Urban Youth Development Office (Urban 4-H)

What is the Urban Youth Development Office?
The Urban Youth Development Office is a part of University Extension’s Center for Youth Development. The office works on behalf of young people living in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the surrounding suburban communities, to measurably improve their learning through youth-centered educational and engagement programs. Our programs provide volunteers, program leaders, and community partners with skills and resources for building effective learning environments.

UYD has two signature programs: Urban Youth Learn and Urban Youth Lead (www.fourh.umn.edu/urban). Through these programs, the Urban Youth Development Office partners with volunteers, schools, agencies, and organizations to build sustainable programs that meet the unique needs of urban youth.

• Urban Youth Learn helps volunteers, program leaders, and community partners create, strengthen, and advance youth programs that occur during nonschool hours.

• Urban Youth Lead is a leadership development program designed to expose young people to the worlds of higher education and careers by allowing them to build awareness and leadership skills and, ultimately, discover they are the authors of their lives.

What is the goal of the program?
Our ultimate goal is for young people to thrive in their own learning and development.

Who are the community partners?
Urban Youth Development Office’s programs are carried out through networks of community partnerships. These partners include: Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Community Education, Minnesota Department of Education, North Community High School, Girls in Action, and Lao Advancement Organizations of America.

What are some of the benefits of the Urban Youth Development Office to the community?
• Youth gain understanding of and find ways of interacting with people in their program who come from backgrounds that are different from their own.

• Youth are provided with opportunities to connect with individuals and businesses in the community.

• Youth have opportunities to showcase their learning through presentations at a variety of venues, including Urban Youth Development Office events, the University of Minnesota, Peace Jam, the Hennepin and Ramsey County Fairs, and the Minnesota State Fair.

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Discovering solutions to complex issues facing urban communities