Program Overview

Learning about cultures around the world helps youth develop their capacity to be informed and responsible citizens who are responsive to the diverse perspectives of others. Around the World with 4-H: A Virtual Field Trip Club allows youth to experience life outside their own community and broaden their understanding and respect of other cultures.

While originally offered through Chester 4-H, currently, Around the World is a partnership between Chester, Fairfield, and Newberry Counties. Each month, 4-H staff lead a 1-hour meeting held via Zoom to introduce a country through an interactive presentation. The presentation provides information on cultures, holidays, food, language, currency, geography, and wildlife using maps, recipes, hands-on activities, interviews, and virtual tours. Following the meeting, youth are provided with a related recipe and hands-on activity to complete at home. This club is open to any youth aged 5-12, virtually, membership not required, as well as is delivered through an in-person club tuning in together in Newberry, where membership is required. The program started in December 2021 and is ongoing, currently boasting 95 registered participants from 22 South Carolina counties, 4 other states, and Canada. The intended goals are to help youth understand the importance of knowing about other cultures, explore and respect diversity, and develop skills in cross-cultural communication and travel. Current evaluation results show positive results in cultural learning and respect, as well as ease of participation.

# Program Objectives

The objective of this program was to offer opportunities for South Carolina youth to be exposed to various and diverse world cultures. To accomplish this, we set out to highlight a different country at each monthly meeting. Each meeting was to offer exposure through virtual tours, recipes, vocabulary, facts, and more.

## Delivery Mode

Around the World with 4-H is a virtual, synchronous club designed by Clemson Extension 4-H agents to reach students (ages 5-12) throughout the state (and beyond).

Registrants receive a reminder email a day before the monthly meeting. During each meeting, the club "visits" a different country via PowerPoint slides supplemented with videos, personal travel anecdotes, maps, recipes, and occasional guest speakers. Each onehour session ends with a culturally themed craft such as egg carton tulips from the Netherlands or spoon maracas from Cuba.

Participants receive a follow-up email with the date for the next meeting, as well as two extension activities: a recipe from the country and an additional STEM or art activity to be completed at home.

Around the World with 4-H: A Virtual Field Trip Club

through, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Remove the chicken from the pan and set aside. Wipe the pan out before making the chicken from the pan and set aside.

Add in garlic, cumin, paprika, and garam masala and toast for 1 to 2 minutes. Add in the tomatoes and heavy cream, season with salt, and bring to a simme do chicken back into the skillet and stir to combine. Then remove from heat

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Target Audience

Originally, we targeted an audience of South Carolina youth ages 5-12, 4-H membership not necessary. However, as virtual programs often do, this program did not stop at the state line. Using social media to advertise and Eventbrite as a registration platform led to participants from South Carolina, Florida, Connecticut, California, North Carolina, and the Canadian province of Newfoundland.

#### ()utcomes

Using Qualtrics as an evaluation tool, respondents have noted that the program is "fun, engaging, and easy to connect" and that their family enjoys "learning about the different countries and their cultures, as well as the hands-on activity with each meeting." 100% of evaluation respondents agree or strongly agree that the virtual and at-home activities were useful for their families, encouraged respect for other cultures, were age-appropriate, utilizes an easyto-navigate platform (Zoom), and that they would be interested in attending other virtual 4-H programs.

While the original program goals did not include setting out to offer this program through different delivery modes, this was an unintended outcome of a joint county program. Additionally, the program is helping us reach a new audience as 43% of youth registered are new to the 4-H program. As a result of participating in this program, 93% of youth feel that learning about other cultures is important, 96% indicate they have learned something new, and 100% of youth would like to continue learning about other cultures.

### Conclusion

Around the World with 4-H allows students to learn about different traditions and cultures and expand their worldviews. In addition, this program has highlighted the pros and cons of joint county virtual programming:

#### Benefits:

- ideal for county collaboration by dividing workload and providing multiple agent perspectives
- reach new audiences who can "try out" 4-H
- convenient for families to attend using the virtual option
- low input (monetary and time) of agents
- has no borders- participants can come from across the state and beyond; potential learning from peers' regional perspectives
- can be attended by a county's existing club

However, the program does not come without its challenges. Hurdles to be acknowledged (and potentially addressed) include:

- attendance is under-represented compared to registration
- potential participants may not have access to a computer and/or
- students may be less engaged than with in-person programming; encourage discussion and activity participation



attps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQWmDNIEpUA.

complete picture. Young kids can squeeze random lines and shapes.

Cover your work area with a table cloth or newspaper and gather your materials. Muslin fabric works very well, but you can also use a solid, light-colored shirt, a handkerchief, canvas bag, etc.

Brainstorm a design for your batik project. If you are planning to do a detailed picture or design, it helps to lightly

sketch your design on the fabric with a pencil. You can make simple designs like flowers or geometric shapes, or do a

Place plastic wrap or a plastic placemat under your fabric in case the glue seeps through. Squeeze the glue along the lines

Once you are satisfied with your design, allow the glue to dry. This will take around 6 hours or more, depending on the weight of your fabric and the thickness of the glue lines. When completely dry, the glue lines will turn transparent.

Prepare two or more colors of acrylic paint on your palette. Watering down the paint can create a nice watercolor-like

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal

wash. However, be careful with adding too much water because your batik might look too washed-out.





