

In March of 2020, when the COVID pandemic hit and immediately changed the face of all Extension programming as well as pretty much every aspect of everyday life, it was abundantly clear that as 4-H educators, we needed to pivot our programming and the ways that we deliver content to remain relevant and to meet the needs of those we serve. As schools began to close their doors and transition to virtual learning, teachers were struggling to make that transition and come up with content that could be delivered outside of the classroom. During this time, as 4-H educators, we were also working rapidly to plan how we would deliver our summer day camp content and figure out how to actively engage youth and provide them with meaningful educational experiences.

As 4-H educators, we quickly started meeting as groups within our areas to address the needs of our stakeholders. Through these meetings, Stacie Hritz and Debbie Kasanicky began brainstorming ideas of how to deliver a virtual version of a day camp opportunity that Stacie had already been planning for some time, focused on career exploration for Cloverbud aged youth. We wanted to find ways to provide hands-on activities to allow the youth to explore various careers that they may consider one day while also building in components of literacy, which we feel is important for this age group. One of our main concerns while developing this program was when we should schedule the virtual day camp to be held because of factors such as where would the children be during the day while their parents worked, if there were multiple computers or devices in the home that youth could use while parents were focused on their own careers, and if an adult would be available to help them through the learning process. Ultimately, we decided that to meet the needs of as many youths as possible, we would design a self-guided webpage that families would have access to at all times so that their child could learn the content at any point that was convenient for the family and the family could have activities to do together while they could not go out and do the typical everyday activities that they normally did because of government enforced stay at home orders. We would additionally hold weekly optional Zoom sessions that the members could join, and we would review the content for the week and do an additional hands-on activity that would help reinforce the two weekly careers that we were exploring. An additional goal with this program development is that once the website was fully developed, it would remain available for future use. It could serve as a resource for teachers once students returned to school in the future if they were struggling to come up with virtual content again like they had in the spring as well as it would make the program easily replicable if we wanted to offer it again in the future. The website is now complete and can be viewed anytime at: <https://sites.google.com/view/4h-cloverbud-career-explorer/home>

Our program ran over the course of 9 weeks throughout the summer as we explored 18 different careers. We had 29 youth between the ages of 5 to 7 registered to participate. Each week, Stacie and Debbie worked very hard to develop and record two lessons focusing on two different careers. Each lesson included a recording of a children's book dealing with the career topic, a set of vocabulary words, a hands-on activity that families could do at home and an additional resource along with a weekly lesson evaluation. Through the evaluations collected,

98% of youth responded that they learned something new about the careers we explored. In addition to Stacie and Debbie, there were three teens from our county programs that we utilized to help with the recordings and teachings of the lessons. We wanted them to still be able to have the teen leader opportunities that they would typically have throughout a summer day camping program.

Even more exciting than that though are the additional opportunities that it has opened up for additional 4-H programming across the state. Once the website had begun to become developed, Stacie started sharing it with other educators as a possible platform to explore offering 4-H content through. Other educators began to get just as excited about it and see its relevance. That is when Penny Ward asked if she could use the Cloverbud Career Explorer site as a template to create a similar experience for older youth and develop an Engineering Career Exploration Course (<https://sites.google.com/view/engineeringcareerexplorer/home>) and Lyndsey Desko and Melonie Androstic duplicated the template to create a site for the SW PA 4-H Virtual STEM Camp (<https://sites.google.com/view/virtual4-hstemcamp/home>). Both of those sites were then piloted with great success. Additionally, the PA 4-H STEM team has further created sites (<https://sites.google.com/view/4-h-agexplorer-engineering/home> & <https://sites.google.com/view/4-h-agexplorer-pollination/home>) to offer additional programming opportunities, which easily positioned us to meet the needs of the virtual PSU Ag Progress Days event as well as the 2021 Virtual PA Farm Show. These sites have allowed us to reach thousands of youth, remain relevant, deliver content without having to worry about times that were convenient for participation, and become a new resource for allowing PA 4-H to still offer in-school/ after-school content for teachers, even when their teaching and programming needed to be done virtually.