

Pauline Daniel
FAE4-HA/NAE4-HYDP
Excellence in Communication and Expressive Arts

Abstract: Crafting & Friendship Camp

Okeechobee County 4-H in partnership with Children Services Council of Okeechobee County funded a craftmanship camp this summer to provide parents with a quality day camp for youth during their summer break from school. Youth participated in multiple activities for 5 hours each day of this week-long camp that were provided by volunteer craftsmen, adult volunteers and teen counselors. Youth learned many fine arts including decorative arts, crafts, visual arts, and culinary arts. 15 youth participated in a “skill-a-thon” at the conclusion of the day camp with 74% accuracy. One parent shared with the 4-H agent that her son now loves leather burning and sewing on a sewing machine. The plans are to continue providing this week-long camp in future summers for youth that are interested in fine arts and for parents who need quality, supervised day camp opportunities for their children.

Pauline Daniel
FAE4-HA/NAE4-HYDP
Excellence in Communication and Expressive Arts

“Crafting & Friendship Camp”

Purpose & Scope:

The purpose of the Crafting & Friendship camp was to offer a summer camp opportunity for youth to actively participate in multiple fine art categories while incorporating positive youth development during the summer. Youth attended a week-long day camp in which they participated in daily activities, including woodworking, hand-sewing, machine sewing, leather burning, bread baking, and more. The youth participants also participated in a community service-learning project by sewing a pillowcase, embellishing it with a color-coordinated ribbon, and then mailing it off to the local Kids Cancer Foundation. These activities were provided by adult and youth crafting volunteers from the community. Youth followed the “learn by doing” 4-H motto every day when given a new project to complete.

Educational Value & Significance:

Youth participants learned from community craftsmen experienced in their craft who shared their knowledge and expertise within small group instruction each day. Youth learned important life skills including how to hand and machine sew, how to use hand tools, and basic cooking skills. Youth were able to experience different decorative arts, crafts, visual arts as well as one day of culinary arts, all while learning from different volunteers and community members who were willing to give back to the youth of our county.

Impact of the program:

Everyone involved was impacted by this program from the youth, their parents, the volunteers as well as the experienced craftsmen. 4-H Summer camps are an excellent avenue for programming as they allow youth to spend quality time with trained volunteers learning life skills. Not only did the youth participants learn new skills, but they also learned how to work in cooperative groups, shared learning experiences, and participated in a “skill-a-thon” with 74% accuracy at the end of the weeklong day camping experience. Parents were thrilled at the quality this camp offered to their children. The volunteer craftsmen felt valued sharing their knowledge and passion for the craft that they taught each camp participant. One parent shared with the 4-H agent that her son now loves leather burning and sewing on a sewing machine and has made several pillowcases. The 4-H agent also observed youth discussing their pillowcase project with one another and how important it was to construct it properly because they were giving it to a child who was very sick.

Involvement & leadership roles:

To provide quality youth development programming, many adult and teen volunteers are needed. This crafting camp included camp staff as well as two teen counselors to assist youth in adequately learning new skills, handling tools safely and appropriately, and learning how to adequately complete the given task. Youth participants were able to learn from the adults and

teen counselors who were also role models. They not only taught youth skills but provided examples of good character that will impact our community for years to come.

Collaborative programming efforts:

A huge part of this craft camp's success was the involvement of the Children Services Council of Okeechobee County as they helped to fund the camp beyond the initial camp registration fees. Supplies, tools, and materials for crafts can become rather expensive. A program grant was written by the 4-H agent and awarded by the Children Services Council of Okeechobee County to supplement in the funding of the supplies and materials for this craft camp.

Audience:

15 youth participants and two teen counselors participated in the Crafting & Friendship camp. Of the 17 youth, 2 were males and 15 were females.

Supporting documents:

Daily Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30–9:00	Welcome, rules & expectations, pre-test/survey	Welcome, complete previous days' tasks	Welcome, complete previous day's tasks	Welcome, complete previous day's tasks	Welcome, complete previous day's tasks
9:00–11:30	Hand/machine sewing, tie-dye shirts, thank you cards	Hand/machine sewing, pom-pom making, wood burning	Hand/machine sewing, bread baking by hand, wood/leather burning	Hand/machine sewing, bread baking machine	Hand/machine sewing, wood & leather burning, bows & bowtie clips
11:30–12:30	Lunch, STEM	Lunch, STEM	Lunch, STEM	Lunch, STEM	Lunch, STEM
12:30–2:45	Jewelry making, 3-D snowflakes & art, paper creations	Bird house, salt & glue art, wash cloth folding art	Butter making, cross stitching, candle making	Succulent dish, yarn stars, duct tape zipper pouch	Skill-a-thon activity, post-test, awards
2:45–3:00	Clean up, parent pick up	Clean up, parent pick up	Clean up, parent pick up	Clean up, parent pick up	Clean up, parent pick up

Supporting pictures:

One of the pillowcases that was made by a youth participant who donated his project to a child at the local Kids Cancer Foundation.



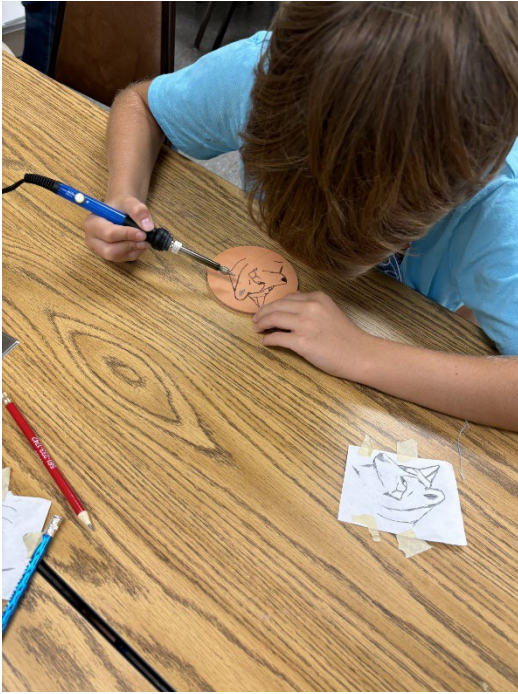
Youth volunteer teaching youth to safely sew on a sewing machine.



Youth volunteer teaching how to care for a succulent garden.



Learning to trace a pattern onto a piece of leather and safely burn the design onto it.



Youth participant sharing her tote creation that she made using scraps of fabric while modeling the tie-dye shirt that she created during the week of craft camp.

