4-H Science Afterschool Adventures
Erin Dailey, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development and County Extension Director

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Afterschool programs involve a large portion of the youth in rural Jackson County and throughout the state of Ohio. This is a growing trend that can be seen across the country. In our local Educational Service Center area alone, 3700 students per evening are getting Afterschool programming. 4-H has become an active partner in our Afterschool programs in Jackson County and the 4-H Educator has contracted to provide programming on a regular basis with one of these programs. Science is one of three National 4-H mission mandates and this gets the attention of educators and school administrators. This program is beneficial for all involved because it leverages cost recovery and grant dollars for the local Extension office and provides mandated science programming that must be included in the afterschool programs. 4-H has strived to engage one million new youth in science programs and this is in line with this goal.

4-H Afterschool Programs provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn science, math and language skills through hands-on activities, and these educational opportunities are not limited to the classroom. Afterschool programming provides opportunities for less formal activities and hands-on learning to take place. Many of these programs can also be used in a camp setting through both summer 4-H camping programs and outdoor education programs for schools and other youth groups.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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PROGRAMS AND OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVES
The 4-H Afterschool Science program targets youth in grades 2-5 and helps participants to:
• Engage in meaningful hands-on science activities that will make learning exciting through innovative programming
• Utilize the 4-H Science Logic Model to effectively solve problems
• Gain knowledge that will help them to excel on the state required proficiency tests
• Develop skills to promote scientific inquiry, understand related principles and concepts, and to think rationally to solve problems
• Have opportunities for mastery/competence by allowing youth to succeed in front of their peers in a non-intimidating environment
• Take part in opportunities for self-determination and engagement in learning

CONCLUSIONS

For poster details visit: http://go.osu.edu/jacksonscienceafterschool

ROCKETS AWAY
DOMES DYNAMICS
KEVA PLANKS
LEGO GEARS AND MOTORS
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PROGRAM DELIVERY
ROCKETS AWAY
Youth explore the concepts of force and motion through hands-on science activities. Participants work together in small groups to design and construct a two-liter bottle rocket. Youth work with teen mentors throughout the process to help them accomplish the task. The activity concludes by launching the rockets and measuring their speed and altitude.

4-H Tech Wizards-Rockets Away

DELIVERY METHODS
- Students are in 4-H Science Afterschool Programs for one and a half hours one day per week. Each participant is paired with a teen or adult mentor. From ice cream to robots, these young people are gaining new interest in technology while learning that there is more to offer through 4-H than livestock and cooking projects. You will be able to learn about STEM content as it exists in everyday life and how they can further explore these concepts through 4-H projects.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES
- Once students are involved in 4-H Science Afterschool programs, efforts are made to increase their awareness of 4-H so that they realize they are a vital part of the 4-H program.
- By being involved in an ongoing program, students are able to get a more meaningful 4-H experience by gaining important life skills, a relationship with a caring adult, engagement in learning and an opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future. Students are able to gain a sense of belonging by completing a project and being a part of a group. After completing the 4-H Afterschool Program, students receive a 4-H completion certificate and are invited to participate in other types of traditional 4-H programs that take place throughout the year.

CONCLUSIONS
Programs are striving for increased awareness of the value of 4-H Science initiatives by marketing these programs to school administrators, getting news releases published and continued promotion through newsletters and publications. Many people do not associate 4-H with Science and this is a great way to show that 4-H has more to offer than just traditional programs.
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DOME DYNAMICS
We utilize the Acres of Adventure curriculum in our 4-H Afterschool Science program. One of the activities is Dome Dynamics in which participants utilize newspaper and masking tape to construct a free-standing dome.

Lessons focus on the use of dome structures in agriculture and their practical uses. The activity serves as not only an important lesson in real-life agriculture but also fosters team building and a sense of accomplishment among the group.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

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KEVA PLANKS
KEVA Planks are utilized in our 4-H Science Afterschool Science program to foster creativity, engineering skills and team building. Teams are given challenges and a specified time to meet the challenge with the given criteria.

4-H Science Afterschool-KEVA Planks

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LEGO Gears and Motors
Youth have the opportunity to build using LEGO gears and motors to create simple and complex machines. Youth are assigned a problem to solve and they must design a machine that can assist with this problem.

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