

## **4-H Youth Development Advisor Kings, Fresno, Tulare Counties**

**Position Description:** The 4-H Youth Development Advisor will have a general background in youth science literacy with demonstrated training or expertise and a potential for excellence, in one or more of the following areas: animal science, agriculture or natural resource science, children's scientific thinking and learning, or community-based youth learning programs. Through the development of an applied research program, the 4-H Youth Development Advisor will use youth science literacy to build the capacity of diverse underserved youth and adults to ensure successful growth of 4-H youth development programs in the three-county area.

The 4-H Youth Development Advisor will be responsible for the development, implementation, expansion, and evaluation of youth development programs in each county, and will provide programmatic leadership, and joint supervision with the county directors, for the program support staff. The focus of this position is to assess local youth needs and take the leadership in developing applied research projects and appropriate programs to empower youth and address issues important to youth and communities. . The advisor will provide leadership and expertise in youth development to other youth oriented programs in the counties. The Youth Development advisor is responsible for maintaining communication for program administration, management and reporting requirements with the County Directors and State 4-H Staff.

**\*\*Justification:** Promoting positive youth development is an urgent problem in California including nurturing youth who enter adult hood prepared to thrive and to contribute to society through work. The Central Valley area of Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties is one of the fastest growing areas in not only California, but also the country. The current (2010) population for Fresno County is 930,450, Kings County is 152, 982 and Tulare County is 442, 179. From 2000 to the present (2010), these counties population grew up to 20%; for Fresno County 16.4%, Kings 18.2% and Tulare 20.2% while the state growth was only 10%. These counties have great needs and opportunities in the area of youth development. As such, UC Cooperative Extension is poised in these Counties, to be a leader in after-school and out-of-school programs for at risk youth.

In 2010-2011, there were 193,671 students enrolled in the Fresno County Public school system (K1-K12), Kings County 28,941 and Tulare County 97,889 approximately a 10% increase in 10 years. Currently over 60% of the public school students are Hispanic and in Tulare County 71% of students is Hispanic, with over 25% limited in their ability to speak English. In addition, 65 – 73% of the students are from low-income families. These challenges are reflected in low academic achievement, and high dropout rates, of the students. The need is great to help these at-risk youth to become productive citizens through improved self- esteem, life skill development, communication skills, increased knowledge/literacy, and workforce preparedness. Traditional club and some non-traditional outreach activities have been provided through part time program representatives with general success considering the limited support time allowed. The *\*\*The "Justification" section above is the new required section that has been added to the 2012 CE Positions Template. Re-submissions must include this section in their revised proposal. New submissions must use this template.*

academic gap is apparent in areas of research and leadership, especially in Tulare and Fresno counties which has had long term vacancies. This lack of academic and programmatic leadership has hindered the adoption of Thrive and other new programs in science and outreach. In Fresno County, it has been over 5 years since the advisor position was vacated due to retirement. In the last three years both the Kings and Tulare County’s advisor positions have also become vacant due to retirements. We recommend a cross county advisor, for the counties of Fresno, Kings and Tulare.

2010-2011 Enrollment					
County	# of Clubs	# of Adult Volunteers	# of Youth in Clubs	# of Other Youth Individually Enrolled	# of Youth Group Enrolled
Tulare	18	322	841	0	0
Kings	13	169	413	194	7
Fresno	24	266	778	0	3
Totals	55	757	2032	194	10

**Extension:** The 4-H Youth Development Advisor is expected to provide academic leadership in the areas of teaching and adaptive research activities dealing with pertinent youth development issues. Extending information to clientele, educators, youth advocates and community leaders through consultations, meetings, newsletters, publications, web-based communications and other methods; to inform clientele of issues and solutions. The Advisor is expected to collaborate and network with other governmental and non-governmental agencies, youth serving organizations, industry groups, underrepresented groups and interested individuals, to strengthen and expand local programs that benefit youth and families. Special program emphasis must be given to developing science literacy programs for at-risk youth, low-income youth, other disadvantaged youth; agencies, schools and community-based organizations providing services to at-risk youth; as well as parents, guardians, and other care-providers for disadvantaged youth. Outreach to underserved groups for innovative methods of 4-H involvement will be a priority.

**Research:** The Advisor will assess and evaluate clientele needs that can be effectively addressed through Cooperative Extension programs including but not limited to the ANR Healthy Families and Communities Strategic Initiative Issues: Issue one: Promoting Healthy Behaviors for Childhood Obesity Prevention; Issue 2: Youth Science Literacy; Issue 3: Promoting Positive Youth Development. This position will make new contributions in the field of youth development regarding effective practices and will help increase the numbers of youth engaged in out-of-school activities that result in positive youth development. In collaboration with campus based specialists and faculty and other county Advisors and staff, the Advisor is responsible for interpreting and adapting appropriate research findings from UC and other institutions to address priority needs for the Counties of Kings, Fresno and Tulare Counties consistent with the mission of Cooperative Extension.

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**ANR Continuum:** Filling this gap shall lead to the growth of the 4-H program in the three county area. The advisor will work closely with the State 4-H Office, UCCE Extension Specialists, AES faculty in the UCD Human and Community Development Department, other county advisors, and local agencies and youth NGOs to address youth needs within the 4-H mission and ANR Initiatives priorities. A key part of the continuum for this position is outreach to the underserved youth groups and developing leadership and capacity within these groups to support the youth program.

**Support:** Support for this position, including office space, travel, communication (telephone, internet) and clerical support is available from Kings, Fresno, and Tulare Counties, these counties have been very supportive of Cooperative Extension programs. The budgets have been stable (Tulare) or recovering (Kings). A cross county support agreement will be developed to support this position equitably between the three counties. There is program representative support in each county to manage traditional club programs, which will also enhance the research and educational support of the advisor.

**Other support:** It is expected that research support will come from ANR competitive grants and various community groups. Grant monies may be available to support youth development research and extension with a strong academic to develop proposals. Possibilities may include monies from the initiative process, United States Forest Service and other agencies interested in supporting science literacy, National 4-H Council and the United Way. Collaborate to develop a strategic business plan for fund development with the Councils.

**Location:** The advisor will be headquartered in Kings County. This is based on an adequate budget, necessary support, the limited Program Rep time; and the need to meet critical mass in the county office as two advisors retire in the next 2-3 years. The three counties are all in close proximity and there is much cross county activity existing between the three counties, and opportunities for joint programs.

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