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4-H Camping, Guam style

by Clifford J. “Cliff” Kyota, University of Guam 4-H State Program Leader

Editor’s Note: History is in the eye of the beholder. I don’t know if anyone else has said that, but I know it is true for me! History happens fast. Events of the moment are just as much “history” as events that happened decades ago. So, when we came across the Guam 4-H website and saw it listed twelve week-long 4-H Camps that they held during the summer of 2024, well, we just had to know more. Who wouldn’t want to know more after seeing the camp names? Crime Science Investigation, Health and Wellness, High Flying Aviation, Creative Me, Ethixquest Philosophy, Little Gardeners, Bugs and us, Crazy Experiments, STEAM, Smart Start Youth Finance, High School Fisheries, and Junior Fisheries. So, we contacted Clifford J. “Cliff” Kyota, University of Guam 4-H State Program Leader and asked him a few questions. The questions and his answers follow below.
Photos contributed by Guam 4-H.

1. How and why did you decide to offer 12 different summer camps? We conducted a comprehensive program needs assessment involving youth of all ages and their parents. This assessment revealed a strong demand for diverse, engaging summer activities that could cater to



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varying interests and developmental needs and promote life skills. Additionally, our program collaborates closely with the Guam Department of Education to design camps that not only entertain but also enrich the learning abilities of the youth

who participate. By offering 12 different camps, we ensure a broad range of topics that appeal to different interests, learning styles, and age groups, ultimately supporting the educational and personal growth of all participants.

2. How did you pick these topics? The selection of topics was directly informed by the needs assessment, which highlighted the areas of greatest interest and importance to both the youth and their parents. We aimed to design topics that would be both educational and appealing, ensuring that participants remained engaged and excited throughout the camp. By aligning the topics with the interests of the youth and the educational goals set in collaboration with the Guam Department of Education, we created a program that was both fun and enriching.



3. Which of these camps was the most successful? Did any not work out? All of our camps were highly successful, with each one reaching the maximum capacity of 30 students. However, the fishery workshop stood out as the most successful, attracting 38 students. This workshop, which spans three weeks, covers a comprehensive range of fishing techniques, combining both traditional and modern methods. The popularity of this workshop highlights the community's strong interest in preserving cultural practices while also embracing new skills.

4. Is camping something Guam 4-H has been doing in the past or is this a new element of the Guam 4-H program? Camping has been a longstanding tradition within the Guam 4-H program, with a history that spans over 50 years. This deep-rooted practice has continually evolved to meet the changing needs of the community while remaining a core aspect of our youth development efforts.

5. Can/will you share with us any anecdotes from one or more of these camps - camper, staff, and/or your own (or others)? One of the most memorable experiences from the fishery workshop involved students learning to differentiate various fish species by their appearance. This hands-on learning was complemented by lessons in

traditional communication methods used in fishing communities. Students expressed amazement at how these techniques have been passed down through generations and how they could still apply them in modern contexts. The workshop not only taught practical skills but also fostered a deeper appreciation for Guam's cultural heritage.

6. Are you planning to do this again? If so, same or different topics? Yes, the summer camps are an annual offering, and we are already planning for the next session. While we will continue with many of the successful workshops from this year, we are considering the addition of two new workshops to further diversify the program and meet emerging interests within the community.

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4-H International Exchanges: the series

Editor's Note: For close to 75 years, American 4-H members have been traveling to live for a week or longer in another country and members of 4-H-like programs in other countries have been coming to live here as a part of one of several 4-H international exchange programs collectively known as the International 4-H Youth Exchange Programs, IFYE Programs for short. Beginning with the following article, Gwen El Sawi will be taking us on this 75-year international adventure, from its inception to what the program has evolved into in the 2020s. But to get us started, the first article of the series, "A whole lot more than a trip!" lets us hear how the experience impacted several 4-H'ers who have participated through the years including the Editor! It's longer than our usual articles, but it's a big world.

4-H International Exchanges: A whole lot more than a trip!

By: Gwen El Sawi, 4-H IFYE MN – India 1969, National 4-H History Preservation Team

I flew until the plane landed. I sailed until the boat was moored. I walked until the road ended. I walked until the trail disappeared. Then, I walked some more. My journey ended in the late fall of 1979. The hot moist air of the

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Philippines is a distant memory. Yet I see the faces of children and the exotic places of an island nation with a clarity as if it were yesterday.

We are unique. We all belong to a fraternity of fellowship and belief where our shared international experiences have shaped the lens through which we view the world and people around us. We see the world beyond the teachings of books and classrooms. We have tasted, smelled, touched, seen and heard things that have become part of our character and substance.

David White, 4-H IFYE CA – Philippines 1979, IFYE Alumni Association President 2004

Participating in a 4-H international exchange program is often a transformative experience for the participants, staff, volunteers, host families, and communities. Participation broadens perspectives on the world, develops new skills, competencies, and confidence that endure a lifetime. Becoming part of another family or hosting an exchange participant, even for a short time, helps participants learn more about themselves, their beliefs, and values as they experience different economic, political, and religious customs. Participants examine and explain their own values, practices, culture, and beliefs as they share and better understand others. For most, it means a lifetime of friendships and promoting “Peace Through Understanding” a principle upon which 4-H International Exchange Programs began in 1948 after World War II.

Bill Svendsgaard, was an IFYE in 1961 from Minnesota to Switzerland. In 1961 most people traveled between the U.S. and Europe by ships, ten days each way. Bill became interested in learning about other cultures when his family hosted an IFYE Exchangee from Jordan. So, he became an IFYE himself. As most IFYEs do upon return, Bill gave presentations to the community about his experience, including, since he was now a teacher, his 4th grade students. One of his students recently visited him, 60 years later, to express his appreciation for how Bill had touched his life and sparked his interest in learning about other cultures; a help he appreciated as he served in the military and now volunteers in his community.

Bill’s interest in other cultures took him to Brazil as a Peace Corps volunteer, and, as a 4-H Educator, launched diversity and inclusion programs in Minnesota and exported them to as far away as Komi, a northern region of the Soviet Union, where he taught Soviet youth. Today Bill is a National 4-H Hall of Fame Laurate, serves on the National 4-H History Preservation Team, and has been leading Minnesota 4-H History preservation activities for several years. For Bill, the most important aspects of his 4-H International Exchange program experiences are being fully immersed in a cross-cultural experience; learning to ask “why” instead of judging; gaining writing and speaking skills; knowing the responsibilities of being an “ambassador” of his country and culture; and learning the other culture’s “ethics” and ways.

David Pace, 4-H IFYE Iowa - Uruguay 1961, began his cultural career when his family hosted a high school exchange student. Of his Uruguayan experience, he said that living with Uruguayan families who spoke German, French and Italian taught him how to interact and understand without knowing the language; and that family cultures differ within the same country.

Becoming an IFYE opened my eyes to a wider world. I learned to trust people to help me adjust and learn from them. I learned daily life skills by joining another family and appreciated what people gave up to host me.

David, knew he wanted to be an Extension Agent at the age of 12. He later became a National 4-H Fellow, IFYE Alumni President, Minnesota State Extension Program Leader of Teen and International Programs, and is a National 4-H Hall of Fame Laurate. His professional and personal life has been an example of supporting, encouraging, providing leadership, and fostering “Peace through Understanding”.

Ron Drum, 4-H YDP (Youth Development Program) PA - Botswana January 1980 - July 1981. YDPs serve as advisors to the 4-H-like program of their host country. When asked how that experience affected him, he wrote:

That is an impossible question to answer. Oh, obviously I learned, did, experienced, and saw things I’d never have had the opportunity to had I stayed at home and become the Pennsylvania Pike County 4-H Agent that had been offered to me

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a few weeks prior to heading off to Africa. The question, however, is deeper than that. What did the experience DO for me, to me, how was I changed by it?

Perhaps I don't know. We grow and change slowly. It takes others to help us know how we change. My face is the same face I've looked at in the mirror all my life, but people with whom I graduated from high school don't recognize me now. When they realize it is me, they say, "My goodness, how you changed" which is exactly what I was thinking about them!

But the question continued to press upon me. How could I know? Then I remembered, I'd written newsletters home while I was in Botswana. It was "part of the job." Perhaps I could find hints in them. I did. In the last letter sent from Gaborone, I wrote, "...in the time I spent here, my life has been touched many times. So too, my life has touched others. To me, this is good, for when lives touch, understanding occurs and with understanding comes Peace." In another letter, I wrote, "I have learned more in the few short months I've been here (nine when this was written), than in the entire four years of my college life. It's not that I learned so little in college, but just the opposite!" The last letter I wrote, written after I was back home, ended saying, "When I look back at all of this, it seems only a dream... But...if it is only a dream, (I hope) I never wake up, 'cause this has been one great dream. And let me tell you, I can't wait to see what happens next!"

Maybe that's how the experience affected me. It made me impatient to see what will happen next. So, let's get on with it and find out.

Ron has served and worked in 4-H in a variety of positions, in Massachusetts, Maine, National 4-H Council, with an USDA 4-H Air Force program and is currently this newsletter's editor and co-authoring a history of 4-H from 1980-2025.

Dora Andres, IFYE from Switzerland to Virginia and Kansas, 1979. Recently Dora revisited her host families in Virginia and Kansas after 45 years. When asked for her reflections on her IFYE experience, she said:

It opened the world to me, a farmgirl. I learned how to look at things differently. After my first host family, I thought, 'I now know and understand Americans!' Then I went to my second host family... It was a different experience! So... I learned each family has a culture. I stayed with 10 American families. I learned that where and how you grow up determines how you see things. It was very hard to say goodbye to my host families. I learned that everything has a beginning and an end, and that life is a continuous learning process.

During host family stays, she gave many presentations on Switzerland, at schools, churches, 4-H meetings, and community organizations and shared her American experiences when she returned to Switzerland. She served as president of the European IFYE Alumni Association from 1986-2002. While orienting outgoing Switzerland IFYE's, she learned about an opportunity to work as a program assistant with the Citizenship Washington Focus program at the former National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. She served as a program, and then staff, assistant from June 1982 - September 1983. Back in Switzerland, Dora adapted CWF to Switzerland creating a program which continues today.

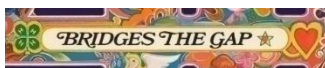
From 1993-2002 she and Cecile Morrow operated CD International Services, Inc. which conducted the IFYE Exchange Programs for the IFYE Alumni Association after National 4-H Council stopped supporting them. Dora was elected as Governor of her Canton serving from 1998 - 2006. She also served as President of the Swiss Federal Rifle Association where she strengthened the training and performance of the Olympics Swiss Rifle Team moving from a bronze medal at the London Olympics to gold and bronze medals in both the Tokyo and Paris Olympics.

Full disclosure, I, **Gwen El Sawi, was also an IFYE, MN – India 1969.** Living with families in villages, one without electricity, and one with water hauled in daily, where we slept out under the stars. For sure, the experiences changed my worldview and direction in life, personally and professionally. The IFYE experience helped me develop skills in observation, comparing & contrasting cultures, languages, family life, appreciation for different educational, religious, cultural, economic, and political systems. I gained confidence and resilience as I adjusted to different families and learned how to communicate without speaking the same language.

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IFYE opened up a whole new worldview to me, a farmgirl from Minnesota, and propelled me throughout my life and career. Those experiences supported me through working on the Minnesota State 4-H Staff, to pursue a Master's and PhD in Program Planning and Evaluation at the University of Maryland while coordinating and directing the Citizenship Washington Focus and International Programs at National 4-H Council (1974-1991), followed by working with USAID Workforce and Youth Development programs where I worked with educational systems to foster "hands-on (experiential) learning" with the skills and competencies needed by businesses and industry in many countries.

On the personal level, living with host families, whom I came to love, gave me and my husband the confidence, mindset and skills that sustained us in our 48 years of our cross-cultural marriage. Mohamed Kamal (Sawi) El Sawi, an Egyptian 4-H Exchangee to Minnesota, became an analyst for the US Department of Defense and was a strong democracy activist for Egypt. Our life together was a daily adventure in cross-cultural understanding, love, and fostering peace through understanding.



4-H Fun FACT

The birthplace of 4-H was Holmes County, Mississippi!

Editor's Note: In an email message with the subject line "I get interesting things in the mail", I found the following from Tom Tate, National 4-H History Preservation Team Chair. Included below is the submission as it was received by the Editor of The BRIDGE. The magazine cover photo suggests 4-H was born in Mississippi. That fact is true, but only partly. The 4-H idea was born around 1900, give or take a few years. The problem is that when 4-H was "born" people didn't have "instant communication" like we do now. So, the same good idea was conceived in New York, Georgia, Ohio, Iowa, and a whole slew of other places all about the same time, give or take a few years. The problem was that nobody else knew about it. So, the "birthplace" of 4-H is a whole slew of places on a whole slew of days in a whole slew of years. Welp, add this place and year to the list!

From the files of Mississippi State liaison Tom Tate, USDA retired.
Cover of 1967 "Build Mississippi Club" magazine, Summer issue.

The legend on the marker tells its own story. The two 4-H'ers at this historical site (located just North of Pickens on U.S. 51) are good examples of how this national organization -- born in Mississippi -- helps develop our youth. Miss Catherine Heindl of Canton is a junior at MSCW [Mississippi State College for Women]. She entered 4-H club work at age of nine, and has been a consistent winner of awards since. In 1966, she won top honors in leadership achievement, and a trip to the national 4-H Congress in Chicago. Her other awards include a college scholarship, and a trip to Youth Leadership Conference in Washington.

Everett Kennard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Boswell Kennard of Starkville, has won numerous awards in dairy, and also in tractor driving. He too, has attended National Congress and other National meets. Majoring in Dairy, he is a sophomore at Mississippi State. Both these leaders come from 4-H families, and are proud in their praise of 4-H training.

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HEAD
HEART



HANDS
HEALTH

FIRST BOYS' CORN CLUB 1907

4-H Clubs are reaching millions of American boys and girls yearly. These Clubs, known throughout the world, developed from Boys' Corn Club started February 1907, in Holmes County, by William Hall "Corn Club" Smith cooperating with Mississippi State College and Seaman A. Knapp of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. This was first Federally sponsored rural youth organization in U.S. The 120 boys of this Club used scientific methods, under supervision of County Agent W.B. Lundy, making up to 120 bushels corn per acre, starting the shift to diversified farming.

MOTTO:

To Make the Best Better



Tell Us Your 4-H History Story

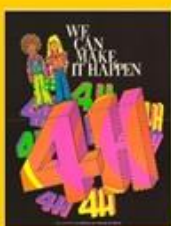
Share your photos and stories of the history YOU made in 4-H!

We know you've made 4-H History. So, tell us about it! The world wants to know YOUR 4-H history!

Send your articles to: Editor@4-HHistory.com

Submissions longer than 500 words must include a 500-words or less summary. The in-depth articles will be posted to our web-site and linked to the summary that will appear in the newsletter.

Thanks for reading The BRIDGE. Look for our next issue February 15, 2025!



The BRIDGE Editorial Board:

*Sue Benedetti, Gwen El-Sawi, Tom Tate, Jane Jopling, Bonita Williams, Betty Gottler,
Linda Horn, Ron Drum*

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