

SC 4-H SET – State Plan

SUMMARY

South Carolina 4-H has drafted a 5 year plan for SET (Science Engineering Technology) programming, as part of a national planning and development initiative. The objective of the Palmetto State plan is to raise \$500,000 to recruit, train, and sustain a contingent of dedicated, qualified unpaid staff to support a minimum of 40,000 new 4-H members in SET projects by 2013. Youth have shown a strong interest in SET projects, and this effort will create numerous safe environments in which these 4-H youth will be guided through learning explorations while developing lasting relationships with caring adults.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN

Objective

Increase knowledge, skills and competencies, and improve the attitudes of youth in science, engineering and technology.

Strategies

- Conduct annual natural resources contests (forestry, WHEP, FACE, shooting sports)
- Conduct annual livestock camps and contests
- Offer SET related workshops and career information at state teen leadership events
- Conduct annual horse events
- Enrollment of 500 new 4-H clubs (approx. 10/county) with trained volunteer leaders
- Re-establishment of regional / state 4-H livestock camps and shows
- Re-establishment of regional / state 4-H forestry and WHEP contests
- 25 annual water ecology day camps (4H20 program)
- Increased number of counties participating in regional / state 4-H horse events by 25%
- Increased number of participants in 4-H FACE project by 25%
- Establishment of regional / state 4-H robotics and energy (or related topics) camps and contests

Personnel

- Animal Specialist
- SET Specialist
- Natural Resources Specialist
- Horse Specialist
- County Agents

Outcomes/Indicators

- 40,000 new youth members will be enrolled in 4-H SET projects
- Youth will acquire SET knowledge and skills as demonstrated through activities and events
- Youth will be able to identify a minimum of six SET higher education options and twelve SET career options

With additional funds:

- Purchase SET RV's and hire staff for these travelling labs
- work with the Clemson Automotive Institute (I-CAR) on designing these RV's as examples of alternative fuel vehicles

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective

Increase the knowledge, skills, competencies, and comfort level of youth and adult 4-H volunteers and staff for offering hands-on, experientially based 4-H SET learning experiences to youth.

Strategies

- Conduct annual natural resources train the trainer workshops / conferences (forestry, WHEP, 4H20 on rotating years; shooting sports annually) for teachers, volunteers and teen leaders
- Conduct annual science and engineering train the trainer workshops for teachers, volunteers, and teen leaders
- Conduct annual regional livestock workshops for volunteers and teen leaders
- Conduct annual training conference for horse volunteers and teen leaders

Personnel

- Animal Specialist
- SET Specialist
- Natural Resources Specialist
- Horse Specialist
- Hispanic Outreach Specialist

Outcomes/Indicators

- 100% of County 4-H staff will indicate an increased comfort level in promoting and supporting SET activities and clubs
- 1000 teachers, volunteers and teen leaders will participate in and demonstrate competency in SET related curriculum and activities

With additional funds:

- Acquire land and build a 4-H Volunteer Training and Professional Development Center
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CURRICULUM

Objective

Work with 4-H volunteers and staff, land-grant college and university faculty, SET content experts and other partners to revise and develop 4-H SET curricula that meet content and contextual standards.

Strategies

Use National 4-H, land grant, and other curriculum selected by the state specialists as high quality appropriate materials for training sessions (including AES and Teen CERT)

Personnel

- Animal Specialist
- SET Specialist
- Natural Resources Specialist
- Horse Specialist

Outcomes/Indicators

- 100% of County 4-H staff will indicate an increased comfort level in promoting and supporting SET activities and clubs
 - 1000 teachers, volunteers and teen leaders will participate in and demonstrate competency in SET related curriculum and activities
 - Four new 4-H SET curriculum and/or SET project club guides will be created by state specialists
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EVALUATION & RESEARCH

Objective

Increase 4-H staff and volunteers' knowledge, skills, and competencies for designing and implementing effective evaluation strategies for 4-H SET programming.

Strategies

- Support national research and evaluation initiatives as requested
- Utilize the "My 4-H Project Record Book" in teaching youth how to determine and identify progress on self set goals
- Design a template for specialists to use in evaluating the knowledge and skills taught through train the trainer workshops / conferences (or use the ones developed by National SET team)
- Develop a survey for people to complete as enrollment into the 4-H Alumni Association (to be established)

Personnel

- Club Volunteers
- Events Coordinator

Outcomes/Indicators

- Increase number of county SET project awards presented annually based on record books by 50%
- Ability to easily track growth of SET programs and prepare impact statements
- Ability to track the numbers of 4-H'ers entering college (or other educational / training programs) and their area of focus
- Ability to track the number of alumni who can identify SET skills acquired through 4-H
- Ability to track the number of alumni working in SET related careers

With additional funding:

- Hire an evaluation specialist to coordinate research and track alumni in SET education and career paths.
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MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

Objective

Increase political, financial and partnership support for 4-H SET programs.

Strategies

- 4-H SET logo is put on all materials

- Design marketing materials for SET fund development
- Specialists will establish regular communication (presentations, articles, etc) with corresponding industry, businesses, and organizations
- SET promotional articles and success stories will be sent to newspapers and other organizations' newsletters (science teachers, DNR, commodity groups)
- Advertise and promote SET activities through the state science teachers and agricultural teachers associations, county / state commodity groups, and at various community fairs and events

Personnel

- State 4-H Teen Council
- State 4-H Ambassadors
- Hispanic Outreach Specialist
- Events Coordinator
- Media Relations Liaison

Outcomes/Indicators

- 4-H SET has a recognizable brand identity within 4-H, school, and campus audiences
- Twelve active business and political partnerships will be formed to provide support to 4-H SET programs
- County Agents will document a 25% increase in the requests for 4-H SET project information from the public

With additional funds:

- Acquire land and build a 4-H museum and alumni center

FUNDING

Objective

Increase the capacity of the 4-H system to generate private and public funds to support 4-H SET programming.

Strategies

- Specialists will receive grant writing training and will explore grant opportunities
- Clemson University will hire a full time State 4-H SET Specialist
- Clemson University will hire a full time State 4-H Animals Specialist
- Clemson University will continue to support part time State 4-H Horse, Natural Resources, and Hispanic Outreach Specialists
- Assistant Director of Development, 4-H, will work with the Clemson University Foundation to identify and approach appropriate match companies

Personnel

See strategies above

Outcomes/Indicators

- Grants will be awarded in at least three different SET related projects areas
- Donor base supporting SET activities will increase by 50%

- Major donor prospect pipeline will increase by 25%
- Specialists will be able to increase their funding stream by 10% annually
- 4-H SET will become the delivery system for the outreach component of Clemson University faculty grants

With additional funds:

- Endow the specialist positions
 - FYI: SET has been identified as one of the 4-H objectives within the Clemson University's capital campaign of raising \$500 million
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PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Objective

Increase the quality and availability of 4-H SET programs to youth.

Strategies

- Conduct meetings with campus department faculty to discuss outreach and research possibilities
- Conduct meetings with commodity boards, teacher associations, department of education, county government, and industry associations to explore joint ventures
- Increase collaboration among neighboring counties to pool resources regionally

Personnel

- Program Director
- State Specialists
- County Agents

Outcomes/Indicators

- 12 new campus partnerships are developed
 - 12 new non-campus partnerships are created
 - Internship opportunities will be established with six businesses and/or governmental agencies
 - 40,000 new 4-H youth will enroll in SET projects
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