**Arapahoe County Extension 4-H Youth Development**

**Military Partnership Internship Proposal**

**County Mentor and Application Contact**

Claudia Meeks, 4-H Outreach Program Supervisor

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**Extension Supervisor**

Lisa Mason, Interim County Director

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**Region Participation**

Arapahoe County

**Goals, Scope and Objective**

Arapahoe County Extension offers robust programs in 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, horticulture, community development, and outreach. The Arapahoe County 4-H program currently involves more than 3,500 youth participating in club, community, and outreach activities.

This internship will focus on the development and evaluation of 4-H educational programming for military youth at Buckley Space Force Base and the Colorado National Guard. Working with 4-H youth development staff and Child and Youth Service staff, this intern will examine the needs of military youth and how 4-H programs in Arapahoe County can meet those needs. Through this internship, an educational outreach program plan will be developed and several educational programs for military youth will be implemented for the summer of 2022.

**Applied Research**

The internship will support 4-H military programs and project initiatives. 4-H has a long standing relationship with military programs in Colorado. By using, research-based positive youth development curriculum this intern will support the needs of military youth at Buckley Space Force Base and the Colorado National Guard.

**Learning Outcomes**

This internship will provide the student with hands-on learning opportunities focusing on communication skills, teamwork, successful work habits, critical thinking and problem solving, professional resiliency and adaptability, and developing partnerships with community organizations and leaders. The internship will also be an excellent opportunity for a student to learn transferable skills related program development, delivery, and evaluation.

These outcomes align with the goals of engagement and extension as the intern will learn valuable skills they can use in the field of extension or other forms of engagement. Extension provides a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on learning experience working with diverse audiences, building and developing community partnerships, cross collaboration within Extension programs, and program management skills that are transferable to any career..

**Stakeholder Support**

This internship will actively collaborate with Buckley Space Force Base, the Colorado National Guard, Arapahoe County Open Spaces, and the Arapahoe County Fair. This intern will work with closely with these partners to provide youth educational programs and community engagement opportunities.

**Mentorship Experience**

As the county mentor, Claudia Meeks, has over seven years mentoring interns through Extension programs in Colorado and Tennessee. She enjoys providing students with transferable skills in problem-solving, teamwork, and adaptability. Claudia’s approach to mentorship is to encourage creativity and ownership of programs, teamwork and collaboration, and provide support and guidance to support student’s professional growth.

**CSU Faculty**

We will reach out to Vanessa Tranel with the state 4-H office.

**Travel Funds**

Travel funds will be available through Arapahoe County Extension. Housing is not provided through Arapahoe County Extension.