



Benefits of 4-H Youth Camping

At the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center

What is the purpose of 4-H camping?

- ❁ 4-H camping is cooperative group living in a natural environment that focuses on developing life skills, social, spiritual, mental, and physical development, in young people.
- ❁ 4-H camping emphasizes experiential learning ("learn by doing")

Who participates?

- ❁ More than 4,200 youth ages 5-18 are involved in 4-H Center programming annually.
- ❁ 600 4-H teen and adult volunteer leaders support, supervise, and teach those youth.



How are youth involved?

- ❁ The *Jamestown 4-H Educational Center* provides opportunities for youth in four ways: 4-H residential camping, 4-H specialty/day camping, 4-H school enrichment, and environmental education based upon the Virginia Standards of Learning.

What type of educational programming is provided?

- ❁ Leadership development, environmental and aquatic science, performing arts, shooting education, forestry, outdoor adventure, primitive skills, wildlife, arts/crafts, canoeing, fishing, swimming, and arts and crafts

How do youth benefit from 4-H camping?*

- ❁ Youth have the opportunity to learn and have fun in a safe environment while surrounded by caring adults.
- ❁ A recent study of the impacts of Virginia 4-H camping, involving thousands of youth campers (ages 9-13) from across the state of Virginia found that 4-H camp participation helped youth to learn to:
 - Make new friends
 - Develop new skills
 - Become more independent and able to take care of themselves
- ❁ Parents/guardians of Virginia 4-H campers have found that 4-H camp participation changed youths' behaviors in the areas of:
 - Taking care of their own things (self-responsibility)
 - Becoming more independent / Taking initiative
 - Sharing

For more information:

- **Contact your local Extension Office**
- **Contact the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center at (757) 253-4931 or www.jamestown4hcenter.org**

*Garst, B. A. & Bruce, F. A.. Identifying 4-H Camping Outcomes Using a Standardized Evaluation Process across Multiple 4-H Educational Centers. *Journal of Extension*. June 2003, Vol. 41 No3.

