



Reflections on the Minnesota 4-H 2000

Arts-In Experience

Of those who received surveys, we heard back from about two-thirds in each group—youth participants, ambassadors, and adults—for a total of 167. It was great to receive so many insightful comments; it is clear that Arts-In is a very important part of 4-H, and plays an important role in the lives of many youth. We would like to share some of our findings with you. Please note that responses from different groups are presented separately so that each group had a voice. A big THANK YOU goes out from the Center for 4-H Youth Development to all who returned surveys!

About the Survey participants...

Survey Group	Total #	Gender %		Age (avg)	Years in 4-H (avg)	Years in Arts-In (avg)
		F	M			
Youth Arts-In Participants	42	67	33	17	10.7	1.8
Ambassadors	19	78	22	17.7	10.6	**
Adults	106	83	17	**	13.6*	**

* Adult averages are for years of 4-H involvement as an *adult*

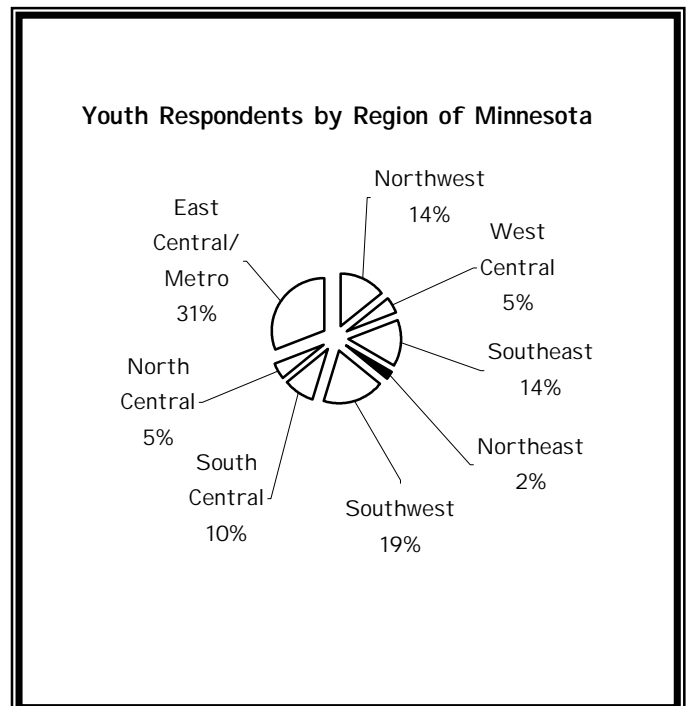
** Not asked

Here's what you told us...

From the Youth Participants

in Arts-In Youth participants from throughout Minnesota responded to the survey (see pie chart, right, for percentages from each region).

Areas to improve: Many youth let us know that they were not happy with the quality of performances this year at the fair. The youth are used to having more organization and more adult leadership on the way things were prepared and carried out during the Encampment and State Fair. These messages were heard loud and clear!



Here's the good news: A full 80% of youth are looking forward to next year's Arts-In experience! The possibilities and the positive parts of Arts-In make it an exciting opportunity to look forward to.

See the Table below for the most highly rated reasons to get involved in Arts-In compared with the most highly rated experiences of Arts-In this year. The average rating is given in parenthesis (the scale used for "Reasons to be Involved" was 1 = not important to 5 = Extremely Important and the scale for rating "Experiences this year" was 1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree).

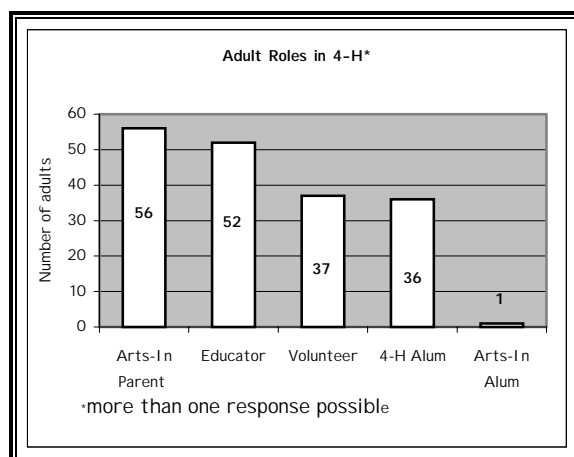
	Top 5 Reasons to Become Involved	Top 5 Experiences This year
1	Have fun (4.93 out of 5 possible)	Met new friends (3.63 out of 4 possible)
2	Meet new friends (4.81)	Had fun (3.52)
3	Put on a good show (4.64)	Worked with youth as a team (3.48)
4	Work with youth as a team (4.36)	Showed or Used skills I have (3.38)
5	Showing or Using skills I have (4.24)	Worked with/learned from professional artists (3.29)

If youth were looking to achieve the "Reasons to Become Involved" (see Table above) then it appears they did, indeed, meet those goals as seen in the "Experiences this year" column. The only exception is that "Putting on a good show" was not highly rated (average rating was 2.5). This further reminds us of the need to keep quality in mind in planning each year's Arts-In activities.

From the Adults

Respondents represent all regions of the state, with 27% responding from East Central MN including the Metro area. Adults saw an average of 2.1 performances; Extension Educators saw fewer performances than non-Educators (1.7 versus 2.4 performances). Adults represented a variety of roles or perspectives (see chart at right).

Like the youth respondents, the adults also provided thoughtful comments on this past year's different approach to Arts-In in terms of youth collaboration and the focus on diversity. While there were varying opinions about whether these themes



should be highlighted in Arts-In, one thing was clear: overall, adults agreed that the focuses on a "collaborative effort" and sending a "Celebrating Diversity" message needed more work. Like the youth, many adults were concerned about the quality of the performances and suggested that attention be given to this area in

the future. Most adults agreed that the “Youth seemed to enjoy the experience as a whole” but expressed concern that the youth should be proud of their work and feel good about it. An overwhelming majority of adults enjoyed the art exhibits!

Nearly 90% of adults also agreed that they would encourage children and adults to become involved in Arts-In. The vast majority of adults also agreed that they are proud of the work the youth accomplished and are excited about what Arts-In will do in the future!

From the Ambassadors

Over 80% of responding Ambassadors saw Arts-In performances on eight or more days! The ambassadors expressed the greatest concerns over this year’s Arts-In. They expressed concern about the performances, youth experiences, and the theme of this year’s Art’s-In. Like the others, the one area they recommend paying attention to in the future is improving the quality of the performances. Also, like the adults, they very much enjoyed the Arts exhibits.

Summary Responses

We asked *all respondents* for opinions about who should be able to participate in Arts-In and also about who should have the most responsibility for various tasks during Arts-In. Responses to the first question are presented in the table below. The majority (55%) of all respondents say that *any 4-H'er can be involved* whether or not they have skills in performance or expressive arts. One quarter of respondents said that all youth in MN who want to could participate.

Which youth should be able to be involved in Arts-In?	% Youth Participants	% Ambassadors	% Adults	Total %
A: Only youth in 4-H programs who have skills in performing and expressive arts	8%	17%	14%	12%
B: Only youth in 4-H whether or not they have skills in performing or expressive arts	53%	50%	57%	55%
C: Only youth with skills in performing and expressive arts whether or not they are in 4-H	12%	0%	6%	7%
D: All youth in Minnesota who would like to participate in Arts-In	27%	33%	23%	25%
Total Number of Respondents	40	18	103	161

Regarding “Who should be responsible for the tasks of Arts-In”, the vast majority said they thought that youth and adults should share equally (59-75%, depending on task). Youth, however, were more likely than either of the other two groups to respond that adults should have the most responsibility, which reflects their concern about too little adult organization and supervision.

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