

## SUCCESS STORY— UCCE Marin Environmental Stewardship Pilot Program

Research substantiates that providing youth with opportunities for experiential contact with nature is beneficial for their development. For at-risk youth, these opportunities have become increasingly limited due to urbanization, socioeconomic disparities, and safety issues. UCCE Marin responded to these challenges by conceiving a pilot program built upon a unique internal and external partnership to support at-risk youth in interacting and learning about the natural environment. The two-year pilot focused on building the leadership capacity of environmental stewardship volunteers for at-risk Marin County youth.

UCCE staff identified internal partners in program staff from youth development, natural resources, and environmental horticulture, while selecting the Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) as the external partner. UCCE brought project design and leadership, youth development and natural resources training, and research and evaluation. CCNB brought environmental stewardship volunteer teams known as AmeriCorps, training facility, and program delivery participants. UCCE utilized National 4-H Council's science approach of inquiry-based, experiential learning with modeling and practice, alternating topics with both classroom instruction and field trips in natural environments. Both formative and formal data were collected from the volunteers, which helped to inform the process and resulting framework.

Though the volunteers were comprised of two subject teams, all of them were enrolled as 4-H environmental stewardship leaders, with ANR documentation representing their respective deliveries. The Youth Experiences in Science team led at-risk day camp youth, resulting in 300 group enrolled 4-H members (38.5% minority). Additional youth were affected through the Restoration Ecosystem Management team, resulting in 2,628 youth contacts (20% minority).



There were many outcomes of the pilot. First and foremost, urban at-risk youth were given increased opportunities to experience nature through

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## County Directors: Join the Revolution In Media Utilization!

Well, the *modest* revolution in media utilization would be more accurate.

The ANR Affirmative Action Office suggests that you County Directors have the *Here & Now* printed out and displayed somewhere that staff can pick it up. (It has come to our attention that some people do not read all their emails!)



## The "Necessary Documents" now Streamlined

The list of "Necessary Documents" the county offices need on hand for ANR Affirmative Action On-Site Reviews has been streamlined. The new list is available at [http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative\\_Action/The\\_Onsite\\_Review\\_Page/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/The_Onsite_Review_Page/)



## Marin Environmental Stewardship Pilot

volunteers well-trained in environmental stewardship. The project advanced a common mission of the partnering agencies to conserve natural resources for a sustainable community. The end result is a framework that can be replicated by other Cooperative Extension programs, with the potential for enhancement and expansion beyond the local level with increased use of collaborators and online communications.

It was a great moment in the film and I'm sure the filmmaker left it in because it so well illustrates, that, hey, we're not all that different: teenagers with a video camera will probably come up with stupid stuff and we shouldn't be too surprised by this – no matter what their orientation.

by Jane Chin Young & Janice Alexander



Environmental Stewardship volunteer helping youth.

