4-H Professional Research, Knowledge and Competencies

Taxonomy

Behind every 4-H activity, opportunity, and program, and behind every 4-H agent/educator lies an extensive body of knowledge, scholarship, and research. Since 1985, the 4-H youth development profession has relied upon a 4-H professional research and knowledge base to guide their efforts when working with and on behalf of young people.

In 2004, the most current and comprehensive research and knowledge representing the field of 4-H youth development was compiled, including the competencies that are essential to conducting 4-H youth development programs. The study resulted in the updated 4-H Professional Research, Knowledge and Competencies model (4-H PRKC, 2004) and focuses on what matters most when working with young people.

The updated 4-H PRKC provides a road map for the 4-H youth development workforce both now and into the future. The updated 4-H PRKC uses a four-level taxonomy including Domains, Topics, Components, and Competencies. The taxonomy structure begins with the essential subject matter necessary in youth development and ends with competencies that describe the skills and behaviors people need to be effective in 4-H youth development. The six domains are:

Youth Development

*Understanding how young people learn and grow*
Topics: Growth and Development, Youth Development Theory, and Youth Development Practice

Youth Program Development

*Creating quality experiences for young people*
Topics: Situation Analysis, Program Design, Program Implementation, and Program Evaluation

Volunteerism

*Preparing volunteers to make a difference*
Topics: Personal Readiness, Organizational Readiness, Engagement of Volunteers, Education of Volunteers, and Sustainability of Volunteer Efforts
Equity, Access, and Opportunity
Ensuring that each young person has a chance to succeed
Topics: Sensitivity, Awareness, Communication, Relevant Programming, and Inclusive Organizations

Partnerships
Uniting young people and adults for stronger communities
Topics: Youth-Adult Partnerships, Youth Action, Organizational Alliances, and Community Development

Organizational Systems
Connecting people and priorities for the greatest impact
Topics: Organizational Effectiveness, Personal Effectiveness, Communication Strategies, Resource Development & Management, Risk Management, and Professionalism

The 4-H PRKC Model, Overview, Study, Self-Assessment, and Professional Development Plan are located at:

http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/professional-development-learning/4-h-youth-development/