

4-H Projects Prepare Youth for Career Choices

Sevier County



The 2004 Sevier County 4-H Forestry Team won state championship and placed 12th in the national contest.

Sevier County has a long history of quality 4-H programs, and this past year, 13 community clubs offered opportunities to learn in a wide variety of 4-H project areas. Because of the importance of agriculture in our area, livestock projects such as beef, swine, goats, sheep, horses, and even rabbits are popular.

Competitive events are provided in several categories and continue to serve as a valuable tool to offer educational opportunities in a fun way. A forestry event was conducted for the first time last year at the Sevier County 4-H O'Rama, and it was very well received.

The following statements are a result of the 4-H forestry program in Sevier County, and they were found in 4-H record books submitted in January 2005: "As time has passed, without realizing it, I have become obsessed with forestry, and am constantly wanting to know more." "I have found something that I love to do and have set a life goal--to become a forester."

Community Service Projects are very evident in Sevier County throughout the year, especially during the holiday season. The "Angel Tree," "Adopt a Grandparent," and "Eyeglasses Collection" were just a few of the community service projects conducted by the individual community clubs.

There is something for everyone in 4-H, and the program targets all youth between the ages of 5–19. More adult volunteers are needed, as well as additional community clubs, so that every child who wants to be in 4-H will have the opportunity to do so.

In 2004, a quarterly newsletter, 4-H Clover Chatter was introduced, and it is designed to keep the members updated on upcoming events and past accomplishments.

Impacts

- 263 sixth graders learned about agriculture and water quality through the "Water's Edge" program.
- 1709 county youth were reached through the 4-H program.
- Sevier County senior forestry judging team won state for the first time in history. A junior member was named high point individual for the 3rd year in a row.
- 13 record books were submitted for competition. This number is up from 8 the previous year. Two books were submitted in forestry for the first time.
- Over 150 pairs of eyeglasses were collected for the *World Service to the Blind* program. This was a community service project conducted by the Teen Leaders Club.
- 140 children received Christmas gifts as a result of the "Angel Tree" project conducted by Lakeside 4-H Club. This is the fourth year for this project, and the number of children helped has doubled in