



## 4-H SET Mission Mandate Fall, 2008 Update

A review of the history of 4-H clearly demonstrates that the overwhelming focus, for more than 100 years, has been on three core mission mandates. In 1902 A.B. Graham and O.J. Kern brought science to young people through projects focused on soil testing and corn test plots; in 1927, National 4-H Camp was held on the National Mall to acquaint youth with their government; and in 1956 4-H was invited to join the President's Council on Fitness. Countless historical events, speeches, priority setting exercises, and people such as those mentioned previously have helped define our mission mandates as: (1) Science, Engineering, & Technology; (2) Healthy Living; and (3) Citizenship.

The three mission mandates align with the research and programmatic efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension (CSREES), and Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. The 4-H mission mandates clearly articulate program priorities, nationally, but also provide state and county administrators, faculty and staff the framework to organize and focus their program development, management, and implementation strategies. This focus ultimately leads to stronger and more effective youth programs, staff and volunteer development, evaluation, and financial and human resource support.

The 4-H SET Mission Mandate continues to evolve with a number of different structures in place to support the development and implementation of programs across the United States led by co-chairs **Beth Birnstihl (Nebraska)** and **Bob Horton (Ohio)**. Following are updates from the different committees and/or task forces.

### Curriculum

The Curriculum Team continues to work with National 4-H Headquarters to develop the infrastructure and guidelines for 4-H SET curriculum, design, development, and review.

Current Activity: Meeting with reviewers for two new 4-H SET curriculum, *The Power of the Wind* and *Exploring Your Environment* was held on October 8, 2009. *The Power Of the Wind* curriculum will be out as soon as final jury recommendations are completed; anticipated by the middle of November. *Exploring Your Environment* will need more extensive revisions. A meeting in November with USDA content expertise is a next step as the revision process begins. After this meeting a timeline for final revisions will be developed. Phase II Pilot of the two curricula is being designed and will begin in January, 2009. Online resources, including vodcasts, "grab n goes," and supplemental materials are moving forward quickly with highly positive results.

Twelve pre-proposals were selected and invited to submit full-proposals as a result of the recent RFA for national 4-H SET curriculum. Full proposals are due by 12:00 noon on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Evaluation

The Evaluation team is seeking funding to support the creation, fielding, and analysis of the youth engagement, knowledge, and attitudes survey (Tier 1), the design of the case study phase of the work (Tier 2), and initial design for the longitudinal phase of the evaluation framework (Tier 3). In addition, the team is seeking resources to create a searchable database of reliable and valid SET measures that would be available to local SET programs to use for their evaluation efforts.



## Professional Development

A significant focus of professional development over the next 6-9 months will be on the following related to The Power of the Wind curriculum:

- In-service training modules – two-day in-service training course for agents/educators, state staff and volunteers (where appropriate) to use in their own geographic location. These training activities would also begin to provide the core for a more comprehensive train-the-trainer piece.
- Online, interactive, virtual workshop for The Power of the Wind (and SET) – online modules to support staff and volunteers in implementing SET wherever they are.
- Conferences, workshops and trainings – two implementation trainings to pilot newly developed materials, in addition to testing pieces of the two days at chosen conferences.
- Phone and/or online coaching and mentoring for staff and volunteers for The Power of the Wind (POW)– provide a system where there could be asynchronous support – staff and volunteers could ask questions and they would be answered either online or by the phone. In addition, there would be quarterly synchronous sessions that would provide both support and additional resources to those who were implementing POW.

## Update on 4-H SET LGU Plans of Action

- Approximately 50 4-H SET Plans of Action from Land-Grant Universities have been submitted, reviewed, and placed in the data-base.
- Data presented in plans need to be synthesized to understand the needs of the Land-Grant Universities and provide 4-H SET support to the Cooperative Extension System. The 4-H SET Management Team is exploring options for synthesizing the information in the plans.
- The 4-H SET Plans of Action, once summarized, should provide themes of programming, key areas for growth, potential priorities for fundraising, and ideas to help tell the story about 4-H SET programming across the country.

## 4-H National Youth Science Day (4-H NYSD)

- House Resolution 1390 designating October 8 as 4-H National Youth Science Day passed on September 22 after 40 minutes of discussion on the House floor;
- Approximately 400 individuals did the experiment during Galaxy Conference in Indianapolis; a strong positive response with lots of questions;
- Spangler Science kits were sent to all 4-H SET Liaisons;
- Steve Spangler assisted with publicity of 4-H NYSD on broadcast segments in NY/NJ, Washington DC, Denver and National Cable;
- 4-H System mobilized to implement the experiment and attract local media; at the end of October a survey will be administered to more clearly quantify the level of engagement; and
- Will begin planning the 2009 4-H NYSD this month

## Regional structure to support 4-H SET Liaisons

Members of the 4-H SET Leadership Task Force will begin conducting regional calls with 4-H SET Liaisons in early 2009. The primary purposes of the regional structure format are to:

- Share 4-H SET Best Practices and do multi-state 4-H SET programming;
- Allow liaisons an opportunity to meet and interact with each other ;
- Gain insights from liaisons about resources needed to support state and local 4-H SET programming work; and
- Allow more support and technical assistance to 4-H SET Liaisons.



## 4-H SET Partnership Development

Guidelines have been established for developing partnerships with other organizations and groups that do SET/STEM work. Partnerships will be determined based on the value added to 4-H and organizational goals and objectives that are similar to 4-H SET. Additionally, when exploring potential partnerships, we will investigate how we can help the potential partner meet their goals and objectives. A future update will provide a detailed list of those partnerships where formal MOU's have been developed.

## Our History: 4-H Science, Engineering & Technology

To review the history of programming, decisions, events, and people involved with the 4-H movement and this specific mission mandate, please go to: [http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/about/4h\\_programs.htm](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/about/4h_programs.htm)

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