



4-H Exploration Days

June 22 to 24, 2011 (42nd year)

Audience

This program is for youth ages 11-19. This year's attendance totaled 2,587 youth, chaperones and resource people from 79 Michigan counties plus guests from Poland. This count includes 653 youth males and 1,327 youth females; 16% were people of color.

Funding

This is a fees-based program with a \$400,000+ budget. Full and partial scholarships are given to those unable to attend without financial assistance.

Objectives

This youth development conference is designed to:

- Increase youths' responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase youths' communication, team work, citizenship, and leadership skills.
- Foster participants' ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Increase college exploration and access to the MSU campus and its resources.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

Description

Two research-based tenets provide the foundation for this residential program's 30 intentional contact hours: youth development and experiential education. Nearly 200 action-filled classroom and field trip sessions are offered annually throughout the MSU campus and at various off-campus locations. Sessions were taught by 310 content and youth development experts (71 MSU faculty/staff, 149 adult volunteers, 23 teen volunteers, and 67 outside resource people). A wide variety of session content areas are available each year such as Animal & Veterinary Science, Business & Entrepreneurship, Communications, Environmental & Outdoor Education, Food, Nutrition & Fitness, Money Management, Performing & Visual Arts, and Technology.

When not in sessions, participants are engaged in meetings, campus activities and tours that give them access to the MSU campus and its wealth of resources. Participants stay in Michigan State University residence halls.

Nearly 400 4-H volunteers contribute approximately 23,000 hours of their time annually teaching and supporting youth to ensure a successful conference!

Outcomes

2011 survey results showed the program increased participants' interest in and readiness for college:

- 98.2% plan to attend college
- 74.1% are interested in attending MSU
- 87.0% said the program better prepared them for college
- 79.7% said the program increased their knowledge of different majors, career paths and opportunities at MSU

The top life skills participants indicated they developed by attending this program were:

- 93.6% Making decisions/choices
- 92.8% Time management
- 92.7% Adapting to new living arrangements
- 92.7% Accepting people who are different from them
- 92.0% Socializing and making new friends
- 91.9% Communication
- 91.6% Ability to follow through and complete tasks

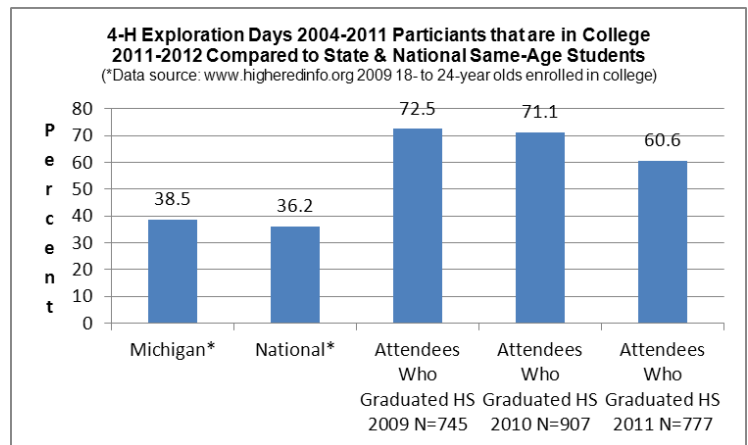
Participants rated the following as top program highlights:

- 72.0% Being with friends
- 67.9% Meeting new people
- 61.2% Living at MSU
- 58.5% Educational sessions

Sample participant testimonials: "“Thrilling, fun, and educational — what a great way to learn!” It's a great chance to practice independence and college life in a safe and supportive environment." "I gained confidence, inspiration and skills I need for the future." "It helped me set higher goals."

Additional Significant Information

Program alumni's college attendance rate comparison:



Contact Information

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