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Calendar

JANUARY
12  National 4-H Council Youth in Action Award application deadline
23-25 Minnesota 4-H State Horse Winter Roundup
28  Leader’s Council Meeting

FEBRUARY
1  Helping Hands Grants due to the 4-H Foundation office
19-21 M4-HAVA conference, Willmar
21-22 Northwest BLU, Moorhead

MARCH
21  Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
28  Regional Project Bowl (snow date)

APRIL
11-16 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
25-26 SS&W Leader Certification Trainings: Crookston and Ahlman's in Morristown

JUNE
18-19 Science of Agriculture Response Challenge
20-27 Citizenship Washington Focus
Leader’s Council Meeting
Jan 28th

5:30pm at Courthouse:

Our county 4-H program has been taking part in Growing 4-H Opportunities Together: Volunteers in Vision and Action, a process that has engaged youth and adults in defining the direction a county 4-H program can take to fully contribute to the positive development of young people. A steering committee has determined program priorities, and the next step is to develop action plans to reach our goals.

At the next meeting on January 28th 5:30pm, we will be working in small groups to develop action plans to address priorities. As the action plans are created, we will determine what volunteer structure is needed to carry out the action and will brainstorm possible youth and adult volunteers and partners to support the work.

We hope you will take part in this opportunity to shape the next action steps for our county’s 4-H program. Please contact the County Extension Office with questions.

Northern MN 4-H Project Bowl Invitational

The 4th annual Northern MN 4-H Project Bowl Invitational will take place Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the UMC campus in Crookston MN again. Registration forms are available online at: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/roseau/4-h

Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/northernmn4hprojectbowlinvitational
I have emailed the coaches who’s teams attended last year a couple of weeks ago. If you could forward the information to anyone else that would be interested that would be great.

Any questions you can contact 218-964-5689 or ctorstveit@gvtel.com, Chad Torstveit.

Attention 4-H Families and Alumni – AmeriCorps Positions Available in Fisher, Bemidji, TRF and Roseau

Through this program, tutors are provided complete training, on site mentoring/support, an eleven month paid stipend/living allowance, an educational award of up to $5,645, and opportunities for personal and professional development. Tutors commit to serving for eleven months (full or part-time) at a local school, and may also be eligible for federal student loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care. Tutors must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma/G.E.D and a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien, and available for at least part of the normal school day. Our tutors come from many areas, including recent high school or college graduates, empty nesters, career changers and retirees. Apply online at minnesotareadingcorps.org or minnesotamathcorps.org. Questions can be directed to Anne Demotts atademotts@servemnaction.org or 320-230-0833. The positions available are a Preschool Literacy Tutor, an Elementary Literacy Tutor (K – 3 grades) or a Math Enrichment Tutor (4 – 6 grades).

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Happy New Year! As I reflect on the last year, I am thankful for so many things, and want to share a few thoughts with you.

In November, three members of National 4-H Council’s senior leadership came to spend three days meeting with our staff to learn about the wonderful work we are doing in Minnesota. National 4-H Council’s Innovation & Impact Executive Director Don Mohanlal sent me a thank you note after the visit, expressing how impressed he was with the work we were doing. In it he said, "I have seen the future, and it is
Minnesota 4-H.” This tells me that Minnesota 4-H is on the right track.
We continue to work to grow and improve the 4-H program to ensure that we meet the evolving needs of Minnesota youth, and support the development of their “Head, Heart, Hands and Health.”
And none of it would be possible without you. I would like to thank all of you for your support. Thank you for trusting us with guiding the positive youth development of your children. Thank you for volunteering, for embracing the goals we have set that best serve Minnesota 4-H, and for giving your time and talents so freely and unselfishly.
I am confident that 2015 will be an exciting and rewarding year for Minnesota 4-H and the youth, families and communities that we serve.
Sincerely,
Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate dean and state 4-H director

National 4-H Council Youth in Action Award

National 4-H Council is now accepting applications for the annual Youth in Action Award to be presented at National 4-H Council’s Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 2015. The Youth in Action Award is one of the highest honors a 4-H’er can achieve.

The Award recognizes one remarkable 4-H’er who exemplifies the life-changing impact of 4-H—a young person who demonstrates personal growth, community impact and project excellence through their 4-H experience.

In addition to this great honor, the Youth in Action Award winner will receive:

- Scholarship: A $10,000 scholarship for higher education.
- Public recognition: An all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to be recognized at Council’s Legacy Awards on April 23, 2015. Promotion in the winner’s hometown media as the national winner.
- Executive references: Official reference letters from National 4-H Council executives and corporate supporters.
- A shopping experience: A shopping experience (valued at $1,000) to select attire for the Legacy Awards event.
- Spokesperson opportunities: Opportunities to serve as an official 4-H youth spokesperson through national media and events.

To qualify, applicants should be a 4-H member or recent alumni, ages 16-21, that represent the diversity and passions of 4-H youth nationwide, demonstrate outstanding leadership, showcase the essence of 4-H positivity and possess a proven ability to engage others. More detailed guidelines can be found at www.4-H.org/YouthinAction.

If you know of an outstanding 4-H member that fits this criteria, please encourage them to apply for this distinguished award.

Application deadline is Jan. 12, 2015. Please visit the Youth in Action Award website for information on the past winners.

If you have questions, please direct them to Rachel Mentzer at rmentzer@4-H.org.

Helping Hands Grants: Applications due Feb. 1

Approximately $30,000 will be awarded to Minnesota 4-H groups through the Helping Hands Grant program. Average grant awards are between $200 and $2,000.

Applications are due to the 4-H Foundation office by Feb. 1, 2015 and can be downloaded from their website (z.umn.edu/helping). Questions can be directed to Erin Kelly-Collins at erinkc@umn.edu / 612-624-7667).
4-H Celebration of Agriculture
Feb. 21

On Feb. 21, 2015 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, the Minnesota 4-H Foundation will host the second annual 4-H Celebration of Agriculture beginning at 5 p.m. Please join us in celebrating the abundance of food and fiber produced by Minnesota farmers and support 4-H’s commitment to engaging the next generation of leaders in Minnesota agriculture! For more information, and to RSVP, please call 612-625-2180 or visit the event website at http://z.umn.edu/CelebrateAg.

4-H BLU registrations closing soon!

Registrations for the Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) overnight leadership retreat are closing soon! This year’s BLU theme: “4-H BLU: Tune Into You”, will focus on self-acceptance and acceptance of others. Youth in grades 6 through one year past high school are invited and volunteer chaperones will also be needed, contact your PC if interested! Five BLUs will be held this year in the following locations:

- **Feb. 7-8, 2015** - Central: Elk River - Registrations closed 12/17/14, contact mn4h-state-ambassadors@umn.edu to see if space is still available!
- **Feb. 21-22, 2015** - Northwest: Moorhead - Registrations close 1/12/15
- **Feb. 21-22, 2015** - Southeast: Rochester - Registrations close 1/12/15
- **Feb. 28-March 1, 2015** - Northeast: Duluth - Registrations close 1/12/15
- **Feb. 28-March 1, 2015** - Southwest: Marshall - Registrations close 1/12/15

Additional details are available online at: http://www.4-H.umn.edu/events/blu/

Get ready to chaperone at BLU

4-H'ers will soon be heading off to BLU leadership training, and adult chaperones are critical to their experience. The online training, “Chaperone Policies and Procedures” covers roles, expectations and best practices when chaperoning young people on trips, retreats and events. This training is recommended for adults chaperoning youth at any 4-H program or event (e.g. BLU, YELLO, state fair, state and national trips, interstate exchange trips, etc.)

The training is part of a series of dynamic, interactive 30-minute online training modules to help volunteers build their skills and knowledge from home. These trainings are available to all adult screened volunteers, through mn4honline.com. Check out other online volunteer training topics:

- Creating a Welcoming, Engaging and Encouraging Environment for Youth
- The 4-H Learning Environment
- 4-H Project Leaders: Where the Action Starts!
- Managing 4-H Clubs: A guide for 4-H Club Leaders
- 4-H Financial Management
- Ensuring a Safe 4-H Environment

For a preview of each of the trainings, visit: www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/.

M4-HAVA conference

Registration for the 2015 Minnesota 4-H Adult Volunteer Association (M4-HAVA) conference is now available online at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/volunteer/m4-hava/. The theme for this year’s conference is "4-H Ties it Together." Developed to expand the knowledge and skills of 4-H volunteers and give leaders new ideas for 4-H projects, with workshop topics ranging from beekeeping to quilting to gardening and caring for pigeons. The conference will take place at the Best Western in Willmar, Minnesota, **Feb. 19-21**.

Early bird rate for M4-HAVA members is $124,
including all meals for all three dates, and must be postmarked by Jan. 10. Regular rate for members is $140 (nonmembers, $175).

### 2015 SS&W Leader Certification Trainings

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program Development Committee invites you to attend a leader certification! The committee recommends that leaders attend the entire certification weekend every five years. Now is your chance to attend!

The training is designed for adults and youth (9th grade and older) that lead or would like to lead training in shooting sports or wildlife. Classes will be offered in the disciplines of coordinator, archery, rifle/pistol, shotgun, muzzleloading, and wildlife. This training meets the 4-H project leaders’ requirements for certification and recertification. Although there is range time allocated in the schedule, the majority of the training is classroom work to become an effective instructor, not to practice your own shooting skills.

Two locations this spring!

**April 25-26**: Crookston and Ahlman’s in Morristown

Registration materials will be posted Feb. 1.

### 2015 National 4-H Conference

Minnesota will once again be represented by an outstanding group of young people at the National 4-H Conference in April 11-16 in Washington, D.C. This working conference is designed to increase delegate knowledge, resources, and skills that will empower them to make an impact on their community in a meaningful and genuine way.

This year’s delegation will consist of Anna Brekke, Scott County; Ryan Donkers, Rice County; Hannah Hasbargen, Traverse County; and Heather Weller, East Ottertail County. Youth delegates were selected in December by a panel of University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development staff. The competitive selection process took into consideration the applicant’s application and recommendation/nomination forms. Also considered was the conference call interview which included the applicant’s presentation of a 4-H Youth Development marketing speech and comments on identification of a community issue and an action plan to address the issue.

As part of this experience, delegates will use their knowledge as they return home and practice what it means to become an engaged citizen as they develop and implement a “Taking it Home” community action. For further information, please contact Extension Educator Judith Conway at conw0076@umn.edu.

Additionally, the Center for Youth Development's State Citizenship & Leadership Program Director Jacquie Lonning will serve as youth/adult chair for the National 4-H Conference for the second year.

### Citizenship Washington Focus

The Minnesota delegation will attend Citizenship Washington Focus June 20-27, 2015. Full details about CWF and application procedures can be found at [www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html).

Delegates for this event are chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. Please refer to the website for full details as well as the delegate pre- and post-expectations which includes “CWF: A Call to Action”.

Pre-application materials will be available on the website Jan. 15. The full application will be available on the website beginning Feb. 17. Applications for volunteer chaperones will also be available on Feb. 17.
Minnesota 4-H Salute to Excellence Award winners

Congratulations to Elizabeth Carlson of Kandiyohi County and Kaylinn Stormo of South St. Louis County on winning the 2015 Minnesota 4-H Salute to Excellence Awards.

Liz was selected as the Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer, an award given to individuals who have spent ten or more years as a 4-H volunteer.

Kaylinn was selected as the Volunteer of the Year, an award given to those who have been a 4-H volunteer for ten years or less.

They will be honored at the state level at the 2015 M4-HAVA Conference in Willmar. Winners at the state level go on to compete at the regional and national level. Regional and national honorees will be announced in 2015.

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Winter Roundup

Winter Roundup is an exciting three day, two night conference Jan. 23 - 25, 2015, in Spicer, focused on developing youth and adult leadership in the 4-H horse project. The conference is packed with speakers and educational workshops. Topics cover areas such as developing leadership skills, horse care and showing, horse project areas such as western heritage, Horse Bowl, hippology, speech and demo, applying to the Dan Patch and Youth Leadership Awards and much more!

This conference is geared towards and best appreciated by adults and youth 8th grade and above. For more information and registration materials go to www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/winter-roundup/index.html. Registrations are due by Jan. 9 for the early bird discount.