4-H Successes at County & State Fairs

County Fair season was the highlight of the past quarter for the 4-H program!

Two shooting sports contests, one in May and another in July provided the local competition to prepare youth for the Fairs. Several teams went to the State Fair Shooting Sports Contest. Rhonda Amoroso won Champion in Intermediate .22 Stand Alone.

Jefferson County Fair was held August 5-9. Growth in participation in the 4-H Dog Show resulted in eight members from the county eligible for the State Fair Dog Show!

Abby Anderson was among the State Fair Dog Show participants. She took her 4 dogs and did quite well with all of them.

Abby won Champion in Intermediate Advanced Showmanship; Champion in Advanced A Rally; Champion in Beginner Novice C Obedience First Year and Graduate Novice A Obedience, and; Reserve Champion in Beginner Novice C Obedience First Year.

At left is Abby with her dog, Jenny after they won Grand Champion in intermediate advanced showmanship.

The 4-H Horse Show at the county Fair was also a success with many horse member exhibiting excellent sportsmanship and camaraderie. A team of nine members moved on to the State Fair 4-H Horse Show.

Several members brought in High Point awards with the top winner, Alexis Hall, in the Level 2 8-10 division coming from our county! Alexis, who is 10 years old, won a saddle along with many other ribbons at the State Fair 4-H Horse Show. Cayla Chevalier placed first in the Gymkhana Level II 16-18 High Point.
One day during the Fair, schools are invited to bring their classes for Fair Kids Day. Among a variety of events, Master Gardeners taught 200 plus kids about the water cycle by making terrariums.

4-H Interview & Career Day

Another highlight at the county fair was a special event designed for the youth in the 4-H mentoring program, *Youth and Families with Promise*. The youth entered projects in the fair participating in the interview process.

While waiting for their interviews they were able to take part in the Career Day activities. 31 Kids attended Career Day along with 6 Mentors. Businesses & Organizations donating their time and/or goods included: Xcel Energy, Johnson & Wales University, Subway of Golden, Einstein Bros. Bagels of Lakewood, CSU Extension’s Native Plant Master Program, and The Horse Protection League.

Mentor, Carol Cameron volunteered her time for an aeronautics booth at Career Day.

Here, she teaches students Finn and Jake how to make an advanced paper airplane. Carol mentored kids in model rocketry at Pleasant View Elementary for the entire year.

Another 4-H highlight was the Rocket Fly Day on July 25, with youth shooting off rockets that can go as high as 1000 feet into the air!

ENOR Summer Camps End Another Successful Season

ENOR Environmental Discovery Camp concluded July 17 with a total of 686 campers having spent a week outdoors connecting with the natural world through hiking and hands-on activities.

Parent/camper evaluations demonstrate that the children learned much about the
environment and themselves throughout the course of the 5-day camp. Responses showed that 94% of Owls, 90% of Eagles, and 92% of Falcon campers had come away with an understanding of the concepts being taught.

Open ended questions on the camper evaluation allow children tell us their thoughts on camp in their own words.

**What was your favorite activity this week and why?**

“Hiking in White Ranch because it felt mystical and adventurous.”

“I like it when I hiked at Three Sisters. We learned how to prevent and make fire for the forest. What stuff firefighters need.”

“My favorite activity this week was hiking since it gave me a chance to see and experience wildlife and nature.”

“Building the highways because we were using math in a fun way.”

“I think the "boring" tree activity was my favorite activity. I think that because I like interacting with trees and learning about trees.”

“Probably the highway game. I know this because after playing it I understand how people decided where to build highways and why they did.”

“I liked the hard hikes because I like to be challenged.”

**What will you teach or share with your family or friends?**

“I will teach them about forest fires and how they can be bad and good.”

“I will share the hiking trails we went on this week including Deer Creek Canyon, Pine Valley Ranch, Bear Creek, Flying J Ranch and Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab School so we can hike there again.”

“We should start hiking a lot more.”

**What will you do in the future to help the environment?**

“I will make YouTube videos about picking up the parks and open spaces. I will also tell friends and family how little stuff we can do to make a huge change in the world.”

“I will not disturb nature and I will be aware of nature around me and I want to do more things for the earth.”

**Is there anything else about camp that you would like to share?**

“It was the best camp ever because we learned, hiked, and at the same time it was fun.”

“I thought it was very enjoyable. It inspired me to do many new things.”

Thanks to rangers and staff from Natural Resources, Visitor Services, the Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Hiwan Homestead in Jefferson County Open Space for bringing inspiring experiences to the campers to assist in enriching the ENOR program. Other partners in programming include the Army Corp of Engineers, Colorado School of Mines/Edgar Mine, Gilpin County Historical Museum, and Jeffco Public Schools.
Six Year Impacts of Jeffco Native Plant Master Program Magnified by Partnering

The Jeffco Native Plant Master Program recently summarized impacts for the past 6 years which show the program is reaching a large number of Jeffco citizens: 107 courses and classes; 2,270 participants; 2,097 volunteers; 60,718 educational contacts made by volunteers, and 2,097 volunteer hours.

This program is also helping Jeffco residents address the real world issues of landscaping and ecosystem restoration in a dry state. These impacts were realized by participants as a result of their planting natives in a water-wise landscape and controlling invasive weeds:

- Personal savings by participants: $334,549
- Acreage impacted: 247,542

Collaboration is key to the success of Jeffco NPM. Jeffco Parks is a key partner with many offerings held at Jeffco Open Space parks. Parks staff and volunteers are trained through the program to better know their park resources with some of them going on to volunteer or teach offerings themselves. New this year is a partnership with South Suburban Parks and Recreation. A Native Plant Master course was held at South Platte Park focusing on the extensive wetland ecosystem showcased in the park. The course was full with a waiting list double the enrollment capacity. It was highly rated by participants. Jeffco NPM also partners with Clear Creek, Denver, Gilpin and Logan counties to increase the impact of the program.

Horticulture Demo Garden Shares its Bounty

More than 400 pounds of fresh produce from the Horticulture Demonstration Garden located on the Fairgrounds was donated to local food banks. The donations were greatly appreciated as expressed in this note of thanks from The Action Center: “Thank you for all the fresh produce that you continue to bring for our clients. It is so very much appreciated and enjoyed … I don’t think any produce that comes in from any garden stays on a shelf for more than a couple of hours.”

Work taking place to improve gardens

New edging and pathway materials have improved access to the Plant Select Garden which gives residents visible evidence of plants that do well in our local climate and altitude.