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4-H YOUTH PROGRAM BOARD REPORT April, 2009

4-H IN THE 21ST CENTURY !!

4-H SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – ROBOTICS



Orange County has 4 robotics clubs that had 52 members last year. It was also their first time participating in the Lego League Robotics Competition. Each year a theme is developed on a national basis that each club must work on and program their robot to perform. This year's theme was Climate Connections where the teams embark on an exploration of the earth's climate. The members had to use computer programming, science and engineering theory to master complex robot missions all accomplished with an emphasis on team work, collaboration and problem solving.

Parents were very enthused with the children's efforts. Comments from parents about their child's involvement included: ***"great confidence builder," "working harder to solve situations in other areas of his life,"*** and ***"doesn't give up!"***

4-H SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – K'NEX



Another new 4-H club that has started in the last year is the "K'Nstructors". They work with the popular building materials "K'Nex". They use engineering theory, math and technology to construct intricate models. Last year they designed a whole amusement park that actually had moving parts and included some "rides" that were nearly 6 feet tall. 4-H continues to be proactive in offering innovative youth programming that appeals to today's families. They are keeping this year's theme a secret!

The focus of both of these clubs is to bring new and exciting topics to youth as well as continuing to build on the strength of our club model that encourages and motivates youth to grow and develop positively.

4-H FUN AND FITNESS NIGHT!



To support the “**Choose Health**”, state 4-H Initiative “Orange County 4-H hosted its second “**Fun and Fitness Night!**”

Eleven Cloverbud and 4-H Clubs shared activities such as hula hoops, dance mat, soccer, Polynesian jump rope, running an obstacle course, etc. Several clubs also shared a healthy snack. Sue Wittenberg, 4-H Staff Representative managed a booth titled “Food Facts” to show the 4-H youth some interesting facts about how much sugar and fat are in common foods.

Each of the 150+ members received a pedometer or frisbee after trying all the activities. Everyone went home tired and happy after enjoying a night of exercise with their 4-H family. Fun and Fitness night helped remind the youth that exercise is part of a healthy lifestyle.

4-H URBAN GARDENS



4-H programming returned to work with area group homes this month. With the onset of spring, thirty-two youth from two group homes engaged in 4-H Urban Gardens program. Youth conducted soil tests, kept growth journals, began growing plants from seed stage using hydroponics and worked on-line to complete a scale model garden landscape plan of their home sites. During the next stage, these court adjudicated youth will give back to the community by volunteering time at a local community garden where they will grow produce and flowers. Harvested produce will be donated to area soup kitchens and food pantries.