
K-12 Mission with 4-H Club in Ames, Iowa

K-12 Project: GISCorps Volunteer Helps Critique Maps Created by Youth in Ames, Iowa

By Jane Runneals, Leader, Central Area 4-H Tech Team

The Central Iowa Area 4-H Tech Team recently had their club Achievement Show on June 13th, 2009 in preparation for the Story County Fair. Brenda Swaim, GISCorps volunteer and an employee with the City of Ames, assisted the club with helping the youth members by critiquing their maps and giving them valuable input as they readied their mapping projects for the fair.

Brenda Swaim, GISCorps Volunteer, assisting David Runneals, a 4-H Tech Team Member Brenda was impressed with the youth's maps – particularly since this was the club's first year working with GIS mapping. They received a mapping software grant for '08-'09 through ESRI. The projects Brenda helped critique ranged from a map of biking trails at a state park to a map of historical sites in Ames and prairie remnants in Boone County, along with a manure management plan map for Story County. She enjoyed the opportunity to work with the youth and give them feedback and ideas on how to improve their maps for display and judging. The scoring rubric she used for the members was developed by the National 4-H GIS team and Sarah Coffey with Oregon State 4-H, and can be found at:

<http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/science-engineering-and-technology> (under Geospatial Science Exhibit materials).

Central Iowa Area 4-H Tech Team member maps can be found at their website at: www.centralareatechteam.org.

Central Iowa Area 4-H Tech Team Website (Sample Maps)