



4-H Youth Development

Oregon State University, 123 Ballard Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3608

T 541-737-4444 | F 541-737-1332 | <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu>

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It is time to stop blaming our youth and families for our poor actions and judgments as leaders of the state of Oregon.

Children these days are NOT making good decisions because our poor actions have created a negative environment for our children to live in.

We (the leaders in Oregon) are the ones responsible for creating a negative environment for our children because we are eliminating the essential elements for a Positive Youth Development environment. For example, we are elimination activities for children to learn and have fun during school, after school, and summer.

Our poor policies, many rears ago remove God from schools, latter physical activity and expressive arts. Schools should be a place where kids want to go, NOT a place that children have to go. P-12 education should be a caring and fun learning environment.

The environment that we have created, it encourages youth to drop out from school instead of encouraging them to pursue a postsecondary education and a professional career.

We cannot continue putting our children in jails and putting our dollars in programs that do not support "Positive Youth Development." This practices need to stop and need to stop NOW. Or to be fair with our children, we need to allocate funding to build jails for ourselves because we are committing a crime against our children and families in the state of Oregon by not providing them with their essential needs to become good citizens of the State.

Incarceration only damages the intellectual capacity, the brain and the spirit of your youth. We are in debt with our children and our families in Oregon. We need to correct ourselves now before is too late. Our children and families need after school and summer programs with intentional learning objectives.

Children need to have a purpose in life, feel welcome and belonging, and participate in challenging activities. If we do not create this type of environment, youth will join gangs or other groups where they feel welcome, belonging, valuable and important.

**What can we do:**

1. Identify and support programs endorsing Positive Youth Development, Leadership, and a Caring environment where children feel welcome, valuable and important.
2. Create facilities to foster Positive Youth Development after school, weekends, and summers where children can participate free of charge or affordable for families.
3. Provide funding support for programs, schools, and organizations providing after school opportunities for families to inform, learn, get inspired, and encourage students to pursue a post secondary education.
4. Make sure to carefully allocate the funding and resources in the hands of those who are directly supporting children and families at risk.



**Mario A. Magaña**

OSU Associate Professor & State 4-H Outreach Specialist



Oregon State University  
123 Ballard Extension Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331



Phone: **541-737-0925**

Cell: 503-931-7206, FAX: 541-737-1332

E-Mail: [Mario.Magana@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Mario.Magana@oregonstate.edu)

URL: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h-outreach/summer-camp>





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The Oregon 4-H Outreach was created and designed using a role model philosophy and with appropriate programming in mind to address the limitations, needs and problems affecting our underserved populations in Oregon. The Oregon 4-H Outreach project seeks to reduce high school dropout rate and increase the number of college graduations and professionals from underserved populations in the workplace by identifying, engaging, informing, teaching, and motivating high school students to participate in the series of educational events. At these events students will become informed about the postsecondary educational system; develop the skills, confidence, and the courage needed to get good grades and finish high school. They will acquire necessary information to apply to a postsecondary education and scholarships; and realize the opportunities to become a professional and contributing member of society. Students involved with the project will participate in hands-on educational workshops, activities, presentations, and meet college students and professional role models from diverse cultural backgrounds. Most importantly, they will have the opportunity to meet college students and professionals from a range of academic backgrounds.

One programming approach to accomplish the project goals is a series of three overnight-weekend events for high school students and three summer camps, two for middle school and one for elementary school students. They will become informed and acquainted about the postsecondary educational system and acquire confidence and skills needed to apply for college admission and scholarships. To develop the set of skills and the knowledge needed to advance to the next level of educational, students will participate in different hands-on workshops and presentations where they will:

- Learn the benefits and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Complete a college admissions application
- Learn about college admission requirements and career exploration
- Know that college is possible and affordable
- Learn about choosing a major, a minor and a college or university
- Write a personal statement, college admission's essays, and a résumé
- Be aware of internships and summer jobs
- Learn about student involvement in college (organizations, fraternities/sororities,)
- Be aware of the importance and benefits of community service,
- Develop leadership skills serving as camp counselors, leaders, and mentors
- Be encouraged to take leadership roles in school or community

The central focus of 4-H Outreach is to expose students to postsecondary careers options. Other activities will include recreational opportunities such as swimming, canoeing, volleyball, basketball, soccer, archery, etc. Youth will have the opportunity to study their own history and culture, and be aware of how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Sincerely,

Mario Magaña Álvarez  
OSU Extension Associate Professor &  
State 4-H Outreach Specialist