

**Planning, Implementation and Evaluation of Youth Programming in Denver CO  
Intern Proposal Denver 4-H 2021**

**1. Extension agent/specialist mentor name and county/region.**

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| Merielle Stamm | 4-H Youth Development Agent Denver<br>Phone Number: 781-715-5069<br><a href="mailto:merielle.stamm@colostate.edu">merielle.stamm@colostate.edu</a> |
| Jenia Hooper   | 4-H Youth Development Agent Denver<br>Phone Number: (720)913-5267<br><a href="mailto:jenia.hooper@colostate.edu">jenia.hooper@colostate.edu</a>    |

**2. Are there any other identified mentors (e.g. campus-based faculty/staff or other Extension personnel) associated with this project?**

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| Wade Ingle | Youth Development Specialist; STEM K-12<br>Phone Number: 491-0893<br><a href="mailto:Wade.ingle@colostate.edu">Wade.ingle@colostate.edu</a> |
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| Michael Martin | Assistant Professor<br>Phone Number: (970) 491-694<br><a href="mailto:michael.j.martin@colostate.edu">michael.j.martin@colostate.edu</a> |
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**3. In what region(s) will the student be working (county/region/state)?**

Front Range, City and County of Denver<sup>1</sup>

**4. Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.**

Denver County 4-H provides a variety of programs and events for the surrounding diverse community. Our programmatic efforts include events, concurrent out-of-school programs, and school enrichment. Each program and event helps fulfill the mission of helping youth reach their fullest potential, sparking interest in STEM, and building and enhancing relationships with caring adults.

The scope of the internship will focus on completing a short needs assessment with community partners and youth, then the development and delivery of 4-H summer STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), natural resources, healthy living, and/or outdoor educational programming for youth based on their findings. Additionally, the intern will also work on creating program outreach and marketing plans, and evaluating the program using both quantitative and qualitative data collection.

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The internship objectives include becoming familiar, confident, and competent with positive youth development, the 4-H thrive model, conducting a short needs assessment, program development, delivery and evaluation methods, and advertising and marketing tools.

### **5. How was this applied research project identified?**

Each summer we work with several community partners to develop, deliver, and evaluate youth development summer programs. Due to the pandemic our in-person summer programs were cancelled last summer. Additionally, the pandemic has had devastating impacts on youth everywhere. The intern will learn about needs assessments and conduct focus groups and interviews with key stakeholders to determine community needs.

As the world hopefully begins to open in the summer, we will be working with our community partners and youth themselves to identify programming needs. Mental health, connection with the outdoors, healthy living, career exploration, science education, and much more are potential topics for summer programming. Identifying youth and community needs is particularly relevant at this time as many youth serving organizations have been forced to shut down and youth can no longer access facilities that would typically provide much needed out-of-school time activities. This needs assessment is just one small component of a large-scale needs assessment at our county level which will help us to determine important and valuable programming efforts for the future.

Once programming needs have been identified, the intern will learn about extension, 4-H youth development, program planning, implementation, and evaluation. There are several frameworks, readings, and models that will help the intern learn about this process and aid in their program design. The intern will also have the opportunity to learn more about positive youth development frameworks and the thrive model, and put them into action when they run their program. Additionally, using evaluation tools (pre- and post-test surveys) the intern will help us determine if outcomes were met and how we can improve in the future.

### **6. With which stakeholder group(s) will the intern work?**

Denver 4-H works and collaborates with a plethora of community stakeholders including Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver Libraries, Denver Public Schools the Growhaus, The Bridge Project, the Dalia Center, and many more.

The intern will work directly with our community partners, community members, and youth to conduct a needs assessment that will help guide program development. Working closely with program participants the intern will use both formative and summative evaluation tools to ensure participants voices, concerns, and suggestions are heard and valued.

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The intern will also work closely with Denver 4-H staff, CSU Denver Extension staff, and Colorado 4-H staff from neighboring counties.

### **7. What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development?**

The internship will provide hands-on learning and opportunities for the student to build communication skills, teamwork, graphic design, problem solving and critical thinking, and the development of work habits.

First the intern will work with community partners, organizations in Denver, and youth through conversations, surveys, and short interviews to discover what are the greatest needs for youth programming in the City and County of Denver. The intern will use both primary and secondary data to complete this step within the first 2 weeks of the internship. During this time they will also research and learn about positive youth development and the 4-H thrive model to better inform their program development.

Next, the intern will spend time planning, delivering and evaluating their summer program/s. Diversity is a critical facet of the city, county and Denver 4-H's programs, and their program should be culturally responsive and relevant. The program will be evaluated using a survey (pre and pos tests) and qualitative interviews of participants to determine program outcomes, program quality, and improvement strategies for the future.

The internship will also provide opportunities for the student to learn marketing and advertising skills. Utilizing tools such as Canva, and working with community partners the intern will help create marketing tools to help advertise their program to future participants.

Throughout the summer the intern will learn how to communicate with diverse audiences, community stakeholders and partners, while planning, implementing and evaluating youth development programs. In addition, students will increase their knowledge of youth serving organizations in Denver as well interact heavily with a wide range of stakeholders. As a result, the intern will build professional relationships and grow their professional network in order to obtain additional opportunities in the future.

### **8. Do you have a specific mentor style?**

We want our intern to feel welcome, valued, heard, and appreciated. Their work and contribution is extremely valuable to Denver 4-H and our program participants. Our mentorship will be collaborative - we hope to guide and help our intern learn, while learning from them at the same time.

Merielle and Jenia both mentored 2 CSU interns last summer.

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The intern will also have the opportunity to work with other in our Denver extension office, community partners, and members from other extension offices.

**9. Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?**

Travel funds will be available for expenses incurred while performing the duties of this position. We do not have housing available but Jenia and Merielle can help interns look for housing in Denver.