

# EXTENSION TRENDS: **GOODING COUNTY**

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## 2023 By the Numbers

- **9,457** direct contacts
- **2,415** youth participants
- **35** volunteers
- **405** volunteer hours
- **\$95,000** extramural funding

## Our Advisory Council

Special thanks to our volunteers who help shape programming and inform the work we do for UI Extension in Gooding County: Cindy Bigler, Mark Bolduc, Cooper Brossy, Ricky Fritz, Kay Hults, Donna Jensen, Carol Johnson, Daniel Knapp, Rebecca Larsen, Judi Lethlean, Marsha Neibling, Jamie Price, Chris Pruett, Priscilla Ruiz, Arlene Shaw, Larry Walton, Karen Wisniewski and John Wright.

## UI Extension Educators



**Mario de Haro Martí**  
208-934-4417  
[mdeharo@uidaho.edu](mailto:mdeharo@uidaho.edu)



**Cindy Kinder**  
208-934-4417  
[ckinder@uidaho.edu](mailto:ckinder@uidaho.edu)

## 2023 Impact

The UI Extension, Gooding County STEAM program provides enrichment programs throughout the community with K-5 students participating in after-school activities and K-12 students participating in camps and extracurricular activities. In addition, working with elementary and middle school teachers, UI Extension offers in-class enrichment programs to integrate STEM activities in the classroom and offer support as the teachers present complementary topics. The in-classroom program and the after-school activities offer students the possibility of engaging in creative and topic-specific STEAM activities. These help to develop interests for the students as well as to help reinforce topics that need additional attention.

A third element is a community STEM program that offers a series of independent and topical areas of interest, classes and science camps open to the whole community. Age groups and topics determine most activities, but in some communal activities adults and older teens are encouraged to participate in helping and mentoring younger participants. These community STEM activities are offered at diverse locations within the county, including the UI Extension office and many of the partners' locations.

## 4-H in Gooding County

4-H Youth Leadership programs were planned and conducted at various education platforms. The program included the Elevate Teen Retreat, 4-H Summer Camp Counselor program and youth/adult volunteer leadership efforts.

A total of 37 youth from across the state attended the Elevate Teen Retreat. This event focused on understanding and working with a variety of personalities and speaking with confidence. Surveys were conducted and 78% of youth stated they learned something new about the colors workshop. Sixty-five percent of youth stated they plan to use something from the colors workshop in the future; 59% said they learned something new about the speak up with confidence workshop; and 83% stated they plan to use something from the speak up with confidence workshop in the future.

Counselors are selected from applications to attend the Summer Camp Counselor program and receive leadership and camp training. Topics covered included camp is for the campers, hard to handle campers, flag ceremonies and campfire.

Throughout the year, UI Extension staff were mentoring Leaders Council, working committees and sale committee along with teens to provide and conduct leadership for county wide program efforts of Know Your Government, spring break, nine special education events, fair, summer interns and awards night. Near-Peer STEM mentoring helped teens serve as role models to younger youth. Mentors share their love for math and science with others while learning about leadership, supporting their communities through community service, and making good life choices.

## On the Horizon

In 2024 UI Extension, Gooding County hopes to expand the shooting sports program with more volunteers with varying certifications. 4-H Educator Cindy Kinder will be conducting year three of the evaluation of the youth livestock program. UI Extension plans to develop strong working partnerships with the schools and community by filling long-time open positions.