



4-H MEMBERS got a lesson in cleaning fresh fish in a cold bush country stream. It was all part of a Wilderness Camp, held each Summer.

This one was held 60 miles north of Nome in 1969.

—US NEWS SERVICE Photo

Alaska 4-Hers Having Fun Camping, Learning to Cook, Sew, Decorate, Etc.

COLLEGE—4-H is having fun...at camp, with your friends, going places, showing others what you have done, in a talent show.

4-H is learning to do things...carve ivory, care for the out-board motor, sew, cook, decorate a room, raise a dog or horse, take and develop pictures.

4-H is for any boy or girl 9 to 19 years old in any Alaska town, and it is for the community.

4-H is free. A University of Alaska out-of-school educational program, operated by the Cooperative Extension Service, it is also supported by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H motto is "Make the Better Best" and nothing more is required of its members than to believe in what each pledges:

'My HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community and my country.'

According to Harlem Sandberg, State 4-H and Youth Leader for the Extension Service, the program's general objectives are to provide informal education for youth on leadership development, social interaction, and subject matter which will compliment the learning achieved in school and within the family.

The Extension Service has had a 4-H program since the early 1930's. Today it has 2,000 members and 400 leaders in the state. Sandberg oversees the program from offices in College, working with a district staff of 25 which is scattered throughout eight districts.

While Sandberg administers the program, and works with the staff on program planning, training of both volunteers and staff, and state events, the staff is actually supervised by Dr. James Matthews, associate director of the Extension Service.

Basically a program leader, Sandberg also develops teaching materials for the staff.

The district staffs train volunteer leaders who provide clubs with leadership. These volunteers are divided into both project leaders, who work with the community club's operation, and the assistant leaders, who work with club leaders on activities.

There are also junior leaders,

club members who function with younger members and who work on district-wide events.

One of Sandberg's most significant accomplishments for 1970 has been the successful Volunteer Youth Workshop held in October at Mt. Alyeska. Thirty-five leaders met there to develop their leadership skills in a program Sandberg terms "unique."

"Very few states have approached training leaders en masse, in intensive situations," he says. "We're finding that it's working and the leaders and the staff participating are rating it a success."

In a pilot leadership workshop held in 1969 at Nome, the Extension Service discovered that it could bring together adult volunteer youth leaders in an atmosphere conducive to exchanging ideas which, as Sandberg says, "become better when you share them."

The Service also sponsors a Youth Leadership Workshop on the University campus during the summers to which 4-H, Rainbow, Future Teachers of America, Future Homemakers and other groupssend representatives.

Contrary to a public image which correlates 4-H with farm-life, in Alaska only three per cent of the membership lives on farms. Where some communities outside may concentrate on 4-H livestock raising and showing, in Alaska 4-H offers its members more than 80 different projects.

The programs' diversity ranges from photography, snowmobiling and home management to automotive projects, foods-nutrition, knitting and skin-sewing.

In remote areas it is difficult to find projects for youth which are adaptable to the kind of life the people live, says Sandberg.

