

# DeKalb County CLOVERLEAF 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

*Make the Best Better*

## Curriculum

*Science, Engineering, and  
Technology (4-H SET)  
Environmental Education  
Healthy Lifestyle Choices  
Leadership Development  
Citizenship*



The University of Georgia  
College of Agricultural and  
Environmental Sciences  
Cooperative Extension  
4-H Youth Development Program  
4380 Memorial Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30032

Contact  
Patricia Heggs  
404-298-4080  
Fax: 404-298-4081



Email: [paheggs@co.dekalb.ga.us](mailto:paheggs@co.dekalb.ga.us)

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.

**Learning for Life**



**What is 4-H?** 4-H is an educational program focusing on leadership, citizenship, public speaking and life skills. We are the youth phase of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

**Who is eligible?** The Cloverleaf program is for youth ages 9—11. Cloverleaf clubs can be found in 40 DeKalb County Schools, DeKalb Parks and Recreation facilities. Community Clubs are also available in some areas of the county.

### Cloverleaf Club Activities:

- Club Meetings
- Community Service Projects
- Project Achievement
- Awards
- Optional Fun Activities:
  - Skating
  - Hawks Games
- Officers Training
- Summer Camp Programs:
  - Super Summer Day Camp
  - Rock Eagle 4-H Center
  - Tybee Island 4-H Center
  - Boom in June



*Are you into it?*



# Camping in DeKalb



## Issue/Situation:

- DeKalb County is a growing urban county with many urban concerns for youth.
- DeKalb's youth need a more rigorous social support system during non-school hours.
- They require leadership, programs and services that will enable them to gain life skills, help them develop strong values, make educated and positive choices and operate in an independent manner.

## Research Based Solutions:

- According to "A Matter of Time: Risk and Opportunity in the Non-school Hours", published by the Carnegie Corporation, "youth are profoundly influenced by experiences in their neighborhoods and the larger community during non-school hours".
- The Search Institute found that youth in grades six through twelve that are involved in community service are 50% less likely to be involved in a variety of negative behaviors.
- The same study indicates youth involvement in youth development organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Camp Fire, Scouting, and 4-H are less likely to use drugs, or become teen parents.

## Response:

DeKalb County 4-H is one of the largest programs in the state with more than 3,500 members. Every camp in the DeKalb 4-H Youth Development Program is a world unto its own with a theme full of high adventure, friendship and fun experiences. Key components of the program:

- Day Camps for ages 9 -12
- State 4-H Residential Camps
- College Tours for middle and high school students
- Orientation classes for parents and members
- Life skill components such as teamwork or healthy lifestyle choices
- Educational and environmental activities at a variety of sites
- Researched, edited and applied for funding through DeKalb County Commissioners and Georgia Department of Human Resources to fund supplemented leaders, camping and other incentives
- Collaborated with other organizations to ensure high quality community based programs are offered

## Impact:

As evident by pre and post testing, youth in 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Camping Program indicated:

- 85% increased knowledge about alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse
- 95% learned to do what they say they will do, think before they act, to treat everyone fairly and to know they have choices when decisions are made
- *It's Your Choice Spring Fling College Tour:* Burton 4-H Center in Savannah, Georgia; 30 participants (15 DATE funded 6th-10th Graders & 15 DeKalb County DFCS Independent Living Program)
- *Awarded 50 scholarships by Baker Trust Fund for DeKalb County Youth to attend Rock Eagle 4-H residential summer camp (\$10,900)*
- *Super Summer Day Camp:* 20 participants (fee based)
- *Life on the Farm:* 18 participants (DATE Funds)
- Employed four summer interns through funding from TeenWorks (Governor's First Lady Cabinet Program for foster care youth) and Hands on Atlanta/Blank Fellows Foundation to assist with program and provide workforce development opportunity for youth; delivery of 4-H in the City Summer (special programs for DeKalb Parks and Recreation) for 235 participants in Summer Park Day Campers and 120 youth Summer in the City program for community youth throughout DeKalb County

