

CYFAR 2007 Preconference Sessions

The CYFAR 2007 Preconference will be held Tuesday, May 1. These preconference sessions address issues of critical importance to CYFAR programming through in-depth half- or full-day trainings.

ALL DAY SESSIONS

KaBOOM! Playground Build

Full-day (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Playground Build Coordinators:

Rosalind Dale, Willene Buffett, Yvonne Brown, Gerri Peeples, and Al Zwilling, University of Illinois
Ginny Johnson, KaBOOM!
Eddy Mentzer and Sherri Wright, National 4-H Headquarters, CSREES/USDA

Preconference description:

CYFAR conference adult and teen participants will join local community members, Chicago/Cook County 4-H staff and University of Illinois faculty to build a playground in one day under the direction of the national nonprofit organization KaBOOM! This community-built playground will provide a place for children to play and families to gather for years to come. In just one day, CYFAR and community volunteers will join forces to transform an empty lot into an exciting playground, designed from drawings by children in the community. Bus transportation will be provided from the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place (CYFAR Conference hotel), departing at 8:00 a.m. and returning at 4:00 p.m. Food and drinks will be provided throughout the day.

CYFERnet Technology-sponsored Preconference Computer Lab No. 1

Developing and Managing a Youth-Centered, Non-Formal Computer Lab Program

Full-day computer lab (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Presenters:

Bill Pabst, University of Missouri - Columbia
Barbara Chamberlin, New Mexico State University
Vishal Singh, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Preconference description:

The Preconference will present a low-cost model for non-formal, after-school computer labs. Participants will explore software, web sites, computer-based devices, and strategies to create a program attractive to youth that also adds educational value to computer games, creativity software, and computer-based devices. While primarily focused on upper-elementary and middle-school youth, much of the information is applicable to older and younger youth. The preconference will help managers and teachers create a supervised environment that supports non-formal learning with computer games and tools.

CYFERnet Technology-sponsored Preconference Computer Lab No. 2

It's Not Your Parents' Internet: Challenges and Opportunities of Online Participatory Cultures

Full-day computer lab (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Presenters:

Trudy Dunham, University of Minnesota
Eve Daniels, University of Minnesota
Roger Terry, Kansas State University
Ray Kimsey, North Carolina State University
Vishal Singh, University of Nebraska

Preconference description:

Teens' use of Internet differs. It's social, creative, participatory and immediate. And it's time you got up to speed! From MySpace to podcasting, digital sampling to Second Life, online team-based problem-solving to modding: explore the tools today's youth use for artistic expression, civic engagement and development of cultural competencies and social skills needed for 21st century life. Participants will understand the types of online tools and applications that facilitate the participatory culture, learn barriers for at-risk youth that prevent use of these cultural tools, and risks involved in their use of these same tools, and interact with participatory tools to learn how they work and could be incorporated into CYFAR programmatic activities.

MORNING SESSIONS

The Frameworks and Foundations of Youth Development Outreach

Half-day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Presenter:

Cathann A. Kress, Director/Youth Development, National 4-H Headquarters, CSREES/USDA

Preconference description:

Two major foundations of youth outreach are the research bases: that of the land grant university which provides the *content*, and the youth development field, which determines what environments best support youth- or the *context*. To assure critical needs of youth are met, this session will explore the foundations of youth outreach, the multiple frameworks used in youth development, and designing programs with the potential for the greatest impact. Participants will better understand the two foundations and research bases we draw upon for our work; how the different frameworks and concepts utilized in youth development fit together and complement one another; and how to intentionally design programs and determine priorities which will enhance impact.

CYFERnet Program-sponsored Preconference No. 1

Community Building Approaches to Working with Children, Youth, and Families

Half-day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Presenters:

Andrew Behnke, North Carolina State University
Barbara Brown, Clemson University
Autumn Guin, North Carolina State University
Susan Jakes, North Carolina State University
Daniel Perkins, Pennsylvania State University
Boyd Rossing, University of Wisconsin

Preconference description:

For professionals wanting to learn to create programs and enhance program impact by building strong communities, this preconference will explore strategies for implementing community-based approaches, discuss challenges of building community programs, demonstrate a model for understanding the ecological context of community members, and present creative solutions for those working in communities to form collaborative relationships with all community members. Participants will increase their knowledge and ability to provide educational support to communities and families to build relationships within the community to support, create, and implement community level programs; and gain confidence in their ability to include, recruit, and retain the participation of all community members.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

CYFERnet Program-sponsored Preconference No. 2

Keeping Our Kids Safe: Preventing School Violence through Building Resilient Communities

Half-day (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Presenters:

Maureen Toomey, University of Idaho
Kerri Ashurt, University of Kentucky
Karen DeBord, North Carolina State University
Ken Jones, University of Kentucky
CYFERnet School Age Editorial Board Member
CYFERnet Community Editorial Board Member

Preconference description:

Keeping Kids Safe addresses the causes of school violence and prevention strategies for Extension to work with communities. Participants will examine school crisis management approaches; learn how children respond to a crisis; and learn how Extension can engage communities to prepare and respond to crisis, position student to have a voice and support parents as advocates for children and schools.

CYFERnet Evaluation-sponsored Preconference

Evaluating CYFAR Projects: Locating Resources, Selecting Measures, and Planning for Sustainability

Half-day (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Presenters:

Donna Peterson, University of Arizona

Dan McDonald, University of Arizona

Lydia Marek, Virginia Tech

Jay Mancini, Virginia Tech

Preconference description: CYFAR Projects require a strong link between evaluation, program implementation, and sustainability. The first half of this workshop will familiarize participants with strategies to locate appropriate evaluation resources, including selecting, developing, and critiquing evaluation measures. The second half will focus on the seven sustainability factors (i.e., leadership competence, effective collaboration, understanding the community, demonstrating program results, strategic funding, staff involvement and integration, and program responsivity).

