



4-H Exploration Days

June 23 to 25, 2010

Audience

This program is for youth ages 11-19. Total attendance was 2,656 youth, chaperones and resource people from 81 Michigan counties. There were 704 youth males and 1320 youth females; 13.6% were people of color. Grade levels were: 50 6th, 274 7th, 356 8th, 441 9th, 327 10th, 258 11th, 179 12th, and 134 post high school.

Funding

This is a fees-based program with a \$400,000+ budget. Full and partial scholarships are given to those unable to attend without financial assistance.

Objectives

This youth development conference is designed to:

- Increase youths' responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase youths' communication, team work, citizenship, and leadership skills.
- Foster participants' ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Increase college exploration and access to the MSU campus and its resources.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

Description

Two research-based tenets provide the foundation for this residential program's 30 intentional contact hours: youth development and experiential education. Nearly 200 action-filled classroom and field trip sessions were offered throughout the MSU campus and at various off-campus locations. Sessions were taught by 289 content and youth development experts (75 MSU faculty/staff, 18 MSU students, and 196 outside resource people and 4-H volunteers). A wide variety of session content areas were available such as Animal & Veterinary Science, Communications, Entrepreneurship, Environmental & Outdoor Education, Food, Nutrition & Fitness, Performing & Visual Arts, and Technology.

When not in sessions, participants are engaged in meetings, campus activities and tours that give them access to the MSU campus and its wealth of resources. Participants stay in Michigan State University residence halls.

Nearly 400 4-H volunteers contributed approximately 22,929 hours of their time to ensure a successful conference.

Impacts

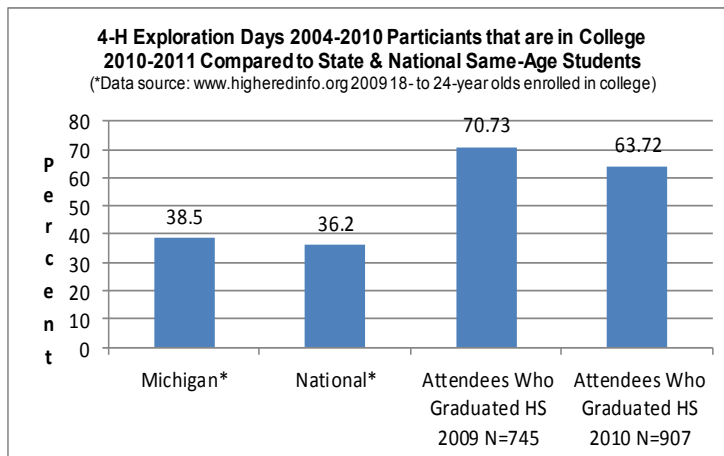
A total of 71% of 2010 youth participants indicated they gained knowledge and 68% rated their learning session as a program highlight. The top abilities and skills youth participants said they improved were:

- Socializing/making friends (67.3%)
- Being independent (57.9%)
- Time management (54.7%)
- Communication (49.7%)
- Map reading (49.3%)
- Decision-making (43.5%)

Evaluation comments that capture the essence of what many expressed are: "It helped me learn about career choices and got me thinking about preparing for college." "It's a great introduction to college life. We learn to make new friends, be responsible, follow directions, and explore the MSU campus." "It's an awesome program – full of fun, learning, new experiences and independence in a safe, supportive environment." "You get to meet people with different ideas and opinions and become more open minded to new views." "It helped me set higher goals." "Thrilling yet educational – what a great way to learn!"

Additional Significant Information

Program alumni attend college at a higher rate than their peers.



Presentations include: MSU Extension Conference and 4-H County Conference Assistant Training.

Contact Information

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http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_exploration_days