

# Benefits of 4-H Youth Camping

## At the Airfield 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; campers “learn by doing.”

### Who participates?

- ✿ More than 2,700 youth ages 5-18 are involved in the Airfield 4-H Educational Center programming annually.
- ✿ 385 4-H teen and adult volunteer leaders support, supervise, and teach those youth.

### How are youth involved?

- ✿ The Airfield 4-H Educational Center provides opportunities for youth in three ways: 4-H residential camping, 4-H specialty/day camping, and 4-H school enrichment 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, journalism/broadcasting, horsemanship/animal science, aerospace, wildlife, canoeing, swimming, leathercraft, fishing, tennis, and creative dance

### 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 conducted with 11,000 youth campers (ages 9-13) from across the state of Virginia found that 4-H camp participation helped youth learn to:
  - Make new friends
  - Develop new skills
  - Become more independent and able to take care of themselves
- ✿ A recent study of parents/guardians of Virginia 4-H campers 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 Airfield 4-H Educational Center at (757) 899-4901 or [www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4H/airfield](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4H/airfield)

\* Garst, B.A., and Bruce, F. A. (2003). Identifying 4-H Camping Outcomes Using a Standardized Evaluation Process across Multiple 4-H Educational Centers. *Journal of Extension*.

\*18 U.S.C. 707