



## **Foundations of Positive Youth Development: Early Career 4-H Professionals Academy**

### **About the PYD Academy**

The National 4-H PYD Academy is an output of the [4-H PLWG Chartered Committee on Positive Youth Development](#). 4-H PYD Academies are convened and supported by National 4-H Council in collaboration with Extension 4-H professionals from across the country. The purpose of the PYD Academy is to ensure that 4-H educators possess the knowledge and skills they need to plan, implement and evaluate high quality 4-H PYD programs for youth.

### **Audience and Purpose**

The Foundations of Positive Youth Development: Early Career 4-H Professionals Academy provides educators with a fundamental understanding of the science and practice of positive youth development in 4-H. The academy consists of two virtual learning sessions, followed by an in-person convening on October 9<sup>th</sup>, in Madison, Wisconsin the Sunday before the NAE4-HYDP conference begins. The academy is recommended for all 4-H professionals within the first three years of their 4-H career, including educators, specialists and 4-H program leaders. Tuition covers materials and meals the day of the gathering; travel costs related to the event are not covered.

### **Tuition**

- Full tuition for the academy is \$1,500.
- Due to the generous support of academy sponsors, the actual cost per participant is \$300.
- Note that tuition does not include travel-related costs for the in-person convening.

### **Certificate of Competency**

- Participants who complete all three phases of the PYD Foundations Academy will receive a **Certificate of Initial Competency – PYD Foundations**, a pre-requisite for more advanced PYD academy offerings in the future.

### Learning Outcomes

Participants in this academy will explore the research base of positive youth development and the science of learning and development that inform everyday 4-H practice. Participants will learn how this research is reflected in the 4-H Thriving Model, and how the model is used to predict the way that 4-H has its positive impact on youth development. Participants will learn the critical elements of programs necessary to ensure a high quality and impactful PYD experience for youth. The in-person session will focus on the practical application of PYD research to 4-H practice, with an emphasis on creating learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate, inclusive, and intentional.

*Specifically, participants in this academy will*

- Learn the definition and research base of positive youth development
- Learn the basics principles of the science of learning and development (SoLD and whole child design)
- Understand how the 4-H Thriving Model reflects current research in PYD
- Understand the parts of the 4-H Thriving Model and how they work together to predict the impact of 4-H on positive youth development
- Learn the aspects of 4-H program settings that are critical to ensuring positive youth development
- Learn key practices for ensuring diversity and inclusion in 4-H programs so all youth have the opportunity to grow and thrive
- Understand the seven indicators of youth thriving and their relationships to life skills.
- Learn how to be intentional about helping youth thrive in 4-H programs
- Apply what is learned to real-life 4-H practice

## Academy Schedule

### Virtual Learning Session One – The Research Base of Positive Youth Development

- Virtual Learning Content Open September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Participants complete 4-6 hours of guided independent learning.
- Independent learning is followed by participation in one of two live webinar sessions.
- Live Sessions: Tuesday September 27 and Thursday September 29 (select one)
  - 12:00pm to 4pm ET (11am- 3pm Central; 10am – 2pm Mountain; 9am to 1pm Pacific)

### **Virtual Learning Session Two – Creating High Quality PYD Programs**

- Virtual Learning Content Open September 30<sup>th</sup>. Participants complete 4-6 hours of guided independent learning.
- Independent learning is followed by participation in one of two live webinar sessions.
- Live Sessions: Tuesday October 4 and Thursday October 6 (select one)
  - 12:00pm to 4pm ET (11am- 3pm Central; 10am – 2pm Mountain; 9am to 1pm Pacific)

### **In-Person Session Three – PYD in Practice**

- Sunday October 9, Monona Terrace Hotel, Madison Wisconsin
- 8:30am to 4:30pm (light breakfast, lunch, and afternoon refreshments and materials are included)
- Participants are encouraged to stay for the conference and take part in the National 4-H Priorities Day on Monday October 10. The NAE4-HYDP Conference is Tuesday through Thursday October 11-13.