



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

For immediate release: Sept. 29, 2016

Nevada youth explore drones in world's largest youth-led STEM challenge

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension 4-H program offers hands-on learning to local youth

LAS VEGAS, Nev. – Over the next week, as part of National 4-H Week, youth in Nevada will join over 100,000 youth across the world in leading the ninth annual 4-H National Youth Science Day challenge. This year's challenge, called Drone Discovery, introduces youth to the burgeoning field of drones in a hands-on, interactive design challenge. Youth will build an airplane out of foam, attach a keychain camera to it, collect data, and then download and analyze the data.

The exercise teaches youth a wide variety of topics related to unmanned flight, including flight dynamics, aircraft types, safety and regulations, remote sensing, and flight control. Designed by Cornell University Cooperative Extension, the hands-on, three-part engineering design challenge will allow youth to experiment with fixed and rotary wing designs, explore the concept of remote sensing and dive into the world of coding for real-world drone applications.

Here in Nevada, 4-H is a program of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, which is hosting the challenge at several locations, as well as sponsoring other activities to celebrate National 4-H Week.

"This challenge is an opportunity to show our communities the types of learn-by-doing activities that our 4-H programs provide for youth," said Carrie Stark, Nevada 4-H Program Director with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. "There are so many different 4-H programs, including 4-H Clubs and activities that are tailored to youth's various interests, and now is a great time to get involved."

Stark said that a study conducted by Tufts University shows that 4-H youth are at least two times more likely (and in some cases four times more likely) to participate in science programs, plan to go to college, contribute to their communities, be physically active and make healthier choices.

4-H this week in the Clark County:

From 4-6 p.m. on Oct. 12, youth are welcome to participate in the Drone Discovery challenge at Ruben P. Diaz Elementary School located at 4450 E. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. The event is free and open to the public.

4-H this week in the nation:

National 4-H Council will host the flagship national 4-H National Youth Science Day event, with hundreds of youth participating in the challenge on Oct. 5 in Washington, D.C. The 2016 national partners are HughesNet®, Lockheed Martin and U.S. Cellular. DJI, the world's largest maker of consumer drones, is the national sponsor.

To find out more about 4-H or how your county is celebrating National 4-H Week and 4-H National Youth Science Day, contact your county's Cooperative Extension office. For office locations and phone numbers, go to www.unce.unr.edu or contact Karen Best, the Clark County 4-H Coordinator, at 702-257-5538.

###

Photo Cutline: 4-Hers shoot off rockets they built in a past 4-H National Youth Science Day activity held on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas.

Editor's Note: Media are welcome to attend the Clark County event, and are encouraged to contact the media contact below in advance.

4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for career tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly six million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is the unit of the University of Nevada, Reno that is engaged in Nevada communities, presenting research-based knowledge to address critical community needs. It is a county-state-federal partnership providing practical education to people, businesses and communities. For more information on its programs, visit www.unce.unr.edu.

Nevada's land-grant university founded in 1874, the University of Nevada, Reno ranks in the top tier of best national universities by U.S. News and World Report and is steadily growing in enrollment, excellence and reputation. The University serves nearly 21,000 students. Part of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University is home to the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Wolf Pack Athletics. Through a commitment to world-improving research, student success and outreach benefiting the communities and businesses of Nevada, the University has impact across the state and around the world. For more information, visit www.unr.edu.

Contact: Marilyn Ming

Marketing/Public Relations Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
mingm@unce.unr.edu
702-257-5516
www.unce.unr.edu