

Arkansas 4-H Afterschool

U of A UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

“Making the Best Better”



ISSUE 2

JULY 2010

Summer Learning Loss

This issue

Summer Learning Loss	1
Let's Read. Let's Move.	2
4-H Afterschool News	2
Partnerships	3
Grant Opportunities	3
2010-11 Agent In-Service	4

Many students lose over two months of academic knowledge over the summer months if they are not involved in educational activities. The following tips may be useful to ensure that youth are ready to learn at the beginning of school.

Summer Reading Programs – Most libraries offer some sort of summer reading program. Youth can earn points and prizes depending on how many books they read. The library is the best way to keep them reading through the summer and excited about it. Contact your local library to find out details. Find books that interest your child so he or she is really engaged in reading.

Gardening – This might sound strange right off the bat, but gardening will hit more than two birds with one stone. Make every aspect of the garden a learning experience. Include youth from beginning to end. Get books from the library to help research what flowers or fruits and vegetables grow best where you live. Take pictures throughout the process for the whole summer and keep a journal about the garden's progression. If you are growing vegetables, such as tomatoes or cucumbers, you can add a whole new lesson into the mix by taking the freshly harvested veggies and making pickles out of the cucumbers or ketchup out of the tomatoes. You can find hundreds of easy recipes for both. The Labor Day holiday can include barbecuing hamburgers topped with your homemade pickles and ketchup. Contact your county extension office for fun-filled ideas.

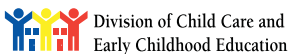
Scrapbooking Their Summer – Another fun way to keep your children learning and entertained is to have them take pictures and write about everything they do through the summer in a scrapbook. This is a great way to make a memory of the summer and, for younger kids, have them work on handwriting, reading and cognitive skills.

Travel – You do not have to take faraway vacations. Arkansas is the natural state, and you can take in what your local area has to offer. Museums, parks, hiking trails and aquariums are all great learning experiences for kids. Many have great discounts and deals if you go midweek during the summer. You can also check online to find discount coupons for the local attractions in your area. Help your youth learn more about the world in which they live.

Ten Let's Read. Let's Move. Project Ideas

- 1 Encourage a child to meet the President's Active Lifestyle Challenge
- 2 Organize a book drive
- 3 Create a community garden
- 4 Build or rehab a playground
- 5 Clear a walking trail
- 6 Sponsor a sports tournament or camp for kids
- 7 Read to kids – reading five books over the summer prevents summer learning loss – it's that easy.
- 8 Conduct summer feeding program outreach
- 9 Collect and donate fresh produce from a local farm
- 10 Organize a back-to-school supplies drive

In partnership with



Making the Best Better

Let's Read. Let's Move.

Let's Read. Let's Move's first goal is to jump-start programs across the country that help counter trends showing that over the summer, many children eat more junk food, exercise less and lose more than two months of reading progress. About one in three children in the U.S. are also overweight or obese, and in many cases eat less healthily in summer months. "Research shows that academic achievement stalls and, for far too many disadvantaged children, actually worsens if they are not engaged in high-quality educational activities during the summer," said Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, in remarks on a press call.

Summer Break Goal: Read Five Books

To combat that learning loss, part of the program is aimed at getting kids to read at least five books during the months they're not in school.

The Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Education and Health and Human Services are joining the effort, with campaigns to encourage parents, educators and youth groups to get kids outdoors, keep them active and encourage them to plant community gardens and learn about healthy foods.

United We Serve: Let's Read. Let's Move needs your help. Keeping our kids fit for school and fit for life requires us all to work together, and there are plenty of ways to make a difference. We're already hearing about people across the country cleaning up walking trails and playgrounds, tending to community gardens, organizing book drives and reading to young children. I encourage each of you to consider how you could make an enduring difference in your own community.

Visit Serve.gov to find volunteer activities in your community.

Patrick Corvington is CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

4-H Afterschool Club News!!!!

Johnson County Rockin' Rebels Afterschool Club Rainbow Garden

On June 15, the Rockin' Rebels 4-H Afterschool Club created a "Rainbow Garden" with instructions from Jeanie Zerr, Johnson County Extension 4-H agent.

The 60 plus students involved in the afterschool 4-H program at Johnson County Westside Elementary first learned the basic needs of plants (water, sunlight and soil) and seed germination in March when they planted marigold and zinnia seeds. In June, Ms. Jeanie and a volunteer made a flowerbed shaped like a rainbow for the students to transplant their flowers.



The following day Ms. Jeanie met with the Rockin' Rebels Club members in four sessions. Each group consisted of different grade levels from kindergarten to sixth grade. The students were then taught about the colors of a rainbow and how those colors are always in the same order. The students were given plants in the seven colors of the rainbow and challenged to place those plants in the correct order. As the groups planted, a rainbow was formed. The students had to be very careful to plant the plants in the correct spot or the finished product would not look like a rainbow.

When the garden was complete, the plants were watered and Chrissy Zerr, 4-H volunteer, read *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert to the students. The students were then

encouraged to care for the garden and watch the rainbow grow.

The Rockin' Rebels program is held at Johnson County Westside Elementary. The program is funded through a 21st Century Family Grant, and 4-H is involved as one of their special activities.



4-H is a youth development program open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 19 without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or other legally protected status.

To find out more about 4-H or to volunteer, please call the Johnson County Extension Office at 501-754-2240.

Partnerships

National 4-H Council is collaborating with the USA Science and Engineering Festival, a national celebration of innovation in science held in Washington, D.C., on October 23 and 24. Through this partnership, National 4-H Council has been alerted to a great opportunity for 4-H Afterschool to host a satellite event in your area. The goal is to have hundreds of satellite events throughout the country, anchored to the USA Science and Engineering Festival Expo on the National Mall on October 23 and 24, 2010. You can make it as small or as big as you want. It can be a single activity, a small celebration or a larger event that involves organizations from your community.



4-H Afterschool partnership with the Afterschool Alliance's Lights On Afterschool can be a forum to celebrate both events simultaneously during the month of October! It's a great way to get your community excited about science and to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children. While USA Science & Engineering Festival is exploring several options in terms of what this activity might be, they welcome your ideas! You create it, and USA Science and Engineering Festival will help you market it by including your information on their web site and in their newsletters.

How 4-H Afterschool Can Get Involved

There are also satellite events taking place across the country where 4-H Afterschool can collaborate with other organizations in their communities hosting an event! View the Satellite Event Directory and Map of Events in your location at <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/satellite-event-directory>.

- Organize the satellite event in your community/choose a location.
- Your event must be free of charge for attendees.
- Your date(s) must be the same as the USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo: Oct. 23-24, 2010 (one or both days).
- Develop a catchy title and short description of your activity.
- Market your event to the local community through newsletters and web sites, asking local school districts, universities and colleges to participate.
- Fill out the form (<http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2010festival/satellite-events>) to let them know that you are interested in organizing a satellite event in your community.
- You will provide a post-event report through an online form they will provide, so they can track how many people participated in the USA Science and Engineering Festival nationwide.

For more detailed information about the USA Science and Engineering Festival satellite events, go to <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2010festival/satellite-events> or Ida Collier or Noah Washburn (501-671-2053).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Disney Friends for Change Grants (Deadline: July 15)

Disney's Friends for Change grants encourage kids everywhere to take steps together with their friends to help the planet. YSA will award seventy-five \$500 grants to youth-led service initiatives around the world that demonstrate youth leadership and the commitment to making a positive impact on the environment. Eligible applicants will be asked to implement their projects between September and November and to connect their projects to International Coastal Cleanup Day, National Public Lands Day (both September 25) or other environmentally focused days of service. Grant applications are due Thursday, July 15, 2010. Learn more at www.YSA.org/grants/announcements/friendsforchange2010.



Grant: 2010 Healthy Sprouts Award (To plan a garden in 2011 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18)

Funder: The National Gardening Association and Subaru

Eligibility: Schools and organizations

Deadline: October 1

Amount: 30 grants that will include \$500 gift certificates to the Gardening with Kids catalog, among other items

Contact: www.kidsgardening.com/grants/healthysprouts.asp

2010-11 Agent In-Service

August 17-18 • Arkansas 4-H Center • Little Rock

Aerospace

The excitement and dreams you may experience about sending a rocket into space, making a first solo flight, becoming an astronaut or perhaps someday visiting other planets and learning what they provide can be exciting. In the aerospace project, you will enjoy learning more about your dreams through hands-on experiences and group interaction.

Each participant will receive a complete set of Aerospace Adventures project books. Additional copies can be ordered from 4-H Mall (www.4-Hcurriculum.org).

- A tour of the Little Rock Air Force Base will be conducted in the morning in conjunction with a briefing by LRAFB personnel.
- Maureen Rose will brief agents regarding Operation Military Kids (OMK) opportunities during our lunch period.
- Aerospace Education Specialist John Weis from NASA Marshall Space Flight Center will present hands-on activities during the train-the-trainer in-service.

CyberSpace

Computers, instant messaging, facebook, twitter and e-mail are just a few methods used to communicate today. Afterschool youth will increase their knowledge of how to maximize emerging technology. Youth will use and demonstrate advanced technology

to enhance their educational experiences, particularly in rural areas, and help provide entrepreneurial and technical skills to other youth. They will learn skills to help navigate the World Wide Web, create presentations through user-friendly, hands-on experiences, such as virtual 4-H clubs, cyber citizenship and cyber camping.



Marketplace...Entrepreneurship

Many youth have an entrepreneurial spirit. Some take action to bring that spirit to life through enterprises such as lemonade stands, lawn mowing services and babysitting. What do kids know about being entrepreneurs? Turns out their curiosity about the world around them, natural creativity, willingness to take risks and unbridled enthusiasm are similar to the characteristics of our greatest entrepreneurs. As youth grow older, they tend to engage in entrepreneurial activity less often, partly because they feel they lack the education and skills needed. These educational activities are designed to introduce youth of different ages to basic concepts related to entrepreneurship, including market research, business planning, marketing, financial analysis and record keeping. Other life skills taught include

communication, decision-making, teamwork, learning, relationships, management and understanding self.

MySpace... Service Learning

Most educators agree that service learning is a teaching strategy that applies education to student-identified community issues. As youth identify these issues, they learn they are part of a community. Afterschool youth will learn different types of service: direct, indirect and advocacy. Experiential learning will occur where students apply knowledge, skills and wise judgment to address genuine community needs.

OurSpace... Dimensions of Diversity

The face of the United States and its workplace is changing. A growing number of neighborhoods and communities contain a complex mix of races, cultures, languages and religious affiliations. For these reasons, today's youth and adults are more likely to face the challenges of interacting and working with people different from themselves. The ability to relate well to all types of people in the workplace is a leadership skill that is becoming increasingly important. Youth will engage in activities to help them understand, accept and value diverse backgrounds and help young people and adults thrive in this ever-changing society and in our global world.

All interested FCS agents, 4-H agents and program assistants please register on Spot, select Arkansas 4-H Afterschool In-Service.

For more information, contact Ida Collier, program associate - 4-H Afterschool, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Little Rock, 501-671-2270 or icollier@uaex.edu.