During the Fall semester, students at Allison and Hart Elementary had the opportunity to raise and take care of 19 Boer goats. The goats lived on the Elementary campuses and our instructors helped the students feed, groom, check the health and care for the goats. On Friday, January 18th, our students showed their goats at the Travis County Youth Show. The Travis County Youth Show is an event where youth participate and present their livestock, plants, recipes and other items to be auctioned.

We had 8 students make the sale and we collected numerous ribbons throughout the day. One student from Hart Elementary won showmanship with her goat, Midnight Sparkle Darkness. We are very proud of all the hard work and dedication from our AmeriCorps members.
Spring semester is off to a great start for the Engineering and Tinkering team. Classes at Harris Elementary are exploring all things Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. In Gracie's class students practiced engineering a neat paper toy called a Flextangle, make one at home following instructions here: https://babbledabbledo.com/paper-toys-flextangles/. Students in Blair’s class practiced Stop Motion Animation to create their own short stories.

Over at Popham Elementary students in Linley and Evan's classes are starting to explore nature and science near their school. Students made spectrosopes to see that white light is really a colorful spectrum and designed their own habitats for animals.

Garden Science Team Leader, Sarah, coordinated a 4-H CAPITAL booth at Del Valle ISD's STEAM Extravaganza where we made drawing robots and explored circuitry and sound with littleBits. We're gearing up for UT’s Introduce a Girl to Engineering day where we will be hosting a Do-It-Yourself Arcade table where you can design controllers for classic games like Tetris, Pac-Man, Galaga and more. Visit us at the UT Austin campus on Saturday, February 23rd from 11:30pm-5pm and stop by the many other hands-on booths to learn about the wide world of engineering.

4-H CAPITAL Garden Science clubs started the New Year with delicious broccoli, cauliflower, snap peas, and carrots already ready to harvest! Our kids have been learning how to make nutritious dishes such as delicious vegetable curry, stir-fry, cauliflower fried rice, and healthy quesadillas. Our instructors have done a phenomenal job helping youth learn culinary skills they will use for a lifetime, along with great STEM adventures along the way.

Now we are getting ready for spring, with tomatoes, peppers, and other veggies already growing in our mini-greenhouse. You know what that means this spring – healthy pizza, zucchini pasta, and salsa!

Also, for the first time for our program, eleven of our youth entered plant projects into the junior division of the Youth Fair at the January 2019 Travis County Youth Show. Their fern, ivy, and cactus projects ultimately included a Class Champion and 3 Reserve Champions, with several blue-ribbon awards, as well. It was a great experience for all, and we look forward to helping future 4-H CAPITAL students bring their own projects to TCYS. We are so proud of our Garden Science clubs!
AmeriCorps is a national network with hundreds of programs across the nation. These programs allow individuals to commit their time and skills to help address problems and needs in local communities. The main goal of AmeriCorps is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct and team-based national and community service. 4-H CAPITAL inspires youth to develop into inquiring scientists, citizens of character, partners in service, and engaged community members through participation in project-based learning experiences and collaborative community involvement.

What is our AmeriCorps Program?

Meet our AmeriCorps Member - Kayla!

My name is Kayla and I’m 22, about to be 23 #aquariuszn. I’m from Houston, Texas and I teach Animal Science- specifically did the goats (basically the crazy goat lady). I decided to do AmeriCorps kind of last minute. I had always loved working with children, but knew I did not want to be in a formal education setting so when I saw this ad I knew it was almost like fate and had to do it. I also really love volunteering and being a part of something that stands for more than just myself and I figured a year of service would be a life changing opportunity for me!

Before my year of service I was a student at Texas State University! My first memory that relates to science, was when I was 10. My dad and I were a part of Nature Guides (which was basically like father-daughter camping), and the first place we went to was Brazos Bend State Park. I remember crying when it was time to leave because I wanted to make tent camping and being outside something that I did every day. I loved being able to just roam around and basically do whatever I wanted outside, it was the camping trip that really sparked my love of being outdoors!

1. **Which goat is your favorite goat and why?**
   Lady (48), because she was my baby and also acted just like a dog lol. Every time I would walk into the goat pen, she would be the first one at the gate to greet me, and whenever I would leave her she would sit at the gate and cry. She is literally the greatest goat ever!!!

2. **Favorite thing you’ve ever heard a child/student say?**
   “Buy our goats, their meat tastes good!”

3. **Would you rather have the legs of a frog or the head of a fly?**
   Legs of a frog, because jumping would be cool and fly eyes kind of sketch me out.