

SUCCESS STORIES

UAF Cooperative Extension Service

Interior 4-H counters pandemic isolation with activity kits for youth and families

Issue

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and Alaska went into lockdown, there was not a lot for kids in the Interior to do. Kids were shut up in their houses and away from their friends. School met by Zoom with more computer time than normal. Keeping youth engaged in healthy and stimulating activities became more important than ever.

Response

The state 4-H program provided kits over the summer for gardening and computer coding. When fall rolled around, the Tanana District 4-H Leaders Council felt like there was still a need for more activities, so they put together 200 kits for a Great Pumpkin Giveaway and a Holiday Fun Giveaway with more to come. Each kit has had something to do with a holiday, coloring sheets, crayons and other goodies.

This has been a great activity for youth, and parents have been thankful. Some have signed up for all of the activities. When we hand the kits to participants through the car window, the parents say, “Thank you so much, this has been fun and has meant a lot to us during this time.” Leftover kits have been donated to the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living. This organization was very grateful to receive these kits for the youth in their facility. Some kits were also mailed to Tok and Eagle upon request of teachers.

Results

To this point, between the state activity kits and what the Tanana District 4-H Leaders Council provided, more than 800 kits have been given to Interior youth between



The Reinheller family of Fairbanks decorates pumpkins provided by the Tanana District 4-H program.

the ages of 3 and 18. This has provided extracurricular activities for Interior Alaska youth to engage in. It has also let parents know that others care and are providing fun, engaging activities for their youth. It has also helped some families who couldn't afford things like pumpkins to provide something for their kids around the holidays.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Marla Lowder

Tanana District 4-H Agent
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Cooperative Extension Service
mklowder@alaska.edu
907-474-2427

