



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Learn by Doing: Using Life Skills to Grow Youth Leaders and Pumpkins

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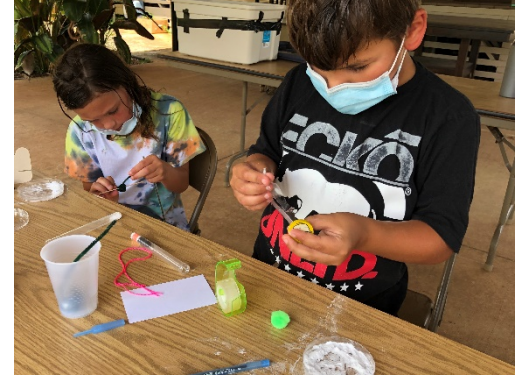
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa

October 8, 2021

The Oahu 4-H Giant Pumpkin Contest Planning Team started the first Giant Pumpkin Contest (GPC) program before summer. The team involved collaborations with the Hawaii State FFA (Future Farmers of America) Officers, Agriculture Extension Agents, Military 4-H Program Coordinator, and 4-H Extension Agent. Twenty-six youth ages 5-19 years old were given the challenge to care for giant pumpkin seedlings, raise a giant pumpkin, and enter it into the contest. Giant pumpkin seeds were sent from Becky Settlege, East Hawaii 4-H Extension Agent, who started the Giant Fruit and Vegetable Contest on the Big Island. She sent seeds varieties: 1184.5 Swenson, 1088 Tanner, 237 Tanner, 899 McWilliams, and 554 Stawecki.

Youth participated in a Soil Prep 101 workshop facilitated by Josh Silva where he engaged participants with soil identification, soil testing, and prepping their soil with the necessary nutrients before planting their giant pumpkin seedlings. Various Talk Story Sessions were facilitated by FFA with various Junior Master Gardener (JMG) activities. JMG activities focused on learning on what plants need—P.L.A.N.T.S. basics (Place, Light, Air, Nutrients, Thirsty, and Soil), labeling their plants, transplanting the seedlings, hand pollination, and recordkeeping. The Talk story was also a time where youth can share with each other about their plants on what has been working well and what challenges they are facing.

Even though only two giant pumpkin entries were submitted, it was a learning experience for all. Youth had to face the challenges that any gardener or farmer would endure—weather, pest management, irrigation, and pollination challenges. The Giant Pumpkin Contest was adapted to photo submissions of their giant pumpkins and creating a video clip of the participants introducing themselves, showing off their giant pumpkin, sharing three things that they learned from growing it, and sharing their plans for the pumpkin after the contest. Due to strict guidelines, the Giant Pumpkin Contest was unable to identify the “giant pumpkin” title.



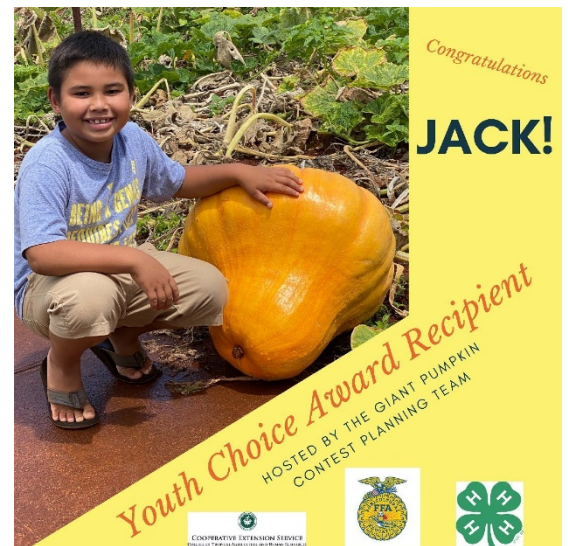


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The pumpkin would need to be weighed and follow national eligibility rules. Instead, the planning team gave away a “Biggest Giant Pumpkin” Award based on the measurements in the photos and a Youth Choice Award for youth 3-19 years old to vote for their favorite giant pumpkin photo. A CTAHR Choice Award was sponsored by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) for anyone in the CTAHR community on Facebook and Instagram to “like” their favorite giant pumpkin video. Award recipients received either CTAHR swag items and gardening supplies. Program participants will be able to receive seeds and/or seedlings from CTAHR Seed Lab and the Urban Garden Center Ohana.

The planning team decided to extend the program and open to any Oahu youth 5-19 years old to enter a pumpkin for the Pumpkin Decoration Contest. Some of the GPC participants had plants still growing, but were unable to get a pumpkin in time of the Giant Pumpkin Contest. They could still harvest a giant pumpkin and enter it in this decoration contest. Youth can either carved pumpkins (prefer giant or large pumpkins) or decorate any size pumpkins and submit a photo of their pumpkin and a photo of themselves with the pumpkin. Their pumpkins can be entered in sub-categories: 1) Most creative, 2) Scariest, and 3) Funniest. The pumpkins can be either grown in their pumpkin patch or store bought (hopefully from a local farmer!). Submission deadline is Monday, October 18th by 8:00 pm. Pumpkins will be judged and also voted on social media between October 20th-27th. The GPC Planning Team is hoping that everyone can enjoy this fun contest just in time for Halloween! For more information, please go to <http://go.hawaii.edu/J52> to view and download the general information and entry forms, and score sheets. Questions can be emailed to oahu4h@gmail.com.





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Oahu Co. 4-H PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST



Categories:

Carved Pumpkin
Decorated Pumpkin

Show off your creativity!

Whether it is home grown, picked from a pumpkin patch or store bought, show us how you enjoy decorating your pumpkin!

Special Awards for:

Most Creative
Most Scariest
Most Funniest

Open to Youth on Oahu
Ages 5-19

Deadline to enter: Oct 18th by 8:00pm
Voting on Facebook and Instagram will be from
10/20-10/27

Awards will be announced on Friday, October 29th
either by email or social media



For more information go to:
<http://go.hawaii.edu/J52>

Questions?
Contact oahu4h@gmail.com



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