CSU Extension 4-H STEM AmeriCorps Newsletter May 2019

Service and Smiles!

At the end of April we welcomed our summer serving AmeriCorps members to campus for orientation training. Five new members have joined us and we would love for you to meet them. We will be featuring them over the next two newsletters. In the meantime, please say hello to Kaley Hinchsliff (serving in Jefferson County), Matt Hugel and Miranda Kelly (serving in Denver County), McKenna VonFeldt (serving in Morgan County), and KatieLyn Miller (serving in Park County).

See page two to learn more about Miranda and Matt.

This Month’s Highlights

How is your Free Little Library coming along? We’d love to see pictures of your painting and placement. Remember to register your Little Library and let us know once it has been placed!

Hydraulic Elevator

What you need:
- 17 Jumbo Popsicle Sticks
- Wire
- Wooden Skewers
- 2 10 ml Syringes
- Thin plastic tubing
- Glue

The Goal:
Discover how engineers use hydraulics to lift and move objects

Directions:
- Mark the center and two end points on the popsicle sticks.
- Stack the sticks and drill holes at the marked points.
- Connect the center points of two sticks with a small piece of wire.
- Connect the two ends of each pair so you have two rows of 3 pairs of overlapping sticks.
- Attach the two sides together by inserting half a wooden skewer through the top and bottom holes (2 through the top and 2 through the bottom). You may need to glue the sticks in place to keep them from slipping out.
- Tape five more popsicle sticks together to make a platform for the top.
- Tape one of the bottom skewers to the table to keep it in place.
- Attach the tubing to one syringe.
- Fill the other syringe with water (which you can tint with food coloring to make it easy to see), and attached it to the tubing.
- Finally, tape the plunger end of the syringe to the opposite wooden skewer (not the one taped to the table), and tape the syringe to the table.
- As you push the plunger of the syringe in and pull it out, the hydraulic elevator should raise and lower.

**Adapted from a project put together by Lana who is serving in Weld County and from the website “Teach Beside Me”. See their project page (https://teachbesideme.com/stem-project-build-a-hydraulic-elevator/) for step-by-step instructions.

For an extension of the basic hydraulic elevator, see “Easy Hydraulic Machines” (https://www.instructables.com/id/Easy-Hydraulic-Machines/)
Meet Miranda Kelly, serving in Denver County

Hi there! I am originally from Arkansas and moved out to Denver to work on my Master’s degree in Social Work. My concentration is in Sustainable Global Development, and much of my focus centers around questions of sustainable food systems as it influences human resiliency in regard to changing environment.

I have been interning at the Grow Haus since August and have been able to build a relationship with community members through the organization. I chose this service as an opportunity to continue to connect with the community in 80216 and be able to continue forward in a capacity of influence in environmental science and social-emotional well-being.

I am most excited to be spending the summer outside and with goofy kids!

Meet Matt Hugel, serving in Denver County

As far back as I can remember, I’ve felt I had a acutely tuned sense of place. Geography is how I understand and store information about the work around me and cities have been an area of primary interest as the most common form of human habitation. I have dedicated my life thus far to studying and building them, both as an urban planning student and as a planner for a high speed rail system in Florida. I believe that cities and the means by which we build and rebuild them, hold the key to the environmental and social crises we face as a society.

Agriculture is a means by which we can restore economy, nutrition, and a sense of community to our cities. I hope to take this opportunity to educate myself and others on the ways to accomplish these goals and the related environmental and CO₂ sequestration needs we face.

I’m most excited to see lightbulbs go off when kids realize the breadth of careers available in agriculture (and those that will arise in the near future). I’m hoping to help them learn the process from seed to harvest!

Upcoming events:

May 20: RSVP deadline for the End of Year Celebration

May 27: Memorial Day - check with your office about closures

June 4 Noon-2pm: Monthly Member PD Zoom meeting

June 20-21: End of Year Celebration - held at CSU Thursday afternoon and evening, and Friday morning

July 4: Fourth of July holiday - check with your office about closures

Alumni Corner:

Interested in a career in extension, outreach, research, or higher education? Check out the National Job Bank at jobs.joe.org!

Service + Tech Career & Education Fair, June 6 1:00-2:00pm
https://serviceyear.org/tech/