Profile of Success in 4-H

What factors tend to distinguish active, “high-success” from inactive, “low-success” oriented teen 4-H members? A recent study in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, revealed that teen 4-Hers (grades 8-12) who completed record books and participated in achievement activities were usually members of community 4-H Clubs. They’d also been enrolled in the program for at least 3 years and had participated in a variety of 4-H activities (junior camp, state fair) during their years of membership. Furthermore, “high-success” teens had fathers who were in professional occupations and reported more parental help with their 4-H project work.

Implications

The results of this survey of 159 urban teen 4-H members reveal the importance of parental and familial support and encouragement in 4-H teen member retention and activity. The community club, small group influence appears to remain a salient factor.


John Beasley