

4-H Nature Explorer Day Camp

Engaging Immigrant Latinx Youth as STEM Camp Counselors

Santa Clara County



Purpose

- Increase children's interest in environmental education
- Involve new youth and new adults in 4-H
- Reach a community not benefiting from 4-H
- Increase leadership and career readiness skills for teens
- Collaborate with natural resource partners
- Collaborate with UC ANR partners

Method

- Recruit 13 Bicultural teens to train as camp counselors
- Support English language acquisition with vocabulary
- Establish Youth Adult Partnerships and Positive Youth Development practices
- Collaborate with new public and private partners to provide training to teens, and lead themed environmental education days for k-3rd students
- Organize and implement a 5-day camp for 34 Latinx children K-3rd grade
- Deliver hands on environmental education activities over a 5-day camp

Results

- Recruited 13 Latinx teens to train as camp counselors and deliver environmental education activities
- Collaborated with new public and private partners to lead themed environmental education days, and provide training to teens
- Organized and implemented a 5-day camp for 34 Latinx children K-3rd grade



UC ANR Partners: Cal Fresh Healthy Living, Master Gardeners, California Naturalists, Project Learning Tree
Natural Resource Agency Partners: Silicon Valley Water, Veggielution, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Vexotic, and 408 Reptiles
Educational Partnership: Escuela Popular Bilingual Academy in Santa Clara County

Conclusion

- Environmental Education promoted to 34 elementary age children and 13 teen counselors
- Successfully collaborated with natural resource agencies and UC ANR programs
- Increased confidence, leadership and career readiness skills for teens
- Teens led verbal evaluations with students
- ✓ Preferred camp to be longer and last all summer
- ✓ Increased interest in STEM
- ✓ Increased sense of belonging
- Teens and 4-H adult volunteers were inspired by positive outcomes
- 4-H Nature Explorers Camp will be held in 2023 with agencies, programs, and 9 of the 13 teens returning



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4-H Youth Development Program

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