National 4-H Leaders Visit Texas

We were honored to have national 4-H leaders attend the East Fort Worth 4-H Club robotics project group meeting on Monday, March 29 at the Meadowbrook United Methodist Church.

Clarence Kelley, National 4-H Foundation Board Member and Dr. Eddie Lockear, National Director, 4-H SET were our guests.

An overview of the club and a brief review of club activities were presented by club manager Lois Bogusch. East Fort Worth 4-H Club is a Community Partnership Club, with Meadowbrook United Methodist Church members serving as club manager and project leaders.

Later, our guests observed a club business meeting and heard from other 4-H members about their Science, Engineering, and Technology project experiences. The highlight was participating in a robotics project activity where youth teams competed to complete functional robots in a timed competition. The youngest team won!
Spotlight

The annual Regional Tree Planting Competition is a multi-organization effort lead by the Houston-Area Urban Forestry Council. Other organizations that participated in planning and implementing the event included: the Texas Forest Service—Bayou Region, Texas AgriLife Extension Service—Harris County Office, and the Harris County Flood Control District.

The purpose of the event is 3 fold:
1. Educate landscape businesses and Harris County residents on proper tree planting techniques.
2. Increase the awareness of the importance of urban trees.
3. Community service in the form of tree planting.

The event is a competition where a team of up to 11 people plant 100 trees according to International Society of Arboriculture specifications. Each team is timed and monitored by a volunteer judge. The team that plants the fastest and meets the specifications, wins. Categories include professionals, non-profit/amateur group, and youth classes. New this year to the event was a category specifically marketed to local Big 12, SEC, and Big 10 college alumni groups.

1,500 trees were planted in about 2 hours in a local park. By the end of the event each group had planted at least 100 trees correctly. The correct installation of the trees is a specific outcome that documents skill development and falls under the agency's goal of environmental stewardship.

Contact: Anthony Camerino, CEA-Hort, Harris County