



OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME IN PRINCE EDWARD

Featuring 4-H TECH CHANGEMAKERS

Funding for Equipment and Staff is Needed

Prince Edward 4-H has lost a significant source of funding in recent years. As a result, they are struggling to cover costs for programs across the board, which has greatly impacted the capacity of the program to serve the needs of the community. For example, the Tech Changemakers need updated technology and equipment to successfully serve the community. Investments demonstrate to the teens that they are valued. Additionally, 4-H's personnel is stretched thin. Currently, one Extension Agent is carrying the load of providing all of the county program offerings along with all of the volunteer recruitment, training, and retention. Increased investment in staffing would exponentially increase the ability to provide services to the community.



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Program website:

<https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/princeedward4h>

Program social media:

Approximately 700 children served by PE 4-H; 13 in Tech Changemakers



Our youth deserve the opportunity to serve their community with the common goal that everyone grows as a result.
- Jake Morgan, 4-H

Youth Leading the Community with Tech

Prince Edward 4-H's Teen Club and Tech Changemakers program takes a grassroots approach by cultivating youth leaders that serve their community. The Tech Changemakers program capitalizes on teens' virtual expertise with personal technology devices, like phones and tablets, by inviting community members to public events where they can get assistance with using, maintaining, and troubleshooting issues on personal devices. Commonly, the teens will need to work together to resolve issues or do additional research. This strengthens collaboration and builds the interpersonal skills to successfully problem-solve with peers.

Prince Edward County has a large number of citizens of low socioeconomic status. Not only does the Tech Changemakers program help address the digital divide in the community, it creates opportunities for youth leadership in tech. Roles such as these are rare. This type of real-world experience challenges teens to step outside of their comfort zone, a skill especially critical as they transition from high school students to young adults pursuing college and professional opportunities.