

# California 4-H Association

September 2015



University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

*The California 4-H Association is committed to improving our professional skills and development, exchanging new program ideas, methods, and techniques, while getting to know 4-H Youth Development Program colleagues across the state.*

## Welcome



**NEWS  
LETTER**

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the CA4-HA Newsletter. With a new program year comes a new Board of Directors and a new edition of our newsletter. We have several great articles packed into these pages, so we hope that you'll take a few minutes to read through them, and most of all, we hope that you find some information that you can put to good use. As always, we welcome your submissions and encourage you to send them in. We want to hear from you and realize that some of the best resources out there are the people we work with. The new board will be holding their first meeting this month and we look forward to seeing what the coming year will bring in the way of leadership, development, and of course, fun! In fact, planning has already begun for the 2016 CA4-HA Retreat. For those of you headed to the Annual NAE4-HA Conference in October, we wish you safe travels and a rewarding experience. In the meantime, keep an eye on your inbox and on our

Facebook page for the latest in Association news. Thank you very much for reading and thank you for being a part of the CA4-HA.

## Congratulations to Our New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming the California 4-H Association's 2015-2016 Board of Directors. Congratulations to all and best of luck as they navigate us through another successful program year!

**President:** *John Borba*

**President-Elect:** *Katherine Soule*

**Vice President of Recognition:** *Veronica Slaton*

**Vice-President of Membership:** *Shanna Abatti*

**Secretary:** *Nate Caeton*

**Treasurer:** *Charles Go*

**Past-President:** *JoLynn Miller*

*Congratulations!*



# Definition of Scientific Literacy for California 4-H

Effective program planning requires defined outcomes, and for 4-H science programming, a common intended outcome is improved youth scientific literacy. The most common definitions of scientific literacy use a “canonical approach” that focuses on learning key science concepts considered important by scientists, but generally disregarding the contextualized nature of learning science and how science is connected to lived experiences.

The 4-H Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) Leadership Team recently conducted an analytical literature review and developed a definition of scientific literacy grounded in the context of 4-H. The definition includes four anchor points: science content; scientific reasoning skills; interest in and attitudes toward science; and contribution through applied participation. The definition provides the California 4-H Science, Engineering, and Technology Initiative with a framework for future science curriculum and program development and implementation, educator professional development, and evaluation.

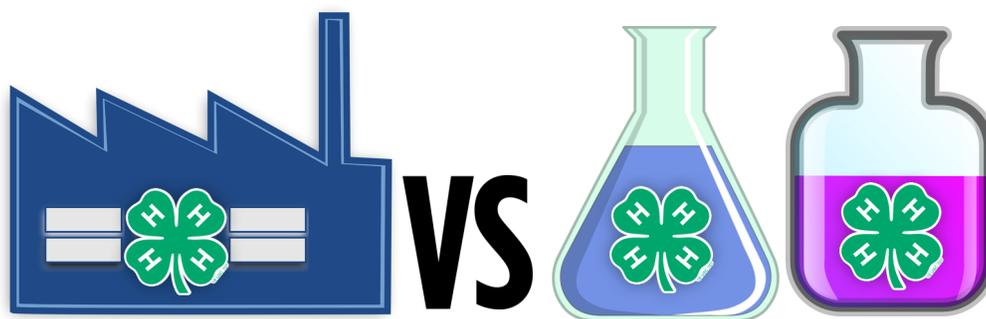


**Four Anchor Points of Scientific Literacy**

## For 4-H Professionals: The Things That Might Not Work

If you need to know that it's going to work, then you have committed yourself to a path of certainty. Some 4-H professionals go to work in the "4-H factory" and do nothing but the things they are certain about.

The other path is to work in the "4-H lab" and do things that might not work, things you are uncertain about.



Maybe you have asked:

***Do you have any best practices for how someone in my same exact circumstances did A and got B?***

If you're asking this then you seek certainty. This is a factory question.

All the remarkable stuff – the impacts, the life-changing stories – comes from doing the things that might not work.

Anything worth doing might not work. How can you know if you're onto something important, new, and innovative? If you're thinking, "This might not work," then you are.

This feeling can be the driving force and motivation you need to do work that makes an impact. This feeling can also debilitate you, stifling innovation and causing you to default into doing what you've always done... the things that are certain.

Growth happens outside your comfort zone. Go out on a limb. Don't play it safe.

Some think that the things that might not work are painful, what you agonize over. I like to think of these things as an opportunity, a chance to do work that is remarkable. The kind of work that makes a difference.

Positive youth development can happen in the 4-H factory, but it can also happen in the 4-H lab. To work in this lab is to welcome the idea that what you're working on might not work. You cannot merely tolerate this feeling; it's something that you must seek.

Posted by Paul Hill on 06/08/2015 at <http://www.4-h.org/4-H-Today/4-H-Professionals--The-Things-That-Might-Not-Work/>.

*“Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress.”*

*~ Charles F. Kettering*

## Exploring Effectiveness

*Adapted excerpt from an article In Press at Journal of Extension (accepted July 6, 2015) titled "Exploring the Effectiveness of a Retreat Method for Extension Staff" by Steven Worker, Russ Hill, JoLynn Miller, Charles Go, and Rita Boyes.*

The California 4-H Association (CA4-HA) is a professional society for 4-H youth development professionals committed to advancing the 4-H professional status and encouraging professional improvement. Using the 4-H Professional Research Knowledge and Competencies as a roadmap, CA4-HA embarked on a mission to support its members through retreats with goals of balancing professional development through intentional relationship building. The retreats intentionally balanced a combination of unstructured time for social networking to build relationships, semi-structured activities around practical topics for peer-to-peer collaborative learning, and structured learning opportunities facilitated by experts for skill building.



- In May 2014, a three-day retreat was held at Bodega Bay, attended by 29 4-H staff guided by the theme, “Who has the time? Success as a 4-H Professional.”
- In May 2015, another three-day retreat was held in Monterey, attended by 47 4-H staff guided by the theme, “Don't Go It Alone: Collaboration as a Pathway to Success as a 4-H Professional.”

Retreat participants included both state- and county-based program staff (72 percent of attendees, both years) and academic appointments (28 percent of attendees, both years). In 2014, forty-five percent of attendees had 10 or more years of service while in 2015, this shifted such that forty-seven percent of attendees had less than 4 years.

### **Retreat Format**

For retreat format, participants responded to the question: “*In future retreats, how much of these three would be valuable (helpful or useful)?*”

1. The first format was **unstructured time** focused on relationship building (e.g., long breaks & meal times, free evenings).
2. Another format was **semi-structured time** targeting peer-to-peer collaborative learning (e.g., roundtables, open-space technology).
3. The last format was **structured sessions**, which were primarily expert-driven skill building around the PRKC framework (e.g., sessions on equity, curriculum implementation, program development, evaluation).

For the 2014 retreat, the majority of respondents wanted “about the same” amount of time for each type in future retreats. For 2015, a majority wanted “about the same” amount of time for semi-structured (79%) and structured (67%) activities, but they wanted “more” (53%) unstructured time in future retreats.

## Exploring Effectiveness Cont.

### **Overall Satisfaction**

Overall retreat satisfaction was measured with a five-point scale asking participants about retreat satisfaction, future attendance, recommendation, networking, knowledge gain, and session satisfaction. Regardless of year, we found positive overall retreat evaluation results with every question having at least 90 percent or more agree or strongly agree. No one selected “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” for either year. In addition, almost all participants responded that they enjoyed time to build relationships, socialize, have informal conversations, and they learned about success as a 4-H professional.

### **Conclusion**

The retreats were successful in their two primary goals: balancing professional development and intentional relationship building. Attendees were positive about the retreat format in helping them become successful in their Extension work. We believe this to be the result of time spent in unstructured, semi-structured, and structured activities, which offered a balance of professional development and relationship building activities. The unstructured and semi-structured times enhanced the professional development experience by providing opportunities for intentional sharing and relationship building in a comfortable and safe environment; e.g., “thinking out loud”, “thinking out of the box”, and “campfire” sharing of ideas.

Read the full article at: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/CA4-HA/files/216338.pdf>

## California 4-H Association Webinars

Do you have a thirst for knowledge? Please join us for our monthly professional development webinar series. New webinars are currently in the works so keep an eye on your inbox for upcoming topics. Don't forget, webinars are held the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM. In the meantime, feel free to explore the recordings of past webinars, which are available on the CA4-HA website at: [http://ucanr.edu/sites/CA4-HA/PD/Webinar\\_Series/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/CA4-HA/PD/Webinar_Series/).



## Board Member Bios

**John Borba, President:** John Borba is a 4-H Youth Development Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). He received a Bachelors of Science from California State University, Fresno and a Master of Science in Human Resources from Chapman University. His professional experience in youth work has taken him through a wide variety of positions which includes a stint in Germany working with the dependent youth of military personnel to youth programming for the City of Visalia. John began his career with 4-H and UCCE in 1992 as a 4-H Program Representative in Tulare County. He spent one year in Oregon as a 4-H Agent in Klamath County and returned to California in 2000 where he has since been the 4-H Youth Development Advisor for Kern County. He also served as Interim County Director for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Kern County from 2010-2013.

On a personal note, John enjoys camping, backpacking in the high country, and canoeing. He also enjoys woodworking and leather craft and, of course, shooting sports. He has been married to Jana for 32 years and has two adult children and one grandson.

## Board Member Bios Cont.



***Katherine Soule, President Elect:***

Katherine E. Soule, Ph.D. is the UC ANR youth, families, & communities advisor in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. In this capacity, Soule has oversight of two 4-H YDPs, UC CalFresh Nutrition Education, the Master Food Preserver program, and other healthy community programs. She brings a passion for professional development, inclusion, and positive youth development.

***Charles Go, Treasurer:***

Charles G. Go, Ph.D. serves as the 4-H Advisor for UCCE Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. He is charged with the 4-H Club program, which is the foundation of the UCCE youth education effort whose focus is to help “raise the next generation” of farmers, ranchers, and citizens in rural, suburban and urban areas. Participants (youth and their families) gain citizenship, leadership and life skills helping them to become contributing and productive citizens. He also conducts applied research projects that build community capacities to serve youth and inform public policies. Some highlights are the Oakland Our Kids Project, the Sexually Exploited Minors (SEM) Network, and Project GROW re-thinking the way we provide group therapy for youth in probation. His main interest is to conduct activities that are focused on prevention; that is the use of research to understand the nature of risky and violent behaviors and to encourage the formation of alternative activities in which youth can be engaged, especially for minority and immigrant populations.

***Nate Caeton, Secretary:***

Nate Caeton is the 4-H Program Representative for Shasta and Trinity Counties. Having participated in 4-H, FFA, and Boy Scouts as a youth, Nate can personally attest to the positive impact of meaningful and well delivered youth development programs. He considers the nation’s youth to be its greatest resource and looks upon his work as a way to give back to a program that provided him with many opportunities. If he’s not surrounded by 4-H members, he’s probably surrounded by Scouts, and Nate also continues to be involved in Scouting as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 37 in Redding, CA. When not at the office, you’re most likely to find Nate with his wife and two sons, doing something outdoors.

## NAE4-HA Conference

Haven’t registered for this year’s NAE4-HA Conference? Not to worry, there’s still time! Late registration runs August 29th through October 16th and is \$550 for members and \$650 for non-members. This year’s event is scheduled for October 25-29, 2015, at the Hilton Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Seminars include: School Gardens: Promoting Healthy Living & Sustainable Communities, National Mentoring Program: Tech Wizards in Oregon, STEM Workshop, and more.

Don’t wait! Overflow hotel rooms are now available at Hotel Modera, Marriott City Center, and the Paramount Hotel. For more information and to register, please visit the conference website at: <http://www.nae4ha.com/2015-annual-conference>. We hope to see you there!



# California 4-H Association Retreat 2015





## Officers

### **President**

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### **Treasurer**

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### **Past-President**

JoLynn Miller  
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## **Did You Know?**

The California 4-H Association is on Facebook! We are currently revamping our Facebook page in order to provide additional opportunities for networking, learning, and development. Be sure to "Like" us the next time you're online.

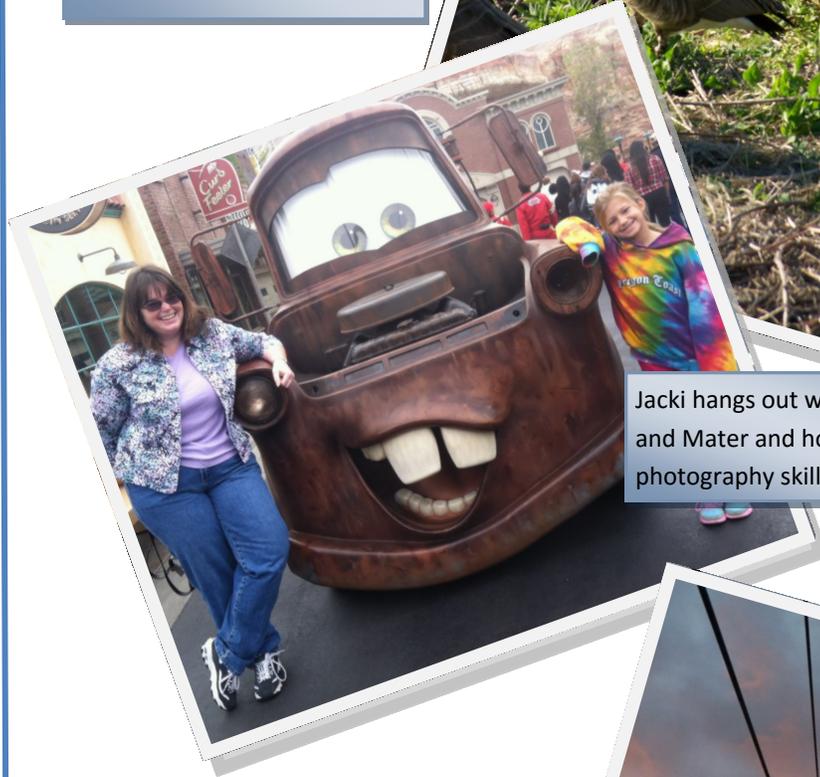


## **When I'm Not at Work...**

What do you do when you're not at work? Are you a globe-trotter? A volunteer? A stargazer? Send us a picture and a brief caption to let us know what you've been up to. We'd love to share!



Jacki hangs out with her daughter and Mater and hones her photography skills.



Nate likes to walk the Sundial Bridge and Arboretum Trail at Turtle Bay in Redding.

