Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

2015 - 2016 School Year
Program Review

Georgia 4-H Vision
A world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for a positive change.

Georgia 4-H Mission
The mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

Georgia 4-H Environmental Education Goals

- To make the school program more meaningful by applying knowledge and skills acquired in the classroom to real life situations.
- To cultivate curiosity, critical reasoning, and evaluation.
- To develop positive relationships among students and teachers.
- To develop self-confidence and physical fitness.
- To develop an awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the environment.
- To develop appreciation for the local and natural history of an area.
- To provide experiences in using scientific processes, such as observing, measuring, and classifying.

Georgia 4-H Environmental Education
From the Mountains to the Sea there is a Georgia 4-H Center for You

- Naturally gets students outside and connected with the environment
- Aligned with the current state curriculum standards
- Taught by well-trained and college educated instructors
- Uses the outdoors as a classroom without walls
- Reaches students through physical and active classes up to 8 hours a day
- Excellence: A tradition since 1970
Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Historical Usage of EE Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rock Eagle</th>
<th>Jekyll*</th>
<th>Wahsega</th>
<th>Burton</th>
<th>Tidelands</th>
<th>Fortson</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>15,762</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,020</td>
<td>9,317</td>
<td>4,422</td>
<td>3,080</td>
<td>37,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>501,684</td>
<td>279,638</td>
<td>104,958</td>
<td>157,120</td>
<td>43,568</td>
<td>25,256</td>
<td>1,112,234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Closed December 4, 2014 for renovations

Total Participants Served Since 1979 = 1,112,234
(as of June 30, 2016)

Diversity
Determined from schools who self-reported demographic information during 2015-16 school year
(total number reported is 18,061 of 37,601 participants)

- White: 67.60%
- Asian: 0.50%
- Black: 25.00%
- American Indian: 0.50%
- Pacific Islander: 6.30%

Grade Levels Served
(report from 19,018 of 37,601 total participants)

- Prek-3rd: 12%
- 4th-5th: 8%
- 6th-8th: 32%
- 9th-12th: 55%

Participants from nine States: (AL, FL, GA, KY, MO, SC, TN, VA, WV)
Participants from 64 Georgia Counties
Impact and Evaluation

“... I was very impressed with the content of the lessons. You managed to use getting ‘wet and dirty’ (student’s words) as a hook to actually learn. Because everything you taught is aligned with GA standards, you don’t have to worry about the students learning just from you. This trip is just one activity (and a fabulous one it is) in a series of lessons. We’ll refer back to this in future discussions and lessons.”

--- 5th Grade teacher visiting Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island

A sample of participating students completed a retrospective post-then-pre-questionnaire to evaluate their change in the following qualities.
Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

From the Mountains to the Sea, there is a Georgia 4-H Center for You

Wahsega 4-H Center
www.wahsega4h.org
15 acres located in North GA Mountains
Sleeps 222
Offers Forest and Stream Ecology, Team Building, Pioneer Life, and more

Rock Eagle 4-H Center
www.rockeagle4h.org
1428 acres in Middle GA Piedmont
Sleeps 950
Offers Forest and Lake Ecology, Living History, Survival Skills, Team Building, and more

Fortson 4-H Center
www.fortson4h.org
77 acres in South Atlanta Piedmont
Sleeps 174
Offers Ecology, Living History, Team Building, Survival Skills, and more

Burton 4-H Center
www.burton4h.org
6 acres on Tybee Island
Sleeps 150
Offers Marsh and Beach Ecology, Invertebrate Studies, Hydrology, and more

4-H Tidelands Nature Center
www.tidelands4h.org
Day use facility
Offers marsh/beach/forest ecology, herpetology and more.

Statewide Contact for Georgia 4-H Environmental Education

Melanie Biersmith,
Extension 4-H Specialist
melmel@uga.edu
www.georgia4h.org/ee