

Program Services

- Youth ages 7-17
- Residents of Bladen County
- Referred by the Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (other agency referrals will be accepted when space permits)
- In need of a structured setting to foster life skills
- Parents of referred youth
- Life Skills volunteers that encourage and promote positive interactions.

The Life Skills program is designed to support and prepare youth in Bladen County to be successful in a life career. Activities will provide experiences and skills necessary to become productive citizens in our society.



Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local Government Cooperating.



NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BLADEN COUNTY CENTER

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NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BLADEN COUNTY CENTER

4-H Life Skills Program



Telephone: (910) 862-4591

4-H LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Description of Program

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice partners with Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils in each county to reduce and prevent juvenile crime. JCPC board members are appointed by the county Board of Commissioners and meet monthly in each county. DJJP allocates approximately 23 million dollars to these councils annually. Funding is used to subsidize local programs and services.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council members work to fund these types of services and programs in their local communities:

- Counseling
- Home-based family services
- Treatment centers
- Psychological services
- Residential group homes
- Restitution
- Specialized foster care
- Shelter care
- Guided Growth programs

Bladen County 4-H receives money from the local JCPC to implement the Life Skills Program. It is funded as a Guided Growth Program.

What is a Guided Growth Program?

A program that provides a structured service plan of learning or recreational activities aimed at improving each participant's self esteem, social science, personal enrichment and social growth and development.

Program Implementation

Youth are referred to the program by their Juvenile Court Counselor. (Referrals from other agencies are accepted when space permits).

Once the referral is made, the family is contacted and an intake conference is scheduled. During this conference, the coordinator discusses the program with the family, completes a youth and family assessment, signs all necessary release forms and develops an individual service plan for the youth.

Once admitted into the program, the youth will participate in Life Skills group meetings. Groups are held twice a week for a period of 7 weeks.

Meetings take place at the Powell Melvin Agriculture Service Center in Elizabethtown. Topics may include:

- Cooperation, Communication and Listening Skills
- Controlling Anger & Stress Management
- Problem Solving & Decision Making
- Positive Physical & Mental Health
- Character & Responsible Citizenship

After the 7 week Life Skills program is completed, a resource review and graduation ceremony is held, which gives the youth an opportunity to share their newly learned skills. The graduation ceremony rewards all participants with a certificate of completion that attended all group sessions, showed improvement at home, at school and in the community.

Objectives of Program

- Improve school attendance.
- Improve academic performance of students participation in the program.
- Decrease problem behavior in the home.
- Successful completion of life skills educational workshops.
- Increased involvement in 4-H ..
- Meet the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social need of students participating and improve their attitude and behavior.
- Improve coordination of existing resources to provide efficient and effective services to youth.
- Reduce juvenile crime in Bladen County served program.

