



Michigan 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp

June 26 - June 30, 2017

Audience

The 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is open to youth 13-16 years of age. This year, 186 applications were received by the April 3 deadline. Of these youth, 50 were invited to camp by a 5-member selection committee. Within these 50, 22 Michigan (MI) counties were represented, as well as counties in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Of the 50, 38% were MI 4-H members, 10% were males and 22% were identified as people of color.

Funding

This program is fee-based with a \$30,000+ budget. The camp received the following monetary donations: Michigan State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) - \$3,000; MSU Department of Animal Science (ANS) - \$1,000; and Michigan Milk Producers Association - \$500. MSU Extension staff also donated their time to assist with the event.

Objectives

This youth camp is designed to:

- Provide youth opportunities to explore fields relating to animal and veterinary medicine.
- Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills through hands-on research activities.
- Gain animal handling experiences.
- Improve communication and decision making skills.

Description

Throughout the week, numerous faculty, staff and students from MSU Extension, the MSU ANS and MSU CVM assisted with the daily program. Additionally, guest speakers included staff from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, other MSU colleges, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Northstar Cooperative. The camp also interacted with three staff from the Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory. To complete the camp, over 60 volunteers were utilized.

MSU CVM vet students lead hands-on activities for the youth including physical exams on both small and large animals. These activities provided a chance for youth to learn basic skills needed in animal and veterinary science careers.

Campers toured various MSU Facilities, including the Dairy, Equine, Sheep, and Swine Teaching and Research Centers, and the CVM Veterinary Medical Center. Hands-on activities were part of each farm tour to enhance the learning experience.

Youth increased their knowledge as well as gained valuable teamwork and leadership skills through a case study activity. Groups were provided with real-life scenarios in which an animal had fallen ill of a potentially zoonotic disease. Participants researched the disease and put together professional presentations about how to manage the animal and provide the necessary treatment to the animal while attempting to prevent a zoonotic disease occurrence. At the end of the week, the presentations were evaluated by staff from MSU and MDARD.

Impacts

- 100% of youth agreed or strongly agreed that they were more knowledgeable about animal and veterinary science after attending camp.
- 97.8% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more knowledgeable about entrepreneurship and career opportunities in animal and veterinary science-related fields after completion of camp.
- 97.8% of participants agreed or strongly agreed the camp increased their knowledge of the different majors, career paths, and opportunities available at MSU.
- 100% of youth agreed or strongly agreed to having confidence in completing a college degree after completion of camp.

Youth Participant Comments:

"This pre-college program informed me of a variety of career paths and options. I had previously never considered, such as a military veterinarian. The opportunities within this program also expanded my horizons by allowing me to stay on a large campus, see the facilities in which I could work, and being able to ask questions of people involved currently or previously within the program."

"I feel like I learned to be a better group worker, especially with people that I don't really know very well."

"This program has really helped me get a good understanding on what being a vet really means. It revealed so many more ways to be involved with animals besides being a veterinarian. I can say for sure that I gained the confidence in what I want to do when I'm older. It just further secured my liking to the career I want to pursue."

"The most interesting piece of information I learned during camp would have to be the stomach of the cow. I did not know very much about the stomach of a cow and this camp really helped educate me with that system."

Contact Information

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