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COUNTY FAIR 4-H RESULTS AND PHOTOS

County Fair summary and photos on back page. Complete results and more photos online at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Fair



4-H Partners With Lincoln After-School Programs

The number of after-school programs in Lincoln is growing. These programs are usually located at Lincoln Public Schools elementary school sites, but a few are located at LPS middle schools or other sites. Most provide before-school and after-school programs; some offer summer programs. Their goal is not only to provide safe, supervised drug-free and cost-effective care, but to improve student learning and development.

There are 19 Lincoln Community Learning Centers (CLC) which are sponsored, operated, and staffed by various lead agencies such as Heartland Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Lincoln Housing Authority, Lincoln Parks and Recreation, Family Service, Lincoln Public Schools, YMCA and Cedars Youth Services.

Family Service is the lead agency for several CLC's and operates its own School's Out after-school program at 20 school sites. There are also other after-school programs in Lincoln.

4-H is now partnering with many of these agencies and after-school programs. Last fall, CLC staff members approached Lancaster County 4-H about incorporating 4-H into their programs. Since then, 4-H staff member Teri Hlava has been collaborating with after-school staff to customize 4-H's resources to the needs of individual after-school sites.

4-H offers more than 150 hands-on projects with curriculum written by university experts. Many of the Lincoln after-school sites have incorporated 4-H curriculum into their activities.

"Using the 4-H curriculum has helped me in so many ways," says Kylee Foote of the Holmes CLC. "It saves on time and I know the kids are getting more



4-H staff member Teri Hlava (at left) leads Holmes after-school youth in a "Step Up to Leadership" project activity.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension 4-H youth development program emphasizes teaching practical skills and developing life skills through learning-by-doing. Lancaster County 4-H consists of:

- Organized clubs
- Independent members
- Educational events and leadership opportunities
- 4-H School Enrichment programs in classrooms
- 4-H After-School partnership



After-school youth at the Air Park Recreation Center summer program participate in a food preparation activity.

out of activities than a time filler. The kids can get so much out of the simplest activity."

Last winter, eight Lincoln after-school programs received mini-grants from the 4-H State Foundation to assist in purchasing 4-H curriculum and/or materials related to the use of the curriculum. Norwood Park CLC was one of the recipients. "The bug catchers were neat," says Grant, a Norwood Park after-school youth. "I caught a centipede and a worm at home!"

Seven after-school sites have formed 4-H clubs. Some have regularly scheduled club meetings, while some are more loose in their structure.

Lakeview CLC is one site which has formed a club. "Our 4-H activities have provided excellent opportunities for our students to build personal, social and leadership skills while having fun and enjoying their after-school experiences with friends," says Ryan Mohling, director of Lakeview CLC.

4-H staff work closely with after-school staff on using the 4-H curriculum and 4-H's Experiential Learning Model. Staff meet individually, in small group settings and at staff development sessions. Occasionally, 4-H staff visit after-school sites to lead youth in 4-H-related activities.

see *AFTER-SCHOOL* on page 11

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Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

After-School Youth Participate in County Fair 4-H Activities

4-H worked with after-school programs to involve after-school youth in this year's county fair. After-school youth had the opportunity to enter exhibits in the 4-H areas.

Lancaster County 4-H staff developed and compiled a "Lancaster County Fair Animal Exploration Guide" for after-school youth, grades K-4. The curriculum included animal information, activities and worksheets to be used before or after county fair. It also had information for tours during the fair.



A Saratoga after-school 4-H member enters a fair exhibit.



School's Out youth from the Cavett summer site take a hands-on tour of the county fair.