USU Extension 4-H Members Make a Splash at Junior Youth Conference

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University Extension 4-H members from around the state recently congregated at Snow College for Junior Youth Conference (JYC), a three-day camp where youth focus on team building, learning activities and meeting new friends.

With an “Under the Sea” theme, 4-H members participated in STEM workshops about salmon migration, ocean light layers and water filtration. The 4-H members also participated in team building activities including the annual snow follies, a series of water relay games that concluded with a large-scale water fight.

Kelsey Romney, USU Extension 4-H program coordinator, said 4-H members improved self-esteem, strengthened involvement and interest in the 4-H program and had the opportunity to meet other youth from throughout the state.

“We focused on making JYC a fun, developmental experience for youth who are away from their families for the first time,” Romney said. “It was amazing to see how quickly they became strong groups and made new friends through one of their first 4-H experiences.”

A unique aspect of JYC is the fact that it is planned by youth, for youth. High school aged 4-H members are selected to plan and carry out workshops, chaperone participants and act as mentors.

“The participants in JYC turn to our teen leaders for guidance,” Romney said. “The teen leaders worked hard prior to this event to prepare for a successful camp. They created a fun and safe environment to really connect with the youth.”

For more information about USU Extension 4-H youth programs and camps, visit utah4h.org.

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