

PROGRAM EVALUATION DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH SERVING PROGRAMS ARAPAHOE COUNTY

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

This internship focused on the search, education on, and delivery of aged appropriate surveys that will be used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data to ensure the program is meeting their set mission statement. I provided expertise in planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Arapahoe County 4-H youth programs and worked closely with the staff to educate them on the importance of regular and often data collection to provide to their stakeholders.

INTERNSHIP GOALS

The goals of this internship changed a few times throughout the summer, to begin we believed that I would be developing new assessments from scratch that met best practice guidelines for the attributes we wanted to measure as well as the age groups we were working with.

However, during my literature search I found that 4-H as a whole has common measures, they make available for each of their chapters to evaluate their programs so my goal changed to educating the team on evaluation and assessment importance, determining best times to implement these assessments, and actual implementation of these assessments.

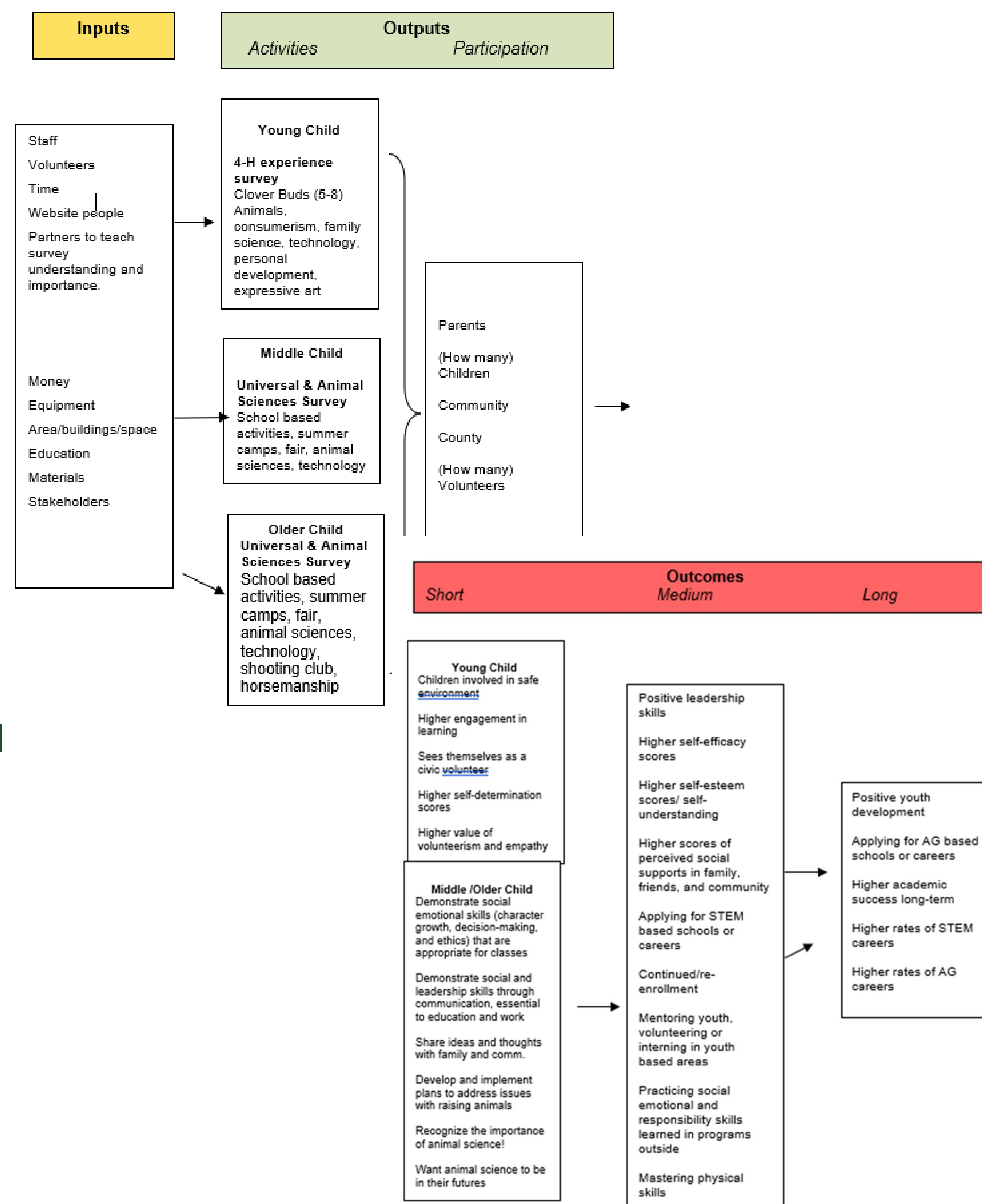
HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO MY EDUCATION

I applied to this internship because I desired hands-on experience in program evaluation and working alongside an organization that benefits the community. I also knew that there would be opportunity to work beside stakeholders such as the volunteers, parents, and county leaders. As I am moving closer to receiving my Master's degree in Prevention Science, the experience I received in program evaluation and implementation during this internship have begun to show what a real-world career after school could look like for me, as well as how I can do two things I love; research and work alongside the community.

WHAT I DID

During the duration of this internship, my main task was to implement 4-H common measures and parent surveys to collect data on 4-H youth's life, science, and career skills that they build through the yearly community events. The beginning of the internship was spent creating a logic model to determine what the heads of this program believed were important skills to be measured and then creating a plan to evaluate them.

Arapahoe County 4-H Logic Model Program Outcomes



WHAT I LEARNED

This internship allowed me to gain experience working alongside stakeholders while simultaneously evaluating a program that benefited the youth within a community.

This evaluator placement was a wonderful opportunity for me to practice the skills I have been learning in my classes in a hands-on manner related to both program implementation and evaluation. I was able to continue building on my skills such as: building logic models, data entry and coding of surveys, and was fortunate enough to work alongside a knowledgeable staff within their field of expertise.

I learned in real time how to teach the Arapahoe County 4-H staff about the importance of surveyance, and data collection of their programs. As well as some best practices for timing and implementation of those techniques.

Photo



Urban Ranchers Summer Program. End of the week quiz to discuss knowledge

NEXT STEPS

The next steps for this project would be to code the raw survey entries and employ an online universal survey for all who sign up in the start of the 4-H season in order to provide pre- and post- program data. After enough data has been collected from participants, statistical analysis will be run to determine if the programs are meeting the expectations of skill growth set forth in their mission statement and by their stakeholders.