Norma Dorta, 4-H EFNEP Program Assistant

Toni Torres, 4-H EFNEP Program Assistant

Brent Broaddus, Regional Specialized Dairy Youth Agent II

Lockie Gary, Hardee County Livestock Agent IV

Steffany Dragon, Livestock, Small Farm Agent I

Gloria Stoll, 4-H Secretary

Hillsborough County Schools:

Tanley Cabrera, Principal

Diana Cardona, Lead teacher, Cahoon Elementary Magnet School

Shana Carnahan, Cahoon teacher

Laura Green, Cahoon teacher

Jill Henofer, Cahoon teacher

Pat Collier, Cahoon secretary

Gary Floyd, Dowdell Middle School Magnet School - FFA teacher

Resources:

Terry Klaaren, Artist in residence

Karen Johnson, Nature's Classroom

Beth Kamhi, Education Director, Big Cat Rescue

Monica Bond, 4-H Rabbit Leader

Melissa and Robert Bond, 4-H Rabbit Members

Dog Project Leaders: Sally Alford Manning, Jerome Manning, Tim Golden,

Connie Johnson, Lisa Walker, Leslie Cutchens, Teresa Gimbut

Noah's Arc: Marousa Eckley, Owner

Project Goals

Students will

1. increase their awareness of Hillsborough County Agriculture and Natural Resources
2. express and share their learning experiences through art and dance
3. discover how agriculture feeds our community and the importance of food and nutrition
4. discover and share relationships among animals, humans, the environment and agriculture
5. explore the purpose and value of research
6. establish a local 4-H club (guided by a sponsor who will be a volunteer at the school)

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Project Activities

A two-week day camp was held for 28 students from Cahoon Animal Science Magnet School June 4-8 and June 11-15. Camp was held from 8am to 230pm Monday through Friday at the school. (Group demographics were: 11 males, 17 female; 11 Caucasian, 7 African-American, 6 Hispanics, 2 Asian and 2 other) Three teachers and a coordinator provided the basic leadership for the camp with an array of community leadership from Extension and various local groups.

A pre-camp program on embryology was held in May to introduce the students to a part of the camp. The selected campers learned about incubators, and a variety of chickens. The process of incubating the eggs began that day so the chicks would hatch during the camp.

Students applied for consideration of attending the camp. Teachers selected the students from those that applied. The camp was free. It was a combination of two grants: one from the Hillsborough School District and one from Extension.

Field Trips

The camp went to three (3) field trips: Big Cat Rescue, Nature's Classroom and Crystal Springs Preserve. Each experience was unique and provided students with an opportunity to explore their surroundings.

Speaker Topics

Each day, when not on a field trip, various speaker groups would come to the camp for a 3 hour interaction session. Topics included: Food and Nutrition, Dairy Animals, Understanding Dogs, Goats, Embryology: A variety of chickens, All About Rabbits, and Noah's Arc Animal Experience.

Art Murals

Students spent forty minutes each day working with an artist on the various animal murals that were drawn throughout the school. One large mural was the main focus and youth even signed the mural.

Memory Books

Staff took pictures throughout the week, developed the pictures and then students spent forty minutes each day to work on memory pages of various animals at camp. The memory book was displayed for parents to see and will be kept at the school office to share with new students, parents and to recruit youth for camp for next year.

Parent Open House

Students and staff worked to prepare slide shows of various animals and their experience. At the Open House, 75% of the students' parents attended. Many lived in the area and walked to the school with other children to see what the students had been doing. Students gave their presentations, showed their families our variety of hatched chickens, and displayed their memory pages. Each student received a certificate and ribbon for completion from 4-H. Refreshments was served and guests also visited the art mural that the students completed.

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Recipients/Benefactors of the Awareness Program

The Hillsborough County Public Schools benefited in this program. From this grant emerged an increase awareness of the animal resources in our local area. In addition, the connection with University of Florida Extension opens additional resources for the school to tap into for their students in the area of animal science. It also provides great early public relations to students about the University of Florida and the Agriculture Science programs and careers.

The local community of Temple Terrace where the school is located was a benefactor of the awareness program. Neighborhood youth were very interested in what was happening each day. There was a lot of curiosity for the program in a very urban low-income community.

Outcomes and Deliverables

1. Students learned the importance of health and safety around animals.
2. Students completed one large mural depicting wild animals and domestic animals of our area.
3. Students learned the differences of wild animals and domestic animals.
4. Students increased their knowledge of healthy snacks and the importance of exercise.
5. Students increased their awareness of resources on animal science in our local community.
6. Students observed positive, caring adults working with animals.
7. Students shared their research about various animals with other students and adults through a power point presentation.
8. Students learned about what 4-H offers and the resources of the University of Florida Extension and College of Agriculture offers

Description of Effectiveness / Impact

A collaborative effort with University of Florida IFAS and Extension gave school administration a positive experience with Extension. Cahoon Elementary is a magnet school in the backyard of Busch Gardens, but it was the outreach of Extension that connected the students to animals. Involvement from 4-H volunteers, members, and extension staff played an important part in the camp experience. Even the local middle school agricultural education teacher, Gary Floyd assisted with the camp and will continue his support during the school year. Gary's school, Dowdell Middle Magnet will provide the next step for students interested in continuing their animal interest after leaving elementary school. The school will also establish a 4-H Club after school and a school enrichment project with gardening during school.

Adding the component of healthy lifestyles, 4-H's Expanded Food and Nutrition program part was recognized by staff and students as a need year round. As a Title I school, the school will continue to establish a year round 4-H Food and Nutrition program for all their students.

Appreciation for life was another lesson from camp through the observation of animals and development of life from an egg. The variety of animals both young and adult and the passionate care given by the adults was a direct impact on youth's attitudes. Youth showed respect and care with all animals.

The Open House was a visual witness to the camps' impact. The enthusiasm the students shared in their presentations, their talent with their mural and their appreciation for life was a testimony to the program. Parents and students requested the camp be held again.

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Camp Cahoon Day Campers 2007

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