

Extension 'Cord

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CONNECTING PEOPLE, RESOURCES, & KNOWLEDGE

"Welcome to the first issue of the Extension 'Cord, a monthly briefing paper from WSU Snohomish County Extension. Even though we have existed for over 100 years, we have realized that too many people are unaware of the diversity and impact of our programs. Each issue will highlight the purpose, activities and results of one particular program. The Cord will showcase the work of our 1,000 volunteers and 25 staff. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our staff for more information."

Curt Moulton, Extension Director



Building Tomorrow's Leaders... Meeting the needs of youth today.

The 4-H youth development program in Snohomish County provides safe, appropriate activities for youth ages 5 – 19. Programming targets assisting youth in meeting their needs for belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity while developing integral life skills. All youth strive to meet those needs; 4-H strives to create positive experiences to assist in that quest.

Community Clubs

Positive spaces are developed for youth all over the county. Whether they are members of a community 4-H club, such as the Espirit de Corps club that meets in Snohomish, a special interest program that teaches sewing on the Tulalip campus, a camper that attends technology day camp in the summer, or a middle school student learning leadership skills in Edmonds, youth are engaged in 4-H programming. The Espirit de Corps 4-H club has a membership of over 45 youth and facilitates life skills development through 6 interest-based projects. Eight adult volunteers, in partnership with youth, provide age-appropriate activities that focus on learning decision making, time management, and resource conservation. Each member is an integral piece of the club and social activities are planned to encourage camaraderie and enhance each youth's sense of belonging. Youth are also given the opportunity to give back through organized, monthly community service activities.



After School

Up to twenty-five youth participate bi-weekly in an afterschool sewing program held at the Boys & Girls Club on the Tulalip Indian Reservation. Youth learn sewing skills from dedicated volunteers which include measuring, planning for needed resources, and critical thinking in regards to design of their project. Increased academic performance is among desired outcomes; other targeted outcomes include cooperation, social skills development, and learning respect for others. At the end of most sessions, youth are able to take completed projects home and share with their families.

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The Fish and Forest Stewards 4-H program delivers direct, in-classroom instruction to four to six classrooms each year. Students in grades 4, 6, and 10 experience hands-on learning that focus on our natural environment and stewardship of resources for future generations. Each year, classrooms are able to participate in field trips that allow many to come face-to-face with the natural world for the first time. Activities on-site include planting native plants in critical areas for salmon restoration. Initial impacts from this program include increasing knowledge of the effects of pollution and failure to protect natural areas (66% experienced knowledge gain), gaining awareness of behavioral changes necessary to enhance our natural environment, and classroom teacher comments regarding follow-up discussions and activities in the classroom.

Special Interest

Youth in the Edmonds School District have the opportunity to participate in a middle school leadership program, C-US-Lead. This program is the result of an innovative collaboration between 4-H and the Edmonds Education Association, Edmonds School District, City of Lynnwood, and Edmonds Community College. C-US-Lead youth have gained insight on civic governance and service delivery, developed greater awareness of their community and its strengths and weaknesses, and participated in programming to learn about self-identified career areas. These youth conducted a mid-year evaluation of their programming and presented their families and community leaders with a report of their activities. Funding for this program includes in-kind donations of time, equipment, and supplies from participating agencies, cash donations from the City of Lynnwood, Edmonds Education Association, and WSU Snohomish County Extension.

**WSU Extension Mission Statement**

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