Promising Practices for Programs Serving Latino Youth: 
FACT SHEET FOR 4-H ACADEMICS AND STAFF

THE REALITY
The UC ANR 4-H Youth Development Program recognizes that youth programs provide
• safe environments—emotional and physical
• appropriate structure
• supportive relationships
• youth engagement
• positive social norms
• opportunities for leadership and skill building

RESEARCH AND PROMISING PRACTICES
Sustained participation and positive outcomes among Latino youth and communities result from programs that
• include communities and families in the program delivery and design
• consider the interests, skills, and knowledge of caring adults in determining their role in working with youth
• recognize the widespread values in different communities, such as collective accountability, gender roles, family structure, hierarchy, and other norms
• focus on positive ethnic identity, social justice, and healthy multicultural interactions
• identify projects that affirm local Latino cultures
• focus on the interests and skills of the families
• address possible safety concerns that may include unsafe meeting places and distrust of individuals or organizations

“Scholars emphasize employing locally and regionally specific knowledge of Latino youth, families and communities to create responsive youth development programs.”

(Erbstein and Fabionar 2014)
Recommendations

Safe Environment

- Build trusting relationships with Latino community members and families.
- Invite adult family members to participate in the program.
- Engage parents and extended family as collaborators helpers and frame Latino community leaders as role models.
- Identify safe program spaces. Use facilities that are comfortable for families.
- Have an introductory meeting with families before the program starts at the time when caretakers are available.
- Recognize, celebrate, and reinforce Latino youth’s cultural and linguistic heritage and assets.
- Learn and utilize preferred modes of communication.

Structure

- Adapt the program’s structure to bridge cultural differences.
- Account for impacts of widespread poverty.
- Consider the norms of the program and their compatibility with the norms of local Latino cultures. Develop ways to bridge differences.
- Help youth and families understand the program’s culture.
- Be sensitive to prospective adult volunteers who may not have a California driver’s license or a social security number to complete background screening.

Engagement

- Focus community engagement strategies on civic participation and social justice activism.
- Learn about and participate in Latino community events.
- Select adult volunteers that share interests and experiences with local Latino youth.
- Be sensitive to, interested in, and knowledgeable about cultural differences (including gender differences) and aware of ways in which the dominant culture is experienced by the local Latino population.

Skill Building

- Utilize curricula that support ethnic/racial identity development, leadership, and empowerment.
- Include group contest at all levels. Reward group effort.

References


Suggested citation

Please address correspondence to
University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources
California State 4-H Office
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618-7774
Phone: (530) 750-1334
Email: ca4h@ucanr.edu

For Further Information
To order or obtain ANR publications and other products, visit the ANR Communication Services online catalog at http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/ or phone 1-800-994-8849. You can also place orders by mail or FAX, or request a printed catalog of our products from

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Communication Services
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618
Telephone 1-800-994-8849
E-mail: anrcatalog@ucanr.edu

©2017 The Regents of the University of California. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Publication 8578

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, status as a protected veteran or service in the uniformed services (as defined in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA]), as well as state military and naval service.

UC ANR policy prohibits retaliation against any employee or person in any of its programs or activities for bringing or assisting someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment. UC ANR policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to any of its programs or activities.

UC ANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and/or participation in any of its programs or activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University’s equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to: John Sims, Affirmative Action Contact and Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397. Email: jsims@ucanr.edu. Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.

An electronic copy of this publication can be found at the ANR Communication Services catalog website, http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/.

This publication has been anonymously peer reviewed for technical accuracy by University of California scientists and other qualified professionals. This review process was managed by ANR Associate Editor for Human and Community—Youth Development Katherine Soule.

web-08/17-LR/CR