Dear 4-H Families:

Our 4-H year is in full swing, and we have had several activities with lots more to come. If your club meetings are getting too routine for you and your members, check out the article on page three. Need even more ideas? Contact me at the Lawrence County extension office and I can provide you with several resources to help take your club meetings to the next level.

Please take a look at the projects that are listed with your record and work with your club leader to make sure they are accurate. Project meetings are starting, and we want to be sure you are getting all the information you need.

Speaking of projects, take in the article on page three on project leader tips. Many new 4-H families get frustrated because it takes too long to get those projects up and running. Plan to start your activities sooner rather than later, and you will have better results—more satisfied families and members, better fair exhibits, and greater satisfaction for yourself as a leader.

Registration for many of our state events is now being done through 4-H Online. This is a new system, so if you have questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Are your members engaged in your club? Do they get an opportunity to help set club goals and to cooperate in achieving them? Getting members involved in the planning process early on, and giving them responsibilities, makes for a better club experience as well.

As always, I am here to help you, 4-H members, parents and volunteers, have a more successful 4-H program. If there is anything I can do to help you, or if you would like me to visit a club meeting, don’t hesitate to call or email.

Karla Deaver
4-H Youth Specialist
**4-H MOVE back for 2015**

4-H Move Across Missouri (MOVE) is back for 2015! Enrollment for new and re-enrollment for current MOVErs began January 1, 2015. As you know, MOVE promotes physical activity and encourages youths to engage in a broad range of activities such as walking, biking, running, swimming, dance, taekwondo, gardening and more.

Using a paper tracking system, youth and their families can “log” the number of minutes they accumulate throughout the year and during the competitive component of the MOVE program from February 1 – April 30. 4-Hers can enroll as individuals and/or as part of a team. An individual MOVEr may also be a part of a team. A team can consist of a family or members of a 4-H club or group. MOVE awards will be provided.

**4-H Shooting Sports**  
**Leader Certification Workshop**

Registration will be via 4-H Online. If currently in the 4-H Online system, a leader should access their family profile to register. If new to 4-H, you are asked to go to the internet and use either Chrome or FireFox browser (not Explorer) at [https://mo.4honline.com](https://mo.4honline.com) and follow the instructions on creating a family and adult profile. Event registration help guide is found at [http://4h.missouri.edu/enroll/](http://4h.missouri.edu/enroll/).

**WHEN:** March 22-22, 2015  
**Check In:** 6:00- 7:00 pm Friday, 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  
**1st Session:** Friday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.  
Workshop concludes 3:15 pm – Sunday  
**WHERE:** Camp MoVal, Union, MO  
**COST:** $75- includes 5 meals, overnight lodging (1 or 2 nights), and workshop materials  
**PRE-REGISTRATION:** Required by March 1.

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…when accompanied by fee. Workshops usually fill up before the deadline….so don’t delay! Pre-register A.S.A.P.

**State 4-H Congress:**  
**All-Star Leadership!**

State 4-H Congress is scheduled for June 3-5, 2015, in Columbia on the MU Campus. For 4-H members age 14-19, this is the event where State 4-H Council members are elected each year.

**What You’ll Do at State 4-H Congress**

- Learn the life skills of a super leader, connecting with experts in quality workshops and learning opportunities!  
- Experience campus living – residence halls, cafeterias, classrooms, you name it!  
- Elect your representatives on the State 4-H Council!  
- Get to know other 4-H youth from across Missouri…and HAVE FUN!

Registration is $200 per person and will be done through 4-H Online. State registration deadline is April 15, so don’t let this date get past you and “steal” your fun!

**Horse Judging Opportunity**

Gavin O’Connor with the Sac River Stablemates 4-H Club will be working with any horse project kids that are interested in learning and competing in 4-H Horse Judging this year. 4-Hrs from all clubs are welcome to attend.

The plan currently is to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday’s of the month. The first meeting will be this Thursday October 9th at the Sac River Stables. Please RSVP to Dawn O’Connor at dawn@sacriverstables.com or 417-742-4200 if you plan to attend or if you are interested but cannot make the first meeting.

**Horse Bowl & Hippology Opportunity**

Julie Andersen of Sac River Stablemates has begun coaching the Senior Horse Bowl and Hippology team for the upcoming Regional and State events., and is inviting other nearby clubs members who are interested in Horse Knowledge to join them. Even coaches who would like to work together to strengthen our teams! They would love to grow the group as it is much more fun to explore this topic with friends! Contact Julie at 417-429-8414 (call or text) or fjandersen1@hotmail.com for more information.
4-H Online Enrollment

It is not too late to enroll for 4-H! Although we now pay $20 state dues, members may still enroll for the 2015 year, and volunteers may enroll any time. Volunteers have three steps to complete their enrollment:

1. Create a profile in 4-H Online for themselves as a volunteer.
2. Complete the paper 4-H volunteer application, sign and date. If you are a new volunteer, we need your SSN.
3. If you have not, complete the one time 4-H Volunteer Orientation.

Members and volunteers should log on at http://mo.4honline.com. A link to the detailed, step-by-step instructions is included on the login screen, but we think you will find the system very easy to navigate.


If you need assistance setting up your profile, please do not hesitate to call or email and we will schedule an appointment.

Put a Little Pizzazz in Your Club Meetings

Are your club meetings getting a little stale, or are your members complaining the monthly club meeting is boring? Pump up your club meetings by incorporating one or more of these ideas:

- Keep youth involved in the planning. Have a suggestion box, and follow through. If it is feasible, and the members suggest it, try to do it!
- Have a skit night—perfect for that meeting when you have new members!
- Bring in outside speakers from the community—but remember to keep activities hands-on! It’s what we do in 4-H!
- Hold officer experience night. Let younger members “hold an office” for one meeting. Officers can coach them. They get to try it out before they decide to run!
- Have a club make it and take it session. Take a project area that several members are interested in, and bring in a simple project so they can take something home.
- Plan your next community service activity. Let members offer suggestions.

Most of all, keep youth involved in the planning and the activity. Ask yourself these questions: Does the program provide time for members to have fun and enjoy each other? Do all members have a part on the program sometime during the year? Are committees used to carry out club meetings? Do club leaders confer with officers prior to the meeting?

Need more ideas? Contact Karla at the Lawrence County extension office for more information.

---

4-H Project Leader Tips

You are all signed up for 4-H. You have your volunteer form done, your online profile is done, and you have taken the one time volunteer orientation. Now what?

A project is a series of educational experiences that help members learn about a particular subject in a fun way. As a project leader, you play a key role in helping our young people connect and stay involved in 4-H. Members who get involved in projects and other activities are much more likely to stay enrolled in our program. As you might have guessed, inactivity is one of the biggest reasons why families choose to leave 4-H. Our goal is to help you be successful so you can help our youth be successful.

Your first resource is a copy of the 4-H Clover. This is the document that lists all the projects we have curriculum for, as well as scholarships, state events, and general 4-H information. Keep in mind with each project there is a list of available curriculum, but you are not limited to that. If you have your own resources, or find something used by another state’s 4-H program, then by all means, feel free to adapt to use in your project. We do like to have a minimum of 6 hours of project time in order to consider the project as complete.

Your second resource is the Missouri 4-H website, at http://4h.missouri.edu. Here you will find many project and volunteer resources. Under the projects tab, you can access all the projects alphabetically. Click on the letter the project begins with, then click on the project. Once there, you will see links to online resources and a list of curriculum. One valuable piece is the project brief. This two-page document lists learning objectives, fair project ideas, demonstration and speech ideas, field trips, etc., and is basically the project in a concise document. These are free and available to download. Nearly every project has a project brief.

Click on the link to volunteers, and you will find these key pieces:
Project Leader Frequently Asked Questions http://4h.missouri.edu/resources/materials/docs/LG788.pdf
Project Leader Tips http://4h.missouri.edu/resources/materials/docs/LG787.pdf

There are many other resources available, and I would encourage you to spend a little time exploring the 4-H website. I know scheduling can be difficult, but doing something is better than doing nothing! Pick a day and time and go with it! Be flexible, but try to get something going as soon as possible.

Thanks for all you do for 4-H! Without you, our program would not be possible!
Clover Kids Corner

Clover Kids Corner provides an activity, information or other materials that Clover Kids leaders can use in planning and implementing experiences that introduce five to seven-year olds to the 4-H concept of learning by doing.

**What you need**

- Terra cotta clay pots
- Acrylic paints
- Valentine stickers
- Paint brushes
- Pencil (With new eraser)
- Plastic terra cotta pot liner
- Pencils
- Spray sealer
- Ribbon
- Newspaper
- Sponge

Lay the newspaper on a work space. First, show the children all the supplies and tell them to think about what they want their finished pot to look like. Paint the inside and the outside of the pot and let it dry. It may need more than one coat to cover it. Decorate the pot. Try different methods: polka dots can be made by dipping the pencil eraser in paint and dabbing it on the pot. Stickers are easy to use. Conversation hearts can be glued on. Use a sponge to add another color on top of the old one. (Get the sponge wet, wring out the water, and dab it into the paint. Wipe off the extra paint on the newspaper. Dap it lightly onto the first color.) When it is all finished, spray with acrylic sealer and let it dry. Put the liner in and fill with a nutritious snack (or conversation hearts!).