Dear Missouri 4-H Families:

Thank you for being an integral part of the largest youth development program in Missouri and the largest youth program in the world! Missouri 4-H is recognized as being one of the best in the United States. Our programs build skills that our members use throughout their lives that put them ahead of their peers. A recent national study supports this by showing 4-H members in comparison to similar peers:

- Report better grades, higher level of academic competence, and an elevated engagement in school.
- Are twice as likely to go onto higher education, which leads to a significant increase in average earnings over one’s life.
- Avoid cigarettes, drugs and alcohol.
- Are three times more likely to actively contribute and be engaged in their communities.

Missouri 4-H is committed to bringing children the opportunities and quality programs that one expects from 4-H. To ensure this, we have reviewed the costs for program development and delivery, cost saving, and program fees. Starting on January 1, 2015, state membership dues will be $20. In order to make this change smooth for currently enrolled families, we will accept the 2014 state rate of $8 per youth through December 31, 2014.

While we realize that there is no convenient time for an increase, this fee has not changed in 14 years. Please be assured, our dues are in line with other youth organizations and will help us continue to provide the quality experience associated with 4-H. Quite simply, we are convinced the membership dues increase is an investment in our members, by our members. As part of University of Missouri Extension, we are committed to the youth of Missouri.

Ninety-six percent of the cost to deliver the 4-H program is paid for by taxpayers, grants and gifts. We want all our 4-H families to know we are dedicated to providing the best program. As we all go through this transition period, we ask each of you to partner with us in creating a positive environment for all our 4-H members.

Sincerely,

Ina Metzger Linville, Director 4-H Center for Youth Development

OPTIONS EXIST FOR YOUR FAMILY

Please know that there are options for payment of dues in 2015 and beyond. It is my absolute goal to ensure that every child in Daviess, Harrison and Gentry Counties who wants to belong to 4-H will be able to do so. If you have concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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UP AND COMING

MO Recognition Forms Due

The Missouri Recognition Forms that members need to fill out to consider their projects complete for the year, are due in your extension office by 4:30 PM, September 11, 2014. This will give us the time to have them judged before recognition day in your county.

If you have questions about the forms please contact your 4-H faculty or staff member in your county.

LATE submissions will be judged but not eligible for county recognition.

CLOVER KIDS CORNER

Through Clover Kids clubs, children learn how to get along, share and work in groups, explore their interests and build self-confidence. Each Clover Kids Corner provides an activity, information or other materials that Clover Kids leaders can use in planning and implementing experiences that introduce 5- to 7-year-olds to the 4-H concept of learning by doing.

Foam Pencil Toppers

With this project, the only limit is a kid’s imagination. Whatever creature, shape, or theme s/he can think of could be living on top of his/her pencil. What a great way to be able to identify which pencil belongs to them.

What you need:

- Craft foam sheets or shapes
- White craft glue
- Scissors
- Wiggle eyes
- Pom-poms
- Pencils

What you do:

1. Start with two identical sized shapes, such as a circle or heart. Put glue around the border of one of the shapes, leaving about ¾" where you will insert the pencil. (See photo.)
2. Press the second shape onto the first, sandwiching them together. The glue will need to dry for several hours, preferably over night, but you can decorate the outside now.
3. Decorate the outside of the craft foam shape using pom-poms, wiggle eyes, other foam shapes, glitter glue, sequins, whatever you like. You can make a black bear using pom-poms for ears and a nose and a couple of wiggle eyes. (See photo.) You may also make a flower using several pom-poms and a bird using wiggle eyes and other craft foam shapes. (See photo.)
4. Once the toppers have dried completely, insert the eraser end of a pencil carefully into the opening.

Tips

1. Drying time is important for this project. If you try to insert the pencil too soon, the glue may still be tacky and could pull away from the foam causing your topper to split open.
2. You can use white craft glue as we did, or you can purchase special glue made just for craft foam at a craft supply store.
3. Craft foam comes in convenient value packs in various shapes, sizes, and colors.

http://crafts.kaboose.com
Welcome extended to new Harrison County YPA Bart Skroh

Harrison County would like to welcome youth program associate, Bart Skroh. He joined MU Extension on August 19th.

Many of you probably saw Bart at the Northwest Missouri State Fair and wondered “Who is that guy?” THAT guy is the one who helped lead the clean-up of the liberal arts building and checked all of your projects into the building. He was also responsible for figuring premium points so you can get a check at recognition day for your projects.

Skroh is a former Harrison County 4-Her that spent his years in the Grand River 4-H Club in Cainsville.

Skroh will be in the Harrison County office twenty hours a week. Mondays will be the day he is there all day. Please feel free to stop by and welcome Bart back to our vibrant 4-H Family.

Skroh can be reached at the Harrison County office at (660) 425-6434. skrohb@missouri.edu.

NEW 4-H Enrollment system to debut in October.

The University of Missouri Extension 4-H Center for Youth Development is transitioning to a new enrollment system for our faculty, staff, families, and volunteers.

So what does this mean for you???????

• Enrollment for our 4-H Club leaders will begin September 22nd. They will be the first ones to go online to use the new system.

• 4-H families will now enroll themselves in the new system beginning in October. You will need an email address to be able to complete the family enrollment.

• You will be able to manage your projects all year long. When it comes time for achievement day; you can look on line to see what you enrolled in this fall.

• The system is encrypted to protect your information.

• Don’t have an email address? We can help you get one.

• Don’t have a computer? The public libraries in your communities have public access computers. Or perhaps a friend or family member has a computer you may use. Or you may have your local 4-H faculty or staff person help you enroll.

• But I am a project or club volunteer! You will also enroll in the new system.

• Club leaders will be able to run reports whenever they need them.

• Project leaders will be able to have accurate lists of their project members.

• **Once you have enrolled this year, you will only have to verify your information in coming years!!!!! No need to fill out more forms every single year!!!!!!!!!!**
America’s Farmers Grow Communities Campaign announced for 2015

Need funding for a 4-H project? Reach out today and encourage a farmer to enroll in America’s Farmers Grow Communities. Since 2010 Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, has partnered with farmers to invest more than $1.6 million in 4-H clubs across rural America. The 2015 Grow Communities program enrollment is now under way, and we are asking our members to help spread the word. By telling your farmer friends and neighbors about this amazing opportunity, you could help your own 4-H chapter receive one of these $2,500 donations. Farmer enrollment is easy, visit www.GrowCommunities.com or call 877-267-3332.

The purpose of America’s Farmers Grow Communities is to make a positive impact in farm communities across the country by partnering with farmers to support the causes that are most important to them. In 2015 Grow Communities will be giving away $3.3 million to nonprofit organizations nationwide. Now through November 30, farmers can enter for a chance to win a $2,500 donation for their local 4-H. One winner will be selected at random from each of the eligible 1,324 counties across 40 states. Winning farmers and recipient nonprofits will be announced in January 2015.

In the past 4-H chapters have used their farmer-directed donations for leadership development opportunities, to refurbish fairgrounds and show barns, and to help defray the costs of special community and youth education programs.

Since its inception, Grow Communities has invested more than $16 million in 6,000 nonprofit organizations across rural America. The program is part of the America’s Farmers initiative. America’s Farmers programs, supported by the Monsanto Fund, have awarded over $23 million to rural communities since 2010. Connect with America’s Farmers on Facebook or @AmericasFarmers on Twitter. Join the #GrowCommunities conversation today and find out more at AmericasFarmers.com.

So what can you do?
Eligible farmers in your county need to be enrolled in the program. Encourage them to visit the website to enroll or call the number listed above. One winner will be randomly drawn from each eligible county from all entrants received for that county. NO purchase is necessary.

Shoot Sports Leader Certification Workshop

WHEN: October 3-5, 2014
Check In: 6:00-7:00 pm Friday, Oct.4 for 1st timers
(if not completed Volunteer Orientation)
Repeat participants may check in:
7:00-10:00 pm Friday OR
7:30-8:00 am Saturday

Session concludes 3:15 pm – Sunday

WHERE: Blue Mountain Camp, Ironton/Fredericktown, MO
COST: $65 includes 5 meals, overnight lodging (1 or 2 nights), and workshop materials
PRE-REGISTRATION: Required by September 15.

For more information contact Gerry Snapp at: (573)882-5547 or http://4h.missouri.edu/go/projects/shootingsports/workshop.htm

Registration is limited and will close when session is full or when the camp is full. All registrations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
LEADER LOOKOUT
September/October club leader tips

Thank you for signing up to help provide 4-H members with a rewarding and wonderful experience in the Missouri 4-H program. September is an exciting part of the 4-H year as the new program year is just beginning. Remember to encourage club officers and other 4-H members take responsibility for events and activities; this is a great experience and fosters ownership of the program. Here are some suggestions and ideas that may help you get prepared for the first two months of the new program year.

1. Elect and install officers in September.

2. Invite prospective members and volunteers to the first meeting of the new program year. Some clubs have a separate welcome meeting for new families to ask questions before enrollment.

3. Discuss importance of the county’s family newsletter.

4. Recruit assistant leaders to lighten the load of club coordination. Consider a planned succession of leadership duties. A committee with defined roles has been effective in many clubs.

5. Explain completion requirements for the county and club and define “member in good standing” so that members and families understand expectations.

6. Explain the countywide accident insurance policy that is a part of the membership fee. (This provides proof of good faith effort to manage risk in case of accident during, or travel to or from a sanctioned 4-H event that includes club and project meetings, field trips and other countywide or club events.)

7. Discuss purchase of member project manuals. Coordinate literature order to save shipping costs. Announce/distribute project leader training resources.

8. Discuss recognition for year just completed, forms and date of county recognition event. Encourage new families to attend as well as existing families, and fill out forms. Encourage youth that have participated to share experiences.

9. Talk about plans for National 4-H Week, the first week in October.

10. Work with youth on planning a Halloween party or other fall social events to get acquainted with new members/families. It is important for new members to feel involved right away.

11. Turn in names and addresses of new members and leaders (also dropped members) to the local MU Extension center as soon as possible to update the family newsletter mailing list.

12. Remind reporter to send in club reports to extension center every month.

13. Begin working with your club on establishing goals and programs they wish to complete this year. Great planning resource: Club Program book Y612. Club seal standards can be found in this publication as well.

14. Apply for BOAC grant or Missouri 4-H Foundation Community Service Grant if needed for planned service project.

15. Plan fundraising activities for the year.

16. Schedule a visit to your club meeting, by your 4-H Youth Specialist and Youth Program Associate.

17. If your club is responsible for the recognition night, make sure committees are prepared and other county clubs know what they should bring.

18. Make sure each family has a new copy of the Missouri 4-H Clover.
This month things are starting to settle down and club programs are getting into full swing. It is very important to encourage all project leaders to schedule a project meeting before December so that the youth enrolled can begin the project portion of the 4-H experience.

Here are some suggestions to consider for this month:

1. Have club members approve club goals and plans for club service projects throughout the year. (Keep track of member participation in these projects.)
2. Add new members to enrollment and update the family newsletter list at your local MU Extension center.
3. Discuss risk management with all volunteers. Give each project leader the number of the county group insurance policy in case of accidents.
4. Ask another volunteer to help coordinate literature orders to save on shipping costs.
5. Encourage project leaders to have at least one initial meeting to plan subsequent meetings, discuss the need for parent support, cost of materials, etc. Have project leaders announce first project meeting date if it has been set.
6. Set up time for committees to meet and set goals during the club meeting. Provide creative tools to help them in this process: flip charts, note paper, markers, etc. Have each committee report on their goals and activities.
7. Recruit volunteers to help 4-H members plan a holiday party.
8. Encourage each member to give demonstrations and/or talks at club meetings. Consider using the brown bag demonstration activity as a way to introduce demonstrations. http://4h.missouri.edu/go/get/projects/bbdemos/
9. Inform families again of their options for acquiring personal copies of literature.
10. Announce project meeting dates already set for county-wide and club project meetings.
11. Coordinate with project groups to bring a skill-a-thon in their project area for an activity at the January club meeting. Share web page resources with project leaders. http://4h.missouri.edu/go/get/projects/skillathons/.
12. Contact your local extension office for possible trainings they can provide. They are willing to come to your club meetings and provide information about demonstrations and Missouri Recognition Forms.

Project leader tips

Project leaders are very important to the 4-H Club program. Interest in the project areas is what motivates youth to become 4-H members. The 4-H project leaders help members learn skills they will use throughout life, help members reach goals, serve as a role model and give youth in 4-H an important connection with a caring adult.

So I said I'd be a project leader…now what do I do?

- Secure the literature from your 4-H club leader or from Extension Publications using the form in the Y603, 4-H Clover; LG911, the Missouri 4-H Literature and Merchandise form; or online at http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/ 
- Check out the resources available on the project web page http://4h.missouri.edu/projects/ There are many hands-on activities available for your use.
- Read the literature carefully, know the requirements and the prerequisites, and let members of your group set individual and group goals.
- Study the leader/helper guide and adapt it to your situation.
- List skills the members should know in order to complete work.
- Decide what skills to include in each project group.
- Decide what you and members are to do at each meeting.
- Prepare needed materials before the meeting.
- Collect names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of the members enrolled in your project from your club leader or your local University of Missouri Extension Center.
- Keep attendance and project records.
- Encourage and guide the youth to complete their project records. The forms can be found at: http://4h.missouri.edu/go/get/recognition/awards/personalgoals.htm
Building Our American Communities (BOAC) Grant Applications due by December 2, 2014

This program provides Missouri 4-H clubs and FFA chapters grants each year for projects aimed at developing and advancing Missouri’s rural communities.

**Application Information**

Applications for the 2015 BOAC program are now available and all Missouri 4-H and FFA chapters to submit their proposals for the annual Building Our American Communities (BOAC) Grant Program to fund their community service projects.

Projects may include improvements to existing facilities, grounds or buildings used by local organizations in the applicant’s community. Past BOAC grant projects have included improvements for local fairgrounds, rural intersections and parks, as well as renovations for damaged and aged public use structures in rural communities, including those used by local 4-H and FFA groups.

BOAC grants to Missouri 4-H clubs and FFA chapters of up to $500 are available to support projects that benefit an agricultural community and/or promote community development. Up to 12 $500 4-H BOAC grants and 12 $500 FFA BOAC grants are awarded annually, two in each of the six districts.


Check with your local Extension office to see if a group from your county has already applied or if there are plans for multiple applications.

**Recognition Days**

As the 2014 4-H year draws to a close, it is time to plan for Recognition Days in Daviess, Harrison and Gentry Counties. Below you will find the beginning details for each county. We will send further information to the families of each county as the specifics are settled by the groups in charge of each event. If you have questions, contact your club leader, Becky Simpson, Janet Sager, or Bart Skroh.

**Gentry County:** Sunday, October 5, 2014 at Stanberry School. This will be a carry-in dinner beginning at 5PM.

**Harrison County:** Sunday, October 12, 2014. Assembly of God Church in Bethany. 3PM

**Daviess County:** Date and location to be determined. Please be watching for a postcard in the mail. We may be trying something new for recognition this year to encourage club participation.

**4-H Day at Lucas Oil Speedway***

*Velynda Cameron*

Please find attached your invitation to join us in Hickory County for the first annual **“4-H Day at Lucas Oil Speedway”** in Wheatland, MO., Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Tickets are $12 for adults, and $8 for kids 6-15 years of age. Commemorative t-shirts are $8 each.

Please see the attached registration form for additional information about great prizes to be given away in a 4-H raffle. All proceeds will be used to support the 4-H program in Hickory County.

Hope you and your family will join us!

**4-H Mall2Go**

*National 4-H Council*

4-H Mall2Go is an innovative new program to assist 4-H organizations around the country fundraise at their 4-H events. Through Mall2Go, we send products to your event, where you can sell those products to your attendees to raise money for your program. More information:

[http://www.4-hmall.org/mall2go.aspx](http://www.4-hmall.org/mall2go.aspx)

**Regulations for using the 4-H Clover:**
