



Professional Improvement Conference

**Mighty 8th Air Force Museum
April 18-20, 2016**



Schedule of Activities

Monday, April 18, 2016		
1:00pm – 3:00pm	Registration	Lobby
3:00 – 3:30pm	First Timer's Orientation	Art Gallery
4:00pm	Opening Business Meeting & Keynote Speaker	Art Gallery
7:00pm	Dinner and Networking Event	The Funky Brunch Café
9:30pm – 11:00pm	Hospitality & Social	Hotel Suite
Tuesday, April 19, 2016		
7:00am – 8:00am	Light Breakfast Refreshments	Hotel Suite
8:30am – 9:15am	District Meetings Northeast: The Sky Room Northwest: Art Gallery Southeast: High Wycombe Southwest: The Flight Room	State Staff: The Board Room
9:30am – 10:15am	Educational Concurrent Sessions	Various Locations
10:15am – 10:30am	Break & Refreshments	The Flight Room Lobby
10:30am – 11:15am	Educational Concurrent Sessions	Various Locations
11:30am	Boxed Lunched Available	High Wycombe
11:30am – 1:30pm	Exhibit Fair <i>Poster presenters staff posters 11:30 am -12:30 pm</i>	High Wycombe Loft
1:00pm – 1:45pm	Educational Concurrent Sessions	Various Locations
2:00pm – 2:45pm	Committee Meetings Diversity: Art Gallery Oceans of Fun: The Sky Room Life Members: Art Gallery Policy & Res: High Wycombe Media: Art Gallery Prof Development: High Wycombe Member Rec: Art Gallery	Programs: The Board Room Public Rel & Info: Flight Room Research & Eval: Flight Room
2:45pm – 3:00pm	Break & Refreshments	The Flight Room Lobby
3:00pm	Educational Tours	Meet in Lobby
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Social & Silent Auction Opens	The Pub
7:30pm	National Awards Dinner <i>Live auction to begin immediately following awards dinner.</i>	Rotunda
9:30pm – 11:00pm	Hospitality & Social	Hotel Suite
Wednesday, April 20, 2016		
7:00am – 8:00am	Light Breakfast Refreshments	Hotel Suite
9:00am – 10:00am	Closing Business Meeting	Art Gallery
10:30am	State Awards Brunch	Art Gallery

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2016 GAE4-HA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference: Navigating the Way! My sincere hope is that you can use these days to network with your 4-H colleagues from across the state, learn valuable information to improve yourself and your 4-H work, and leave feeling rejuvenated and energized!

As a self-proclaimed science enthusiast, I am fascinated about how our accepted truth has changed over time. At one point in time, the smartest people thought the Earth was flat. But, there had to be a person to challenge the information that was accepted as truth. Someone had to jump on a ship and take a risk. If nobody did anything, then we would still be where we are. *Somebody navigated the way.* In 4-H and youth development, we have to be willing to take risks, too. I hope that the information you gain this week – whether it be during a workshop, round table discussion, exhibit display, or educational tour – will navigate you to take risks and contribute to our field. Don't be afraid to navigate the way!

I would like to thank the GAE4-HA Board of Directors for all their support in the planning and implementation of our 2016 conference. It has truly been a pleasure working with you. Amy Poehler shares that “as you navigate through the rest of your life, be open to collaboration. Other people and other peoples’ ideas are often better than your own. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.” I want to thank the GAE4-HA membership for being that group of people that challenge and inspire daily.

Kasey Bozeman
GAE4-HA President Elect
2016 Conference Chair

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Carolyn Perry is the Program Director for Georgia Tech's Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC) in Savannah since 2012. Her role as Program Director uses her years of expertise in STEM and K-12 education to continue CEISMC's efforts to improve science education in coastal Georgia and South Carolina, which includes summer programming for children in grades K-12, workshops and professional development for teachers, and opportunities for university students in the region.

Dr. Perry has been a resident of Savannah for the last twenty years and holds a B.A. and M.Ed. in Education from the University of Florida, and an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Georgia Southern University. She is an adjunct professor in the School of Education at Armstrong Atlantic State University, and previously taught for the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System for five years. Perry is certified in fifteen fields including special education. She leads an award-winning STEM-oriented Girl Scout Troop in Savannah.

When she isn't doing science with kids and teachers, she is imagining herself blogging and writing a book. She's a slow runner, and mom to three wonderful kids, including 6 year old twins and a middle schooler.

Educational Concurrent Sessions

Session #1 - 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Research & Evaluation Committee Survey Development Work Session

Presented by Jennifer Cantwell & Jeff Buckley

The Flight Room

Do you need to document the impact of your core programs? How about your issue programs? The templates for developing a variety of surveys are posted online. Bring your program objectives and get to work. Members of the Research and Evaluation Committee and State 4-H Staff members will help you check this important task off the list. Come prepared to work on developing evaluation instruments for programs. In order to help extension professionals overcome barriers to gathering important data, we have developed a suite of evaluation tools in the form of pre-made surveys, data tabulation spreadsheets and survey templates. These tools templates are free to use, easily adaptable, and available online.

Navigating the Way with 4-H Robotics!

Presented by Elizabeth Conway, Wanda McLocklin, Janet Woodard, & Susan Goldman

The Sky Room

4-H Robotics Clubs can be a very fun and successful way to implement STEM programming to youth. They can also be a great way to get some awesome 4-H Volunteers! County Agents with successful 4-H Robotics Clubs will share what they have learned through their experiences with starting a program in their counties. Participants will learn about robotics curriculum resources for Middle School ages with LEGO and Junk Drawer as well as hear about the competitive opportunities. They will also learn about First Robotics Competitions for the high school level along with its connection with First LEGO League. Participants will also hear about starting a special interest club that does not necessarily attend competitions and how that model works. Get hands-on experience with LEGO MINDSTORMS robotics! Build a robot and program it to navigate through an obstacle course.

Cultivating Creativity – Using SPAM and Spaghetti to Transform Youth Development Programming

Presented by Kasey Bozeman & Casey Mull

The Hunter Board Room

Ever thought about ways to spice up your traditional youth development but didn't know where to start? How do you enhance existing activities while still building life skills in youth? Conklin's "Playtime Isn't Just for Preschoolers - Teenagers Need It, Too" featured in the March 2015 edition of Time magazine illustrates that kids need time to learn through play in educational settings. Play fosters crucial social emotional cognitive skills and cultivates creativity and imagination. Join the interactive workshop that discusses the concept of innovation, transformative youth development activities as well as the value of play as it relates to educational settings. Come learn about the fun of a life-size hungry, hungry hippos game, a pool of 150lbs of spaghetti noodles, finger painting the declaration of independence, and carving SPAM! This workshop will be highly interactive and will allow participants to experience multiple activities discussed in the presentation. Bring your excitement and a plastic knife and get ready to carve some SPAM. (Actually, we will provide the knives – just bring your excitement!)

Communication--Not Just A Two Way Street, More Like An Interstate System

Presented by Allie Griner

The Art Gallery – Part 1

Most counties have a monthly newsletter and their Extension website, maybe a Facebook page, might submit articles to their local newspaper for publication, and may have other means of conducting public relations, but would you consider your county 4-H program to have a methodic approach to communicating with your various audiences? Looking at the types of messages we send, who we send them to, and how we send them, we will consider developing a comprehensive and systematic communications strategy that addresses the needs of a county 4-H program to announce, remind, and report on activities, programs, and events. Utilizing technological tools such as Facebook, Google Calendar, Google Hangouts, Remind.com, MailChimp, and your Extension website will be discussed, as well as the longstanding methods of phone calls, mailed letters, and the local paper and the place that each could have in a strong communications plan. In this session, participants will also receive a copy of a communications checklist utilized by Gordon County 4-H to transmit their messages through the appropriate outlets to the intended recipients for maximum effect. Participants will also have a chance to share their own county's communications tactics and consider alternate methods for incorporating them into a countywide communications strategy.

Building Youth Potential through the National 4-H Mentoring Program

Presented by Trish West & Phillip Petway

The Art Gallery – Part 2

For many of America's youth, 4-H mentors are so much more than tutors or program leaders; they are hope, they are comfort, they are family. They are the pathway to a promising future. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention supports the initiatives that assist in the development and maturity of community programs providing mentoring services to high-risk populations under the 4-H National Mentoring Program. The goal is to reduce juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, truancy, and other problems and high-risk behaviors. The program objective is to provide direct one-on-one mentoring, group mentoring, or peer-mentoring services to under-served youth populations. The 4-H National Mentoring Program features replication of three Programs of Distinction, recognized for implementing effective mentoring strategies with goals of improving family relationships, increasing social competencies, increasing school attendance, and reducing juvenile delinquency." National 4-H Council Georgia 4-H partners with the OJJDP and National 4-H Council to implement the Georgia 4-H Mentoring "Youth and Families with Promise" program. The mentoring program is currently in its fifth year in Georgia. Youth identified for participation in this program may be at risk for school failure and/or juvenile delinquency. The mentoring program consists of one-on-one or group mentoring, 4-H programming and activities, and Family Night Out Activities.

Planning for Connections in Public Service and Outreach

Presented by Jenny Jordan

High Wycombe Roundtable

After twenty-five years working with Cooperative Extension, a new adventure in a unit of Public Service and Outreach has provided a wealth of opportunities to enhance understanding of units and develop perspectives in collaboration. This session will explore best practices and tips for navigating partnerships with PSO and other university partners to better expand our programs and collaborative efforts. Participants will be part of guided discussions, and develop plans to move forward in future efforts.

Navigating as a New Agent

Presented by Crystal Perry

High Wycombe Roundtable

The role of a 4-H Agent is one that is rewarding, yet requires the tenacity to maneuver through Extension as a new employee while creating program capacity and a solid program infrastructure. Agents' roles consist of identifying needs, resources and implementing programs within the county. As an agent of change, it is imperative that new Agents are equipped with methods to successfully develop, implement, and evaluate programs. Creating capacity and infrastructure within the program have the ability to increase core program participation. Promotion of growth in local programming is presented through integrated and interdisciplinary partnerships and through strategies to assess and address their county needs. The challenges of creating capacity and organization within a program are directly affected by the ability to appropriately implement and evaluate programming. Navigating as a new 4-H Agent will focus on sharpening skills to identify and address issues in the community, establishing relationships with stakeholders, and enhancing the program and professional development. This roundtable discussion will provide strategies to new 4-H Agents and staff to identify the county and programmatic issues. Techniques will be proposed to improve rapport with stakeholders and increase their engagement in programming. Tips and advice on effective program practices will be presented and shared with conference attendees.

4-H Movies in the Park

Presented by Rebecca Thomas and Caleb Millican

High Wycombe Roundtable

4-H Movies in the Park is a program where 4-H'ers host a FREE Movie in the downtown park for all to come out to enjoy. We host six movies during the spring and summer months. The county program secured funding to purchase the outdoor theater system along with viewing licenses to show each of the movies. 4-H'ers have also learned to record 4-H commercials which were showed prior to the movie and at the end. The young people were pushed outside of their comfort zones to experience the production side of entertainment. After the first showing, the team secured funding to serve free popcorn and drinks to all participants from a local businessman. They 4-H Movies in the Park average 450-500 people at each event. This unique marketing effort has increased the participation in activities outside of the classroom, by 18%.

Session #2 - 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

4-H and the Law

Presented by Al Parker

The Flight Room

This interactive workshop will discuss federal and state laws that impact 4-H Programs. Some laws are well-known, but others most people have never heard of but all have an impact on your 4-H Program. This course will cover laws concerning mandatory reporting of abuse to DEFACTS and law enforcement and FERPA Laws concerning confidentiality. We'll also cover current laws and UGA policies concerning 4-H raffles and budgets. Examples will be given with a "what would you do" discussion on each law or policy.

It's Sew Easy . . . Or Knot!

Presented by Ali Merk

The Sky Room

Charity sewing projects weave all the components of the 4-H together in a tapestry surpassed by few. 4-Hers use their hands to make the projects, their hearts swell with the compassion for others in need, their heads grow in entrepreneurial spirit in sourcing materials and distribution of said projects. The mental health benefits are numerous. All these values strengthen the teamwork of their local club, they network with volunteers and donors in the community, and they are meeting needs in their country and even the world. It is the Pledge in action! The skills needed for many of these projects are quickly learned with minimal sewing and in some cases, it is as easy as tying knots. In a world ever more concerned with green initiatives, many of these projects make use of recycled and re-purposed fibers. By adding this option to charity sewing, contributors can now search our donors and grants that perhaps might not have been available before. In most communities there is a circle of sewers and quilters who would love to offer their expertise to students wanting to learn. Our clubs can offer a gift to mature members of society- worth. Charitable sewing is a bridge between generations of mutual gain. With a little planning and networking an hour, an afternoon or a whole week in the summer could breed a culture of altruism.

On The Road Again

Presented by Robbie Jones

The Hunter Board Room

Field trips have always been a tool in education to allow students to experience learning first hand. The concept of education road trips are designed to take students on an experiential learning experience to see landmarks they learn about in their K-12 classroom. The programs afford students to have these experiential experiences that brings alive the learning in their classroom. The session will be facilitated by the Baldwin County 4-H agent who is engaging in this programming each year. Best practices for this program and how program planning can be accomplished on the local level through 4-H will be shared with participants. The session will cover program planning, implementation, and evaluation of 4-H educational road trips, as well as sharing data and stories from programs offered in previous years.

It Takes A Village To Raise A Youth Leadership Program

Presented by Wanda McLocklin

The Art Gallery – Part 1

Who is better than 4-H to lead the way in a community youth leadership program? Barrow County 4-H has organized a successful youth leadership program with the help of program development team, Fanning Institute for Leadership Development, community leaders, school administration, Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. These sessions run over an eight-week course and are co-lead by leaders from within our community. Each session prepares them to be the future leaders of Barrow County in ways of better communication, problem solving, teamwork, and community pride. At the conclusion of the sessions, the future leaders graduate our program with the challenge to work together on a community project as a team to leave a lasting mark on the community.

Evaluation Instruments for Core Programs: Are You Using Them?

Presented by Jennifer Cantwell & Jeff Buckley

The Art Gallery – Part 2

Do you need to document the impact of 4-H Project Achievement? How about your club meetings? Are you busy and don't have time to create a survey? Are you worried you don't have the skills to create effective surveys? In order to help extension professionals overcome these barriers and gather important data, we have developed a suite of evaluation tools in the form of premade surveys with answer keys, and data tabulation spreadsheets. We also have Impact Templates that can be used to share your outcomes with stakeholders. These tools are free and easily accessible on-line. In order to help extension professionals overcome barriers to gathering important data, we have developed a suite of evaluation tools in the form of pre-made surveys, data tabulation spreadsheets and survey templates. These tools templates are free to use, easily adaptable, and available online.

County Council: More Than A Meeting

Presented by Allie Griner

High Wycombe Roundtable

Based in the Georgia 4-H Council Constitution, County Councils are a fundamental part of most county programs, but what does your county's council do? In this roundtable, participants will learn what the Georgia 4-H Council Constitution says about County Councils and then discuss (1) membership requirements – who is a member of your County Council, do you restrict membership to certain grades/schools, and if there are restrictions, what are they and what are the advantages/disadvantages of those restrictions; (2) officers and their duties – what officers do you have, what are the requirements to be elected to office, what are their official duties as members of the officer team; (3) member engagement strategies – how many meetings do you have, when do you schedule your meetings, how do you get members to show up to the meetings, what has generated the most attendance at meetings, and (4) meeting activity ideas – how long does the meeting last, what do you do at your meetings, and how do you make it interesting for all members. Participants in this roundtable will share ideas in each of these areas and, at the end of the roundtable, be able to name at least one way to enhance their County Council meetings within the next program year.

Incorporating Nutrition Education into Programming

Presented by Julia Steed

High Wycombe Roundtable

This round table will include a discussion of how to incorporate food and nutrition education in the form of cooking classes and food contests after school and during the summer. Topics will include Kids in the Kitchen summer class, after school cooking club and Chopped! Teaching Lanier County 4-H'ers skills to last a lifetime is an important part of the programming efforts of Lanier County 4-H. Due to an increase reliance on convenience, Americans possess drastically different cooking and eating practices compared with previous generations. In fact, the percentage of the food budget spent on away-from-home food has been gradually increasing since the mid-1970s, and today Americans spend approximately 49% of their food budget and take in 32% of their calories on away-from-home foods (USDA, 2007). Less cooking at home and more eating out means nutrition is most likely compromised because away-from-home foods usually contain less fruits, vegetables, and milk while supplying more saturated fat and calories (Keystone, 2006). 4-Hers in Lanier County learn cooking skills through three hands on programs: Kids in the Kitchen, Chopped 4-H Style and Lanier County 4-H Cooking Club. In Kids in the Kitchen 4-H'ers learn simple recipes they can make at home. They learn a snack, entrée and dessert. 4-H'ers receive a cook book with recipes. Chopped 4-H Style is modeled after the popular Food Network show Chopped.

The Coordinates of Collaboration

Presented by Jared Crapps

High Wycombe Roundtable

Collaboration facilitates the scholarly work of Extension employees by allowing multiple professionals to work together towards a common goal. Collaborators can include fellow Extension faculty. However, reaching beyond the banks of Extension can breach uncharted waters of opportunities. Partnering with local businesses, community organizations and the local school system can prevent a county 4-H program from floating adrift. Needs-based programming can be identified by what the community is already set to accomplish. In Pierce County, the agent was approached by the local school system requesting a partnership to facilitate the S.T.E.A.M. initiative focusing on implementation of science, technology, engineering, arts and math opportunities for youth. The agent serves on the steering committee for the school system's S.T.E.A.M. Team and co-coordinates the local school system's summer Tech Camp and regional Tech Fair, a competitive event. Both of these events allow youth to develop projects in categories ranging from game design to non-multimedia applications to robotics. Gutmacher noted (2015), ...the habits of mind involved in S.T.E.A.M. exploration are tailor made to develop pathways to adult success. These experiences harbored a clearly identified partnership between 4-H and the local school system while facilitating the S.T.E.A.M. experience for youth. The partnerships of Extension professionals and local school systems to provide S.T.E.A.M. educational opportunities are definite coordinates of collaboration and success.

Session #3 - 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Keep Your Balance

Presented by Adrienne Cox

The Flight Room

Some days life is overwhelming. You are trying to figure out how to get everything accomplished. It's more than just saying no to something to balance it all. You need to determine your own standards of how much you can do. This class will share tips for balancing work and family life as researched from magazines, books and life experiences. There is no single formula for attaining a balanced life. It is a personal decision how one combines their career, spouse, children, friends and self into an integrated whole. This picture changes over time. What once worked to balance you may not anymore. Balance must be worked on throughout our lives. Join this class to motivate you to live happily and productively in your career and personal life.

Cloverbuds: Watch Me Grow Lesson Plans

Presented by Machel Gill

The Sky Room

The Gilmer County 4-H program planning committee responded to the requests of parents to offer 4-H programming to K-3 audiences. The 4-H agent began to evaluate the resources available for this age group and discovered that there was not anything readily accessible to meet this need. The 4-H agent realized there was a need for curriculum materials designed specifically for pre-club audiences. The agent joined the 4-H Cloverbud issue team to assist with this endeavor. As a member of the Cloverbud Issue team the agent designed agri-science based lessons to address the theme of "Growing up the 4-H Way: Watch Me Grow" year two. The issue team is working to provide a three year cycle of curriculum designed specifically for the Cloverbud audience. The team will make it available for use in county 4-H programs. This workshop will give the participant an introduction and overview of this curriculum. The interactive lessons featured will demonstrate the ease of use and will give the participant a better understanding of pre-club audiences. The "Water, Water Everywhere" lesson examines a resource essential for life. The "Seeds & Growing Things" lesson focuses on plants and gardening. The "Tadpoles & Frogs" lesson focuses on the lifecycle of a frog and "The Pumpkin Lifecycle" lesson discusses how plants grow from seed to mature fruit.

LifeSmarts. Learn It. Live It.

Presented by Allie Griner

The Hunter Board Room

If you are searching for a high-energy, low-cost program that teaches youth how to function in the world as smart adult consumers, LifeSmarts may be the solution! In the past few years, Georgia 4-H has begun participating in the nationwide LifeSmarts competition, a program of the National Consumers League. As described on their website, "Participants focus on five key topic areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, personal finance, and technology." This program is an educational opportunity for students in 6th-12th grade. The contest is similar to a quiz bowl competition, requiring both broad and deep understanding of the contest topic areas. The LifeSmarts program provides a wealth of educational resources used in preparing for the contest, and current events help guide discussion of contest topics. 4-H'ers enjoy the fast pace and dynamic learning involved in the program. In addition, students compete in this program online, negating the need for transportation or costs associated with state contests, and there is no registration fee, making this program economically feasible for almost any county. This workshop will include an overview of LifeSmarts, ideas for conducting exciting practices, and an interactive and competitive challenge for the participants to test their LifeSmarts.

4-H Youth Livestock Training Prepares New Crop of Agents

Presented by Melinda Miller, Lindsey Hayes, Heather Shultz, & Deron Rehberg

The Art Gallery Roundtables

Since 2012, UGA Cooperative Extension has filled many 4-H and Ag Agent positions. Few new hires have youth livestock experience. In an effort to provide stop-gap training measures, this team developed a hands-on learning lab introducing basic concepts to agents and paraprofessionals working with 4-H'ers and families. Participants will learn how to teach county staff members and volunteers the basics of starting and sustaining a 4-H youth livestock program. The objectives for developing a multi-species program including cattle, sheep, goats and pigs:

- Livestock Program Importance builds on the component of youth development and covers learning outcomes of a livestock program such as self-motivation, self-esteem and responsibility, livestock management knowledge, career opportunities and assimilation of life skills.
- Getting Started focuses on partnerships and organizational systems, good communication, the agent's role and responsibility, promotion and recruitment, recommended county show equipment, clientele support, and economics.
- Sustaining is designed for basic individual species know-how such as equipment set-up, grooming procedures and the secret of school/community relationships.

Risk Management Survey Instrument Discussion

Presented by Al Parker

The Art Gallery Roundtables

This 20-minute roundtable discussion session will be used as a validity test for my dissertation research instrument that will be conducted later this fall. Even though the research instrument will be completed by 4-H Volunteer Specialists and/or State 4-H Leaders, all 4-H educators, including those on the state level, are involved in 4-H Volunteers risk management and have opinions on this topic. This dissertation topic originated from research conducted on the impact of child abuse cases involving Jerry Sandusky, Catholic priests, and Boy Scout leaders. What if something like this occurred involving a 4-H volunteer and it received nationwide media exposure? The effects could be detrimental. This research also looked into risk management practices of 4-H programs across the country at the time. Several State 4-H Program websites were visited and showed a wide range of policies and procedures being used to screen, train, and manage volunteer leaders. The research will involve a mixed-methods research instrument that will be sent to State 4-H Specialists responsible for risk management of volunteers and State 4-H Leaders through National 4-H Council. The survey will ask a variety of questions on screening, training, and managing 4-H volunteers. The survey will also ask some qualitative questions on the timing of significant changes as well as changes the interviewee would recommend implementing now and in the future.

Funding Your Way To Camp

Presented by Cheryl Poppell

The Art Gallery Roundtables

For several years, the 4-H staff in Toombs County experienced a drop in number of 4-H'ers participating in events with a fee required. In 2009, the staff saw their lowest level of 4-H camp participation, meeting only 68% of their 5th and 6th grade camp quota. Like most areas around rural South Georgia, the rate of unemployment and the number of students eating free and reduced lunch continues to grow. These factors are evidence our local economy is struggling thus making it very hard for parents to afford extracurricular activities such as 4-H camps and conferences. A variety of traditional and non traditional fundraising programs have since been added to allow youth the opportunity to attend camp.

Increasing DPA Participation

Presented by Lauren Dye & Elizabeth Conway

High Wycombe Roundtable

District Project Achievement is the cornerstone of a quality 4-H program. Every student can greatly benefit from the project achievement process. However, sometimes Agents must be creative in how they recruit and maintain competitors for District Project Achievement – especially at the Junior and Senior levels. During this Road Runner, you will learn about some of the methods used in Northeast District to bring large county delegations to District Project Achievement. Agents will share “tried and true” examples of what has worked in their respective counties, as well as provide ideas for what can be implemented in other counties. Information will come from both a rural and urban county, both whom consistently bring a large delegation each year. Not only will you get ideas for recruiting more students, but also for helping prepare students for the competition. Agents attending the session are also encouraged to share their success stories for District Project Achievement participation.

Making a Difference, One Drop at a Time

Presented by Chesley Davis, Gary Hawkins, Jennifer Grogan, Trish West, & Wanda McLocklin

High Wycombe Roundtable

Come and find out the cool ideas and resources the CAES Water Committee has been working on this past year. This committee consists of 4-H, ANR and Family & Consumer Science Agents and is headed by Dr. Gary Hawkins. We will discuss grant opportunities, portfolio ideas, a state wide water camp, CAES resources and curriculum. Many of the ideas discussed by the committee can be utilized across all program areas showing team work by your office. The committee also needs your assistance in finding out program ideas and resources you need back in your county.

Educational Poster Abstracts

4-H Exchange Programs: Fostering Interstate Collaboration through Experiential Learning

Presented by Sonya Jones & Jason Smith

Georgia 4-H is an organization that is deeply rooted in the tradition of helping youth "learn by doing," thoughtfully guiding them to "make the best better" through life skill development, and creating youth reflection upon their experiences and creates a tremendous potential for positive youth development and growth. 4-H focuses on teaching youth how to become productive and contributing citizens. Positive youth education and development is enhanced by experiential learning that allows youth to experience learning through hands-on activities. Georgia 4-H and Kentucky 4-H engaged in a multi-state exchange program that afforded opportunities to youth through experiential learning, team building, leadership activities, and collaboration among state programming. Due to the poverty stricken area of Pulaski County, resources are limited for experiential learning opportunities beyond the county and especially out of state. Less than five opportunities have risen since the agent's tenure in Pulaski County to learn through 4-H experiences outside of Georgia. The condition of the overall economy, the high county poverty level, and lack of collaboration has kept youth from life experience. 4-H is great about offering local hands-on activities for youth and trips around Georgia; however, the out of state experiences dwindle to a few beyond national contests and events and environmental education trips.

4-H Project Achievement Prepares Youth for Life

Presented by Cindy Meadows

4-H'ers in the deep Southwest District area lacked the opportunities to present their presentations and build better portfolios. Agents decided to plan a Project Achievement multi-county event where 4-H'ers could present their demonstrations, exhibit project posters, and conduct community service projects. This led to increased numbers in participants and better portfolio scores. 4-H Project Achievement is a tool for enhancing the subject area of language arts. This teaching tool encourages and fosters the development of both oral and written communication skills. Project Achievement for Junior and Senior 4-H'ers is a twofold process with each portion receiving a score. First, the 4-H'ers must compile a portfolio documenting all of their project work and service work for the year and then they deliver a formal presentation as the other portion of their Project Achievement score. But for most 7th -12th grade 4-H'ers in rural Southwest Georgia, building a high quality portfolio posed quite a challenge. Many small towns face the issue of a lack of resources to meet the needs of 4-H'ers seeking opportunities to share their talents or lend a helping hand, thus leading to poor scores in the service and sharing & helping portion of their portfolios.

4th Grade CCRPI Lesson Plans

Presented by Debra Smith

In an effort to fulfill the CCRPI requirements for fourth grade students in Upson County, the County Extension Associate developed four hands-on lesson plans. Students will gain positive self-confidence and feel a sense of mastery as they engage in meaningful activities through their 4-H experiences while discovering different career options. Brief Description: To instill a "learn by doing" attitude in young people, four lesson plans were designed. Fourth grade students will learn about careers in S.T.E.M, Manufacturing, Business Management and Administration, and Architecture and Construction. As a result, these lessons afforded the opportunity of the Upson County School System in achieving 100% CCRPI state requirements by BOE for fourth grade. Educational lessons presented offer opportunities for students to set goals and make decisions about their future. Through club meetings, students participate in educational 4-H activities that promote teamwork, communication and social skills while being exposed to a variety of career options. Summary: To raise awareness of careers offered to students while helping them learn goal setting skills, decision-making skills and provide positive adult-youth partnerships. Lesson plans were designed out of necessity to teach fourth grade students about careers while meeting the needs of the school system.

5th Grade CCRPI in Schools Evaluation

Presented by Allie Griner

According to the Georgia Department of Education, career development is a vital part of one's educational tenure and is a school-wide initiative. The new initiative will require students to explore various career paths and interests in grades K-8 and select a career path to study in depth in grades 9-12. Additionally, Gordon County and Calhoun City Schools both are putting strong emphasis on career readiness of youth educated in their school systems. 2014 KidsCount data shows that Gordon County is #57 in the state for youth 16-19 not attending school and not working, and Vickie Spence, executive director of United Way of Gordon County, attributes this statistic to youth leaving school not knowing how to work because they have never seen a parent earn a paycheck, and not aware of college and career opportunities because they don't see a future

outside of Gordon County as they have never experienced being outside of Gordon County. This poster presentation will describe the implementation of the 4-H 5th grade CCRPI lessons in Gordon County/Calhoun City school club meetings and provide evaluation results from those participating in the lessons indicating knowledge gained and attitude changes about career opportunities in Government/Public Administration, Marketing, Finance, and Information Technology. The poster presentation will also include a revised evaluation instrument that combines all 4 lessons into one survey for a one-time end of program evaluation option.

Coastal Georgia 4-H Military Adventure Camp

Presented by Kasey Bozeman & Casey Mull

Since the events of September 11, 2001, military service members have experienced frequent long-term deployments to active war zones, causing issues of family separation and anxiety. Children having parents serving as Reservists and National Guardsmen may be particularly vulnerable to the challenges of military dependent life. The 4-H/Military Partnership connects Extension/4-H resources with military service members and their families, in order to provide positive resiliency and life skill development for military children and youth. Georgia 4-H received the Air National Guard (ANG)/Air Force Reserve (AFR) Youth Camp Grant. The purpose of the camp was to (a) expand outreach/access to youth from Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve families; (b) provide fun and safe camping experiences in close proximity to ANG/AFR units; and (c) help geographically dispersed ANG/AFR military kids get away from the routines of everyday life. The Coastal Georgia Military Adventure Camp was collaboratively coordinated with the UGA Marine Extension Service on Skidaway Island. UGA Marine Extension Service faculty members taught two core workshops: (a) marine mammals; and (b) fish and macroinvertebrates. Four high school youth from the Liberty County 4-H program served as teen leaders during the camp. These teens provided oversight for evening programming, which included an interpretive one-mile hike through the maritime forest. Twenty-four youth having parents serving in the military participated in the camp.

Establishing CCRPI Career Portfolio Competitions

Presented by Brennan Jackson

The College and Career Ready Performance Index (C.C.R.P.I.) was mandated in 2012 by the Georgia General Assembly as a tool to monitor school improvement, accountability, communication, and college readiness for all Georgia public school students. A Career Portfolio was established for fifth graders to provide a benchmark of the student's career awareness; the portfolio consists of an essay and oral presentation on a career of their choice. To meet the requirements of the Career Portfolio, Wells Elementary School collaborated with Jones County 4-H to administer the required career lessons as well as develop and implement a 4-H competition in order to complete each component of the Career Portfolio with 121 students. Preparations for the competition lasted a month and four school days were devoted to judging presentations. Essays were judged by Extension staff and winners were determined for the essay and presentation portion of the contest. After completing the competition, students completed an evaluation in regards to knowledge and awareness gained. The majority of students indicated an increase in knowledge and that the competition helped their decision making process as to which career path they wished to pursue in the future.

Growing Youth Potential through the National 4-H Mentoring Program

Presented by Patricia West

"For many of America's youth, 4-H mentors are so much more than tutors or program leaders; they are hope, they are comfort, they are family. They are the pathway to a promising future. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention supports the initiatives that assist in the development and maturity of community programs providing mentoring services to high-risk populations under the 4-H National Mentoring Program. The goal is to reduce juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, truancy, and other problems and high-risk behaviors. The program objective is to provide direct one-on-one mentoring, group mentoring, or peer-mentoring services to underserved youth populations. The 4-H National Mentoring Program features replication of three Programs of Distinction, recognized for implementing effective mentoring strategies with goals of improving family relationships, increasing social competencies, increasing school attendance, and reducing juvenile delinquency." National 4-H Council Georgia 4-H partners with the OJJDP and National 4-H Council to implement the Georgia 4-H Mentoring "Youth and Families with Promise" program. The mentoring program is currently in its fifth year in Georgia. Youth identified for participation in this program may be at risk for school failure and/or juvenile delinquency. The mentoring program consists of one-on-one or group mentoring, 4-H programming and activities, and Family Night Out Activities.

Increasing Science Education with Paulding County Youth: an Extension Partnership

Presented by Brittani Kelley

Paulding County School District tests well yearly on state mandated standardized tests in most academic content areas. However, school district officials' primary concern and current focus is on science education in grades K-5. County testing data revealed that as elementary students advance to the next grade level, there is an increase in the amount of students that do not meet the science standards. The school district wanted to tackle this issue early and felt that Extension and 4-H could play a role in increasing science education in Paulding County Schools. A meeting was held with the district Elementary Curriculum Coordinator and the Extension Agent to discuss how Extension and 4-H can supplement the science curriculum to best meet the needs of the school system. The meeting was successful and resulted in the development of the following:

- Revamping 5th grade 4-H in-school club meeting curriculum to address science standards
- Creation and implementation of a Science Resource Guide for 2nd-4th grade students where teachers can select standards based science lessons for UGA Extension staff to teach and supplement science instruction

Less Is More When It Comes to Food!

Presented by Rachel Stewart

In today's society, all events and activities are surrounded by food. We eat more food than our bodies need. Through nutrition education and physical activity, 4-H students learn how to eat, cook, and maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle. Students also learn to use ques from their own bodies to determine onset of health issues associated with lifestyle choices. Through hands on activities, and workshops, students learn to cook healthier recipes, how to read food labels, nutrition facts, and risk factors of certain diseases. Students also participate in a variety of physical activity including the Walk Georgia Program.

Linking Together for a Cure

Presented by Cheryl Poppell

Toombs County 4-H partnered with the Southeast Georgia Soapbox Derby to raise funds for childhood cancer research. Over \$2000 have been raised due to the efforts of this partnership. In recent years, the Toombs County community has also seen several local cases of childhood cancer. Before 2014, there were no outstanding efforts being made towards childhood cancer research efforts in Toombs County. The Toombs County Senior 4-H Club developed a project to help spread awareness about Childhood Cancer and also raise funds to support research efforts to cure this disease. To date, \$2000 dollars have been donated to childhood cancer research. This money was donated to the CURE Childhood Cancer Foundation to help researchers complete projects that are furthering the knowledge and advancements needed to cure childhood cancer. Aside from the amount of money raised, this campaign was successful in increasing the awareness of childhood cancer and the effects it has on families.

On the Road Again: Facilitating Educational Road Trips to Give Youth First Hand Learning Experiences of Civic and Social Science Classroom Learning

Presented by Robbie Jones

Field trips have always been a tool in education to allow students to experience learning first hand. The concept of education road trips are designed to take students on an experiential learning experience to see landmarks they learn about in their K-12 classroom. The programs afford students to have these experiential experiences that brings alive the learning in their classroom. This idea has been replicated in Baldwin County Georgia since 2014. Youth have been able to experience US history first hand through nine US states and the District of Columbia. These experiences have created improved social science awareness in the 4-H members participating in the program.

The PROUD Program

Presented by Lauren Dye

The PROUD (Purposefully Reaching Out to a Unique Demographic) Program was established early in 2014 to target Latino students. Latino students are considered at-risk due to speaking English as a second language. Other indicators include: immigrant families, low parent education and low socioeconomic status. Latino students also have the lowest graduation rate in Georgia, at only 49.6%. PROUD is designed to meet with middle school-aged Latinos in an afterschool setting. The program starts in 7th grade, when retention of 4-H members is difficult in general. A lot of research indicates middle school years are essential for reaching at-risk youth to keep them engaged and encourage them to graduate high school. Directing attention to 7th graders provides them with an opportunity to get active and involved in 4-H before starting high school. Other research denotes the importance of afterschool activities to help at-risk youth continue in school and graduate from high school. As a matter of fact, students who suffer from low self-esteem during their middle school ages are much more likely to succeed and improve their confidence by participating in after school activities. They are also much more likely to make positive life choices and become contributing members of their communities.

Relationship Smarts for Youth

Presented by Caitlin Bennett

Healthy relationships provide an opportunity for positive youth development, but for unprepared youth, romantic relationships can lead to unhealthy risks. Between August 2014 and May 2015, 215 6th grade students in Banks County participated in 8 Relationship Smarts lessons. Each meeting lasted an hour and included hands-on learning activities with in-depth discussions that reinforced the content presented in the curriculum. The lessons enabled youth to: identify their own values to gain their own unique identities, understand the foundations of a good relationship, recognize the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to end unhealthy relationships, develop skills to effectively communicate and manage conflict, and understand their impact on themselves and others on social media. The evaluation of the program included an examination of short-term indicators of change in participants' knowledge and beliefs related to topics covered in each lesson as well as in confidence in their ability to use the skills learned. The results suggest that, on average, program participants reported gaining awareness and understanding of what it means to have a healthy relationship and feeling more confident that they can use these skills and behaviors in their everyday lives. Upon the conclusion of the program, between 70-87% of the Banks County sixth graders demonstrated significant improvements in each of the lessons taught.

Using Club Meetings to Provide College and Career Readiness Preparation

Presented by Jackie Nunn

The Ware County 4-H Program used 5th grade club meetings to provide curriculum that helps support the College and Career Readiness Performance Index requirements set by the Georgia Department of Education. By utilizing Georgia 4-H CCRPI curriculum, youth developed career awareness, partnerships with schools were built, and teachers became more engaged in club meetings. Ware County 4-H now partners with multiple schools to provide lessons and worksheet documentation to satisfy career portfolio requirements for 5th grade students.

What a Disaster

Presented by Ali Merk

Jackson County 4-H students were given the tremendous honor of being invited to participate in a Mock Disaster in March, 2016. The 'disaster' was the culmination of an emergency responder training hosted by many key players in crisis communications in the state of Georgia. The University of Georgia's Institute of Disaster Management, Athens Regional Medical Center, Emory and other stake holders offer the training for emergency personnel, medical students, and civilians. The skills gained will hopefully never be put into practice but class of March 2016 is prepared. The region around The University of Georgia is at a disadvantage, in that the trainings offered before now have been mostly on adult 'victims'. With a saturation of youth in the area, the need for relative training was unmet. Finding students capable of being subjected to hours of preparation and then being able to perform under the stress of an intense disaster has been a unicorn for the trainers. For those training, the shock of a mass casualty event involving students is disturbing. Through a networking connection, 4-H was offered the opportunity to meet the need. Not only did they meet the need, they surpassed all expectations. The students were moulaged by professional make-up and special effects artists, given scripts, staged in a scenario and asked to make it seem real. Our students were an invaluable, irreplaceable part of training first responders. Few have the distinct privilege to give to the emergency.

Working Together to Educate Students about Agriculture

Presented by Adrienne Cox

The number one industry in Georgia is agriculture. But, what does that mean to our youth? Most of them think all agriculture careers wear boots and overalls to work. No, the jobs in agriculture incorporate a vast array of professions. A recent survey from Land O'Lakes, Inc. indicated that not enough students are pursuing careers in agriculture. They need to be educated about the opportunities that are available. Modern agriculture has evolved to become one of the most vital and technologically advanced fields there is today. The career choices are as dynamic as the industry itself – from seed geneticists and soil conservationists to supply chain analysts and economists. In Harris County, this problem is addressed through collaborative efforts between Farm Bureau and Harris County 4-H. Through this collaboration, youth are educated in a variety of ways about the importance of agriculture and the careers it includes. Students are engaged in the school classrooms, summer programs and at judging team practices. This relationship has built a positive view of agriculture in our youth and raised awareness of agricultural careers.

Your Money, Your Future

Presented by Kris Peavy & Melinda Miller

Your Money, Your Future (YMYF) is an educational curriculum provided through University of Georgia Cooperative Extension 4-H/Youth Development. The curriculum is comprised of ten interactive financial literacy lessons designed to enhance the skills and practices of students in 6th through 8th grades. Each interactive lesson provides information to improve decision-making around earning, spending, saving, and giving to others. Since 2008, when the program was introduced, more than 75,000 youth have participated in the ten-lesson series. Pre- and post-tests show that participants were significantly more likely after the lessons to recognize the importance of starting early to save for goals, give to charity, add money to their savings, earn extra to save, and think more often about going to college. The curriculum has been implemented at statewide 4-H events such as Junior Conference and Ambassador Training preparing 68 student instructors. Authors have presented at 5 national meetings impacting 113 adults from 15 states.

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Walk Georgia Challenge

While we all know step counters are the hot technology when it comes to walking, this week you will have the opportunity to win some "tech for your steps!" While at the conference, you will receive an email invitation to join the GAE4H-A Walk Georgia group. While touring, enjoying recreation, and at the conference, we are challenging you to log those steps! At the end of the conference, an iPad donated by Walk Georgia will be given to the person with the most Walk Georgia points.

More 4-H Stories from the Heart

Many amazing 4-H stories are "out there" just waiting to be written up so they can be shared with future 4-H'ers and long-time supporters. The Task Force for More 4-H Stories From The Heart, a part of the NAE4-HA Marketing and Outreach Committee, is eager to have all states represented in the upcoming volume of *More 4-H Stories From The Heart*. They are wanting stories of 1,000 words or less that are inspiring, funny, "tear jerkers", and more. Think about those heartfelt stories that document 4-H's positive impact on your life or the life of someone close to you. Stories written in first person are usually best. Selected stories will be edited for "readability", punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Authors of selected stories will be asked to review and provide written permission to use the edited version of their story. Encourage 4-H story submissions from Extension retirees and 4-H alumni in your county or area. Consider sharing this opportunity through your newsletters, websites, and social media platforms.

Proceeds from eventual book sales will be used to create an endowment for the National 4-H Hall of Fame to assure this valuable recognition will continue long into the future. However, the book is not just about fundraising. The real goal is to document the impact 4-H has had on thousands of young people, volunteers, staff and donors. These stories from the heart do an excellent job of explaining why 4-H has been and continues to be the best youth development program in the world. You can find the nominations form at: <http://www.nae4ha.com/assets/documents/forms/HOF/4-h%20storysummary%20form.pdf>.

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the
Date!

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***“We have another chance
to navigate, perhaps in a
slightly different way than
we did yesterday.
We cannot go back.
But we can learn.”***

– Jeffrey R. Anderson

