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Calendar

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

MARCH
21Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
25Leader’s Council Meeting, LOW School
28Regional Project Bowl (snow date)

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

JUNE
18-19Science of Agriculture Response Challenge
20-27Citizenship Washington Focus
**Barn Board Quilt Project**

The Lake of the Woods Quilt Guild is having a barn board quilt project with 4-H. Barn board Quilts are wooden signs that resemble a quilt square. They are usually hung outside on a barn or garage that is visible from the road. Our signs would be displayed at the LOW county fair and then can be taken home for display. The boards are hand painted. We would be working on these barn boards March 4th, March 18th and March 25th at 3:45pm at the Lake of the Woods School high school art room. Attendance at all dates is needed to finish a barn board quilt. If your 4-Hers are interested in making one of these barn boards please register by February 11th 4pm. The cost of this project is at a quart (at minimum larger sizes are welcome too) of exterior latex paint. Again please register by February 11th by calling, emailing, or facebook messaging Aprille at the 4-H office.

A sub-committee consisting of youth and adult volunteers from Lake of the Woods County have been working diligently to make the new changes. All of the changes have met the guidelines laid out by Minnesota 4-H and it is time for the new documents to be presented and voted on for approval by the Leader’s Council.

We are asking all members of the Council to attend the meeting on 3/25, as they will be presented at this time.

A copy of the “New” constitution/by-laws is posted on the county website at [http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/lake-of-the-woods/4-h](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/lake-of-the-woods/4-h) for your review before the meeting. If you would like to request a printed copy or have any questions, please contact Aprille Levasseur, County 4-H Program Coordinator at 634-1511 or levas015@umn.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

**4-H Camp Counselor Training**

Friday, March 27 – Saturday, March 28 at the Northern Pines Camp, Park Rapids MN

Exact schedule is yet to be determined. We will start in the early evening on Friday and conclude in the late afternoon on Saturday.

We are coordinating transportation to this training if you are interested. Transportation will start in Crookston and then route will be determined by location of people that sign up. More information will be sent to participants after the registration deadline – March 2.

**Cost:** $75.00

**Who:** Any 4-H member who is currently in 9th grade or above and has the desire to work with and be a role model for younger 4-H members in a camp setting.

Training will include: roles & responsibilities of camp counselors, ages & stages of youth, managing camper behavior and discipline, risk management, and planning programs.

We Need your vote to approve the new Lake of the Woods County 4-H Leader’s Council constitution/by-Law changes!

**When:** 3/25/15

**Where:** LOW School Art Room

**Time:** 4:30pm

All Minnesota 4-H Organizations are covered under a federal Group Exemption Number (GEN) that was granted to the Regents of the University of Minnesota by the IRS in August 2013. This group exemption status allows Minnesota 4-H federations/councils who have been successfully chartered the authority to use the 4-H name and emblem and to operate as a tax exempt organization which can accept donations and carry out fundraising activities as a non-profit. As a part of the commitment Minnesota 4-H made to secure the GEN, all 4-H Federations/Councils must, by law, adopt and operate under this model constitution/by-laws.
Seeking Camp Counselors for Sand Hill Lake 4-H Camp

Counselor needs to have completed grades 9-12. **Fifteen** counselors will be needed, **6 male** and **9 female** for the camp. Counselors will meet in May (date TBD) and the afternoon of June 18 at camp. Experience at camp is preferred. Camp is June 18-20, 2015 at the Sand Hill Lake Bible Camp near Fosston, MN. Campers have completed grades 3-6.

Find an application on your county 4-H website or contact your local Extension Office. Deadline for applications is March 2.

Sand Hill Lake 4-H Camp!

**Save the Dates** – June 18-20 at Sand Hill Lake Bible Camp near Fosston, MN. Campers must have completed grades 3-6. Registration materials will be available by April 1.

Northwest Minnesota Youth Leadership Award

$500 cash awards presented to young adults between the ages of 17 and 21! Applications must be postmarked by February 20. Your 4-H Program Coordinator has additional details as well as the application.

This award is given by the Red River Valley Development Association to further the higher education of young adults in northwest Minnesota (particularly those in the counties of Becker, Clay, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau and Wilkin). The application requests an essay describing one project the youth was involved in (must be written by the youth), and how leadership skills were used. Additionally, youth must list other activities and their leadership roles in each, whether or not they are in or accepted to school beyond high school, what they are or will major in, and how their plans will enrich life in northwest Minnesota. One letter of recommendation must also be included.

Message from Dorothy

**Dear 4-H families and volunteers,**

This month several hundred youth from across the state will gather to participate in the annual 4-H Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU) youth leadership conferences. Developed and led by Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors, these fun and exciting two-day events are held to help youth learn and practice valuable skills that they will be able to take with them and use throughout their lives. This year’s theme is “Tune into You,” which will focus on self-acceptance and acceptance of others.

Research shows that giving youth opportunities to put their voices into action, and providing them with leadership opportunities and experiences enables them to be producers of their own positive development (Lerner, 2002; Schneirla, 1957). One of the H’s in 4-H stands for “Hands,” as in, “I pledge my hands to larger service.” One of 4-H’s priorities is to help youth develop the leadership skills they need to be of service. 4-H BLU conferences help young people obtain and use leadership and citizenship skills, and find the leaders within themselves to make a positive impact in their families, homes, schools and communities.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate dean and state 4-H director
Access basic enrollment data in 4HOnline

Club leaders and project leaders;

Did you know that you can access basic enrollment data for the youth and adult volunteers in your club or project area(s)?

4HOnline provides authorized leaders with an additional login option, which provides searchable access to enrollment lists, phone numbers, printed reports, mailing labels, email addresses and more.

To learn more, check out the "Volunteer leader access" section of the 4HOnline page: www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline

Re-enroll now!

Youth and volunteers are encouraged to re-enroll now! Not only is active enrollment required for all youth (and adult volunteers) participating in county, regional or state 4-H events, active enrollment ensures that you’ll get the latest and correct information from 4-H staff.

Re-enrollment is a relatively quick process because most of the enrollment information only needs to be reviewed and updated. For more information and user guides, go to www.4-H.umn.edu/4honline. If internet access is not available, a paper based re-enrollment option is available by contacting your county Extension staff.

Second annual 4-H celebration of Minnesota agriculture

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 Minnesota agriculture beginning at 5 p.m. Come celebrate the impact of Minnesota 4-H and agriculture at this gathering of our statewide friends and supporters! For more information, and to RSVP, please call 612-625-2180 or visit the event website at http://z.umn.edu/CelebrateAg.

Scholarships for college-bound 4-H youth

Are you entering college this fall? Did you know that each year the Minnesota 4-H Foundation awards over $20,000 in scholarships to college-bound 4-H'ers? Applications are due April 15, 2015. Visit http://z.umn.edu/sga to learn more. Direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins (erinkc@umn.edu/612-624-7667).

2015 SS&W Leader Certification Trainings

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program Development Committee invites you to attend a 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife 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.

April 25 – 26, 2015

1. UMN and Crookston Gun Club, Crookston, Minnesota
2. SCALE Training Facility, Jordan, Minnesota (new location)

Registration materials will be available Feb. 1 and posted to: www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. Deadline to register is April
10, 2015. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early! All volunteers MUST have successfully completed the background screening process through their county extension office before participating in the training.

Citizenship Washington Focus

Thousands of young people from across the United States come to the National 4-H Youth Conference Center every summer to participate in CWF, a citizenship and leadership program held in Washington, D.C. Through a series of speakers, committee work, field trips and social events, participants learn the importance of citizenship and social responsibility and are given the opportunity to explore, develop, and refine skills needed to be an outstanding leader on both a local and national level.

Dates:
- June 20, 2015: A.M. required pre-conference workshop then depart for Washington, D.C.
- June 27, 2015: P.M. arrive Back in Minnesota

Application:
- Jan. 15, 2015: All pre-application materials available online.
- Feb. 17, 2015: CWF full application materials available online. With a postmark date beginning Feb. 17, all required application materials and $700 down payment due.
- Check with your county 4-H program coordinator if there are other requirements for participation.

More information can be found at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/. Contact Judith A. Conway at conw0076@umn.edu with questions.

National 4-H Conference

It is never too early to start thinking about your Minnesota 4-H older youth who would be a great youth delegate for the 2016 National 4-H Conference. Check out the 2015 National 4-H Conference online at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/. (Please note that dates, age requirements, and post-conference expectations will change for 2016).

Updated material for 2016 National 4-H Conference will be on the website beginning in September 2015. Contact Judith A. Conway at conw0076@umn.edu with any questions.