



CENTER FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2022

IMPACT REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN & STATE DIRECTOR

2022 was a year of major growth for our Center and Minnesota 4-H Youth Development. As you'll see on the subsequent pages of this report, the number of youth we were able to reach increased exponentially from the year prior— as did the number of first generation 4-H'ers enrolled, our overall retention rate and more.

Additionally, our staff put an extraordinary amount of effort into training 4-H adult volunteers and youth workers from other organizations to ensure they are prepared with the latest youth development practices and research. We did this through workshops, webinars, blog posts, podcasts and our ever-growing online curriculum library— an on-demand resource that has lessons and activities we've developed specifically to be used with young people. Those resources, in tandem with our programming, continue to make an impact by helping youth learn and lead in a global society.

This report highlights our growth and impact in 2022. In 2023, we plan to continue our forward progress to reach even more Minnesota youth with programming that helps them thrive. Your support ensures we can do just that.

Warmly,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer A. Skuza, Ph.D." The signature is fluid and cursive.

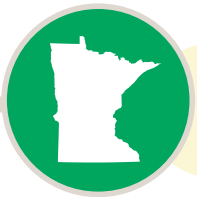
Jennifer A. Skuza, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Center for Youth Development
State Director, Minnesota 4-H



BY THE NUMBERS



1,058 clubs



40,516

↑ youth enrolled in Minnesota 4-H
57% from 2021



7,011

↑ devoted volunteers
5% from 2021



7,137

↑ new first-generation members
88% from 2021



10,146

↑ new members
54% from 2021



5,375

youth workers and
volunteers trained



73% overall retention rate

52% first-year member
retention rate



250

Center for Youth Development
staff throughout Minnesota



21%

of Minnesota 4-H members
are BIPOC or non-white youth



1,781

educational programs



Our educators wrote **36** blogs,
which had over **38,487** pageviews



75 online resources in our curriculum
library with **4,568** total pageviews

OUR APPROACH TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



SPARK

Youth choose projects based on their interests.



LEARN BY DOING

Youth practice experiential learning—do, reflect, apply.



DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

Youth and adults collaborate to accomplish goals.



OLMSTED COUNTY 4-H'ERS WORK TOGETHER TO REMOVE INVASIVE SNAILS FROM LOCAL POND

Last fall, an Olmsted County 4-H club discovered invasive mystery snails in a local pond when doing their semi-annual community pride project.

After confirming the identity of the snails, club members reported the presence of the invasive species to EDDMapS, an app used by Minnesota professionals to track a variety of invasive species.

As a result of those efforts, the 4-H'ers learned that this was the first confirmed report of invasive mystery snails in Olmsted County.

Last winter, youth leaders Kylie and Aurora formed a committee to learn more about the snails– and how to manage them. They then applied for the 4-H Helping Hands Grant and were awarded \$550. Scheels also donated \$50 to support their efforts.

“While researching for the grant, I learned how big of a threat the snails really are. They give parasites to people and animals, take food from native snails, they can clog water pipes and can reproduce very fast at any time of the year. That’s why we need to do something now before it escalates,” says club leader Aurora.

The club did its first removal this past June, while also picking up trash at the city-owned pond.

“4-H youth– donning waders and clam rakes– removed hundreds of mystery snails from the pond, and confirmed there are both adults and immature mystery snails in all three connected ponds,” says Angela Gupta, Center for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Extension educator.

To showcase their knowledge and the work that they have done so far, Kylie and Aurora submitted a community pride project– a binder detailing their journey– to be judged at the Minnesota State Fair. Their hard work earned them both blue and purple ribbons.

Despite their award-winning project, Kylie and Aurora are not done. The club plans to continue its efforts by surveying additional nearby water sources to determine the spread of the mystery snail infestation.



Photos: Post Bulletin



96% of 4-H'ers reported learning new things
79% of youth volunteered in their communities



Photos: Post Bulletin

FORMER MINNESOTA 4-H'ER WINS NATIONAL YOUTH IN ACTION AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR LEADERSHIP IN STEM

Nicole, a former Dakota County 4-H'er, was named winner of the 2023 Youth in Action award for STEM. She was recognized for leading her robotics team to develop a modified Power Wheels ride-on car for a toddler with a disability. Nicole led her team to launch their own chapter of child mobility project GoBabyGo!, build six additional mobility devices and create an online manual teaching others to build their own mobility device.

As a national winner, Nicole was awarded a \$5,000 higher education scholarship and will spend 2023 inspiring other youth by telling her 4-H story and celebrating her leadership. In addition, she will have opportunities to showcase her story nationally, network with prominent 4-H alumni and serve as the official 4-H youth spokesperson for STEM.

"4-H gave me the confidence to develop and hone my leadership skills, allowing me to spearhead the creation of something that really makes a difference," says Nicole. "My experience in 4-H inspired me to help my team start their own chapter so robotics teams can make similar devices that solve issues that impact their communities."





82% of youth had the opportunity to lead
89% of youth taught others about their projects



MINNESOTA 4-H'ERS PARTICIPATE IN YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT ON UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CAMPUS

Ramsey County 4-H, in partnership with the Moundsview School District Equity Team, piloted a youth participatory action research project with a group of nine young people. The purpose of their project was to capture how the pandemic has changed the ways families and young people think about school and family-school-youth partnerships, and consider what new opportunities have been created for such partnerships.



One of the participants, Gutu, shared that his ability to navigate conversations improved as a result of the experience. *“Being able to connect with younger peers and being more of a mentor for them that kind of builds your own confidence,”* says Gutu.

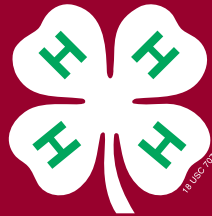
Campus visits were also integrated into their project experience, providing intentional opportunities for the youth participants to meet current college students and faculty, share their plans for the future and explore the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus on a deeper level.

“I only really grew into my shoes and realized how important connections were when I began getting into more community roles during the pandemic, like this one, and involved myself in my county. Without that experience, I would not be the person I am right now,” says another participant, Ava.



87% of youth learned about people who are different than them
81% of 4-H'ers expanded their perspectives





UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION