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Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

Over the last few years, you may have heard or read about how youth need “social-emotional” or “soft” skills to succeed in learning, school, work and life. More and more, the value of these skills - including confidence, self-control, caring, and problem solving – is being examined to understand how they are acquired, and where and how they are being taught.

Youth learn these skills in a variety of environments - at school, in youth programs and at home.

The Search Institute recently released a study called, “Don’t Forget the Families,” which highlights the power of family relationships as a critical, but often neglected, factor in developing these skills. A key finding is that parent-child relationships are 10 times more powerful than race, ethnicity, family composition, and family income in predicting whether children are developing these skills.

I encourage families to explore how you can help youth develop social emotional skills that will prepare them to succeed.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate dean and state 4-H director

**Martin County 4-H Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Rebecca A. Kuehl**

**Club:** Galena 4-H Club

**Past involvement:** I was a Galena 4-H Club member from 3rd grade until I graduated from high school, including serving many years as our club secretary. I participated in numerous county and state fair projects as well as the county dog show. I also enjoyed collaborating with others through Share-the-Fun and Arts-In, at both county and state levels. Later on in college, I was even more involved as a summer intern for Watonwan County 4-H and Faribault County 4-H.

**Favorite project areas:** Global Citizenship, Pets, Dog Show, Club Scrapbook, Club Banner, Community Pride

**How 4-H helped me with my career:**
I am currently an Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator in Communication Studies at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. My experiences in 4-H directly helped prepare me to become a professor. Along the way, 4-H helped me develop strong public speaking skills, through presenting projects at county and state fair levels, as well as presenting at club meetings. These public speaking skills are essential in both teaching at the university level as well as presenting research at national and international conferences. At a young age, 4-H also taught me the importance of collaboration and working well with others, especially in coordinating with other 4-Hers in Share-the-Fun and Arts-In. As a researcher, I now rely on those collaborative skills to build relationships with community partners, to study discourses about women’s health. I was fortunate to be given so many opportunities to grow as a person and citizen through Martin County 4-H!

**Each month we will be featuring a Martin County 4-H Alumni. If you would like to nominate a Martin County 4-H Alumni to be featured in our monthly Spotlight, please contact Kristie at gaals001@umn.edu or 507-238-3116.**

**Welcome, Daneen Silker! Our new Support Staff!**

My name is Daneen Silker and I moved to Minnesota last June from Iowa. I live on a farm south of Blue Earth with my significant other, Dave. We have seven chickens and a boxer named Cy. I have worked with children and young adults for
the last 14 years. I have twin boys who are 21 years old. Brandon attends Iowa State University and is a junior. Gage is in the Air Force and is stationed in Germany with his wife, Ashley. They are expecting my first grandchild in August.

I enjoy gardening, canning, and baking. I like to watch sports including the Gophers, Vikings and the Twins. I am very excited to begin my new journey with the University of Minnesota Extension office and 4-H programs. Some of the things that I am look forward to are the fair; working with the families and being a part of so many different projects.

Daneen started on Monday, February 22. We are excited to have her join our 4-H community! Be sure to stop by the office to introduce yourself and give her a nice welcome!

Auction and Premium Checks

The Auction and Premium Checks have been mailed! We apologize for the delay in getting these out this year due to the office being short-staffed. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding!

Please deposit or cash the checks AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Extension Office CLOSED

March 15

The Martin County Extension Office will be CLOSED on March 15 as the 4-H Program Coordinator and Support Staff will be attending a Regional Training.

4-H Program Coordinator will also be Out of the Office:

- March 15-18 attending trainings and Regional Meetings
- March 28-30, attending Youth & U, the Minnesota 4-H Conference

Martin County 4-H Online Events Calendar

Martin County 4-H now has an online events calendar! This is to help you keep up-to-date on upcoming county-wide, regional, and state events as well as give you a heads-up on our important deadlines. Check it out! You can find the calendar under "Related Links" on our Martin County 4-H webpage or at this link: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed...

You can even add this calendar to your own personal online calendar by clicking on the button labeled, "+Google Calendar" in the bottom right corner of the calendar. This will help you stay even more connected to the great things happening in Martin County 4-H!

Be sure to check this calendar often as it will be updated as events arise!

JOB OPENING: 4-H Summer Program Assistant

We’re accepting applications for our 4-H Summer Program Assistant, which is a temporary/seasonal position, working up to approximately 40 hours per week, for the period of mid-May through August (2016).
Responsibilities and duties include, but not limited to, develop, market, and provide leadership for the 4-H Day Camp Series and youth educational activities, prepare for the County Fair/State Fair, which includes, but not limited to: detailed computer data entry and report generation, preparing documents, flyers, brochures utilizing MSWord, Publisher, and Excel, onsite support for the Martin County Fair. The successful applicant must be able to work flexible hours including some evenings and weekends, and must be available to work longer hours (typically 8-12 hours per day) during the Martin County Fair, which is August 15-21, 2016. Additionally the successful applicant must be available to work during the week of August 22-26, 2016. The hourly rate for this position is $10.00/hour.

Start Date: Mid-May 2016
End Date: August 26, 2016
Hours Per Week: Approximately 40 hours/week

Essential Duties:

- Develop, market, and provide leadership for the 4-H Day Camp Series and youth educational activities
- Preparations for the County Fair/State Fair, which includes, but not limited to:
  - Detailed computer data entry and report generation
  - Preparing documents/flyers/brochures utilizing MSWord, Publisher, and Excel
- Onsite support at the Martin County Fair
- Must be available to work flexible hours including some evenings and weekends as well as longer hours (typically 8-12 hours per day) during the Martin County Fair, which is August 15-21.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

- High School diploma or equivalent and two-year post-secondary education preferred

Knowledge/Skills/Abilities:

- Experience with, and working knowledge of, computers, software, technology and the ability to learn 4-H software systems.
- Detail oriented
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- An interest in/skill in working with young people and adults
- Maturity, leadership ability, good judgment, a sense of responsibility, and the ability to productively work independently as well as part of a team
- 4-H youth development experience (member or volunteer) is a plus

*Any offer of employment is contingent on the successful completion of a background check.

TO APPLY: For required applications, complete job description, or questions please contact the Martin County Coordinator’s Office at 507-238-3124, located at Martin County Courthouse, Room #100, 201 Lake Avenue, Fairmont, Minnesota, 56031. The successful job applicant is subject to completion of background checks satisfactory to the County. You can also obtain a complete job description and required applications from our website at www.co.martin.mn.us.

All required application forms must be delivered or postmarked to the Martin County Coordinators Office by 5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2016.
Ak-Sar-Ben

The Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Stock Show will take place in September. Any 4-H livestock member that is 10 years of age by January 1, 2016 is eligible to participate in the show.

Upcoming Deadlines for Ak-Sar-Ben:
- April 15 – Market Beef DNA DUE to the Martin County Extension Office
- June 15 – Market Swine, Meat Goat, Market Lamb, and Feeder Calf DNA DUE to Martin County Extension Office

The DNA waivers and envelopes are available for pick-up at the Martin County Extension Office. There is a $5 fee for each DNA envelope made payable to "Ak-Sar-Ben." Any unused DNA envelopes that were picked up MUST be returned to the Martin County Extension Office.

Ice Skating Fun! – TIME CHANGE

Galena 4-H Club would like to invite ALL Martin County 4-H’ers to join them for ice skating fun on March 13 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Please remember to dress warmly! With any questions or to confirm your attendance, please contact Joanna Lange at joma580@yahoo.com.

Martin County Fair Cookbook Fundraiser

We have received a request to help raise funds to bring further development and growth to the Martin County Fair through the Martin County Fair Blue Ribbon Cookbook. This 3-ring binder style cookbook is to be filled with our 4-H’ers and their families’ favorite recipes. Each recipe submitted will credit the 4-H’er and their 4-H Club. They would then need your help in selling these cookbooks to your family and friends.

You sell the cookbooks for $20, which will give $11 in profit per book to help the Martin County Fair.

There are incentives in selling the cookbooks!

Grand Prize for most sales (by family):
The family with the most sales will receive two free weekly passes, 20 ride tickets, and 4 passes to sit in the reserved seating at the large concerts.

Other Prizes (by family):
• Over 50 book sales = 1 free weekly pass, 20 ride tickets (1 ticket=1ride)
• 25-49 book sales = 1 free weekly pass, 10 ride tickets
• 10-24 book sales = 10 ride tickets
• 5-10 book sales = 1 free milkshake

First Place 4-H Club Prize: Pizza Party at a 4-H meeting of their choice

The Martin County Fair greatly supports our activities at the Fair, so it would be nice if we could help them in this endeavor. The best part about this particular fundraiser is you would get to contribute to a Fair keepsake!

Recipe Submissions are needed by March 15! You can submit your recipes by emailing them to Abby Shoen at abby.shoen43@gmail.com.

For more details on how to participate, visit: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h/article/martin-county-fair-cookbook-fundraiser
Martin County 4-H: Nature Painting Workshop

Join us to learn the art of painting as you create your very own work of art! Two experienced artists will lead you step-by-step as you develop your artistic skills and create your very own painting of a nature scene! You can then take your completed painting home to display, give as a gift, or exhibit at the County Fair!

**WHO:** 4-H Members in grades 3 and up!

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Cedar Creek Park Shelter House in Fairmont MN

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Since painting can be messy, please wear old clothes that you wouldn’t mind getting paint on. Aprons will NOT be provided.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** $15 per participant*

made payable to "Martin County 4-H"

This fee is greatly subsidized by Martin County 4-H and includes all of the necessary painting supplies as well as your very own canvas.

**REGISTRATION IS DUE BY APRIL 21!**

To register or for more information, contact the Martin County 4-H Office at 507-235-3341 or email gaals001@umn.edu.

You can also find the registration flyer at: [http://www3.extension.umn.edu/.../martin-county-4-h-nature-pa...](http://www3.extension.umn.edu/.../martin-county-4-h-nature-pa...)

*Cost should not be a barrier to those who want to participate. As such, there are scholarships available. Contact the Martin County 4-H Office for more details.

Please Note: This workshop may be canceled if registration numbers are too low. Advanced prior notice will be given.

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4-H Summer Fun!

Martin County 4-H has a variety of summer programming available for ALL youth! 4-H members and non-members are invited to join in on the fun! All of our programs are either FREE or offered at a considerably low rate with scholarships available!

Spread the word!

**Flag Football Adventure Club**

Sponsored by Martin County 4-H Leadership Adventures & Coached by The Hawgs

ALL Youth who have completed grades 4-6 are invited to join the fun!

(You do not have to be a 4-H member to play!)

**PARTICIPATION IS FREE!**

Tuesdays in June & July

(June 7, 14, 21, 28 & July 5, 12, 19, 26)

6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Park in Fairmont

**TO GUARANTEE A SPOT, PRE-REGISTER BY JUNE 3!**

To register, contact Martin County 4-H at 507-235-3341 or email mnext-martin@umn.edu

There is a maximum capacity of 22 players.

**4-H Science Fun!**

Sponsored by HyVee and Martin County 4-H

JOIN US FOR A DAY FILLED WITH ACTIVITIES, EXPERIMENTS, LUNCH, AND MORE!
Martin County 4-H and Fairmont HyVee invite ALL youth who have completed grades K-5 to attend this FREE event!

Friday, June 17, 2016
9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Sylvania Park in Fairmont

PRE-REGISTER for this event by June 3!

To register, contact Martin County 4-H at 507-235-3341 or email mnext-martin@umn.edu

**4-H Day Camp Series: Wild about Wildlife!**

Join us for a series of fun and engaging mornings as we get wild about wildlife! We will explore and learn about the nature and wildlife that surrounds us through exciting experiences and hands-on learning activities! For ALL youth (4-H and non-4-H'ers) who have **completed grades K-2** (as of June 2016).

July 6, 7, & 8, 2016*
8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Sylvania Park in Fairmont

Registration Fee is $5/camp made payable to: Martin County 4-H.

**SPECIAL RATE:** Register for all three days by June 24 and only pay $12!

* Scholarships available.

To register, contact Martin County 4-H at 507-235-3341 or email mnext-martin@umn.edu

*Minimum: 10 youth per registered per camp day

**4-H Day Camp Series: Fine Arts & Crafts**

Explore the multitude of projects available in the world of Fine Arts and Crafts in this two-day workshop series! Come and enliven your inner artist through fun hands-on art activities!

For **ALL** youth (4-H and non-4-H'ers) who have completed grades 3-5 (as of June 2016).

June 9-10, 2016*
8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Sylvania Park in Fairmont

Registration Fee for this series is $15 made payable to: Martin County 4-H

**SPECIAL RATE:** Register by May 27 and only pay $8!

* Scholarships available.

To register, contact Martin County 4-H at 507-235-3341 or email gaals001@umn.edu

*Minimum: 10 youth per registered per camp day

**4-H Fun in the Park!**

Join us to discover the numerous possibilities in 4-H with fun activities, experiments, and snacks! For **ALL** youth (4-H and non-4-H'ers) who have completed grades 1-4 (as of June 2016).

Tuesday, July 12, 2016
1:30pm—4:30 pm
Sherburn City Park, Sherburn

Registration Fee: $5.00*

*FREE with a SPECIAL SERIES RATE REGISTRATION of either the Fine Arts & Crafts OR Wild About Wildlife Day Camp Series!

**REGISTER BY JUNE 24**

To register, contact Martin County 4-H at 507-235-3341 or email mnext-martin@umn.edu
Think 4-H Summer Camp!

Under all this snow are 4-H summer camps just waiting to come alive! Third through sixth graders are invited to come to SW MN 4-H Camps on Lake Shetek (north of Slayton) in June. Campers will chose from wiggly worms, buttons or ribbons with thread, theatre masks, and fun with food. There will be singing around the campfire, canoeing and swimming and so much more. All campers will experience STEM activities and learn team work through games. Camp is June 22-24. The cost for camp is $130, when you register by the May 1 early bird registration deadline.

Martin County 4-H will pay the FULL fee of the early bird registration fee ONLY through the Bring It Back Scholarship.* Non-members are invited to attend at full cost. You can find the camp brochure with further details here: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h/article/think-4-h-summer-camp

Learn sewing skills, explore performance through voice, movement & masks, find out why staying active and eating healthy is important and check out the Red Wigglers who are super composters. 4-H camp could be your most memorable summer activity!

To register, complete and send the registration form in the brochure to the Regional Office address provided, then drop off your Bring It Back Contract and deposit check of $32.50 (made payable to Martin County 4-H) to the Martin County Extension/4-H Office BEFORE May 1!

*You must fulfill all of the requirements stipulated in the Bring It Back Scholarship Form. Failure to do so will result in you having to pay the $130 registration fee in FULL.

Update to Bring It Back Scholarship

The protocols regarding the Bring It Back Scholarship have recently been changed. Participants are now expected to provide a 25% of the registration fee deposit at the time of registration. This payment will be deposited upon receipt and will be reimbursed to the participant upon completion of the Bring It Back Scholarship requirements. If a participant fails to complete the requirements, they will not be reimbursed the deposit amount and will be expected to pay the remainder of the registration fee to the Federation.

For example, if the registration fee for YELLO is $200, you will now be expected to provide a deposit of $50 upon registration. This deposit will then be reimbursed upon completion of the Bring It Back Scholarship requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the timing of this change, this new protocol will NOT be used for 2016 BLU registrations.

If you have questions regarding the Bring It Back Scholarship or if you’re new and do not know what this is, feel free to contact Kristie, 4-H Program Coordinator, at gaals001@umn.edu or at 507-238-3116.

AFA Scholarships Available

Agriculture Future of America is offering community based scholarships in our area for graduating high school students pursuing a four year degree in an agriculture related field.
Qualifications:
- Be a graduating senior from a high school in the designated community
- Be enrolled (or enrolling) in an accredited college of agriculture seeking a bachelor of science degree in agriculture or an agriculture-related major

For more information or to apply, visit http://www.agfuture.org/s/1342/index.aspx?sid=1342&gid=1&pgid=790

Applications are due March 18, 2016.

March Horse PDC Meeting

Martin County 4-H Horse PDC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. We will meet and then view LIVE the State's Horse PDC Webinar (7-8:30 p.m.) together. The webinar will include updates to the 4-H Horse Program including the New Point System that MUST be implemented in 2016

Anyone who is interested in being a part of the Horse Project Development Committee (PDC) can attend! Youth 4-H Members and Adult Volunteers serve on the Horse PDC to determine Horse project area needs, to organize and provide leadership for events or workshops, and to design a yearly plan of action.

Attention Shooting Sports Participants

Shooting Sports practice will take place every Monday night from 7pm to 8pm beginning January 25 until May 9 at the Fairmont Armory, unless otherwise specified.

If you're interested in exploring firearm safety and the importance of conserving Minnesota's natural resources, you should join us!

Martin County 4-H’ers to Attend CWF

Congrats to Chloe Graif and Jazlyn Meyer for being accepted into the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) program, a leadership and citizenship program for high school youth from across the United States, held in Washington D.C. from July 2-9, 2016!

We are so proud to have you represent Martin County 4-H and we can’t wait to see what you bring back from this awesome experience!

Fab 5 and Terrific 10 Score Sheets

The 2016 Fab 5 and Terrific 10 Score Sheets are Available NOW on the Martin County 4-H website under the “Downloads” section: http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/martin/4-h

Start filling in your sheets now and keep track as you progress through your 4-H year!

What are Fab 5 and Terrific 10 Score Sheets? These are simple score sheets you fill out indicating your 4-H involvement for the year. You can get points for attending club meetings, federation meetings, 4-H
workshops, PDC meetings, and etc. You can also get points for giving a demonstration and for every exhibit you bring to the Fair - to just name a few ways to rack up points. The Top 10 scores for the Terrific 10 and the Top 5 Scores for the Fab 5 receive prizes at the Recognition Banquet held in November.

County Wide Community Pride Project

The hog barn at the Fairgrounds needs to get painted. We have two dates available that we will need youth and adult volunteers help on from ALL clubs: Saturday, June 25 and Saturday, July 9 in the morning. The Fair Board will provide the supplies and we provide the help. Discuss these dates at your upcoming meetings to ensure you are able to provide helpers on these days. This job will take a lot of people to complete!

4-H members helping at this event can earn 3 points on the Fab 5 scoresheet and 4 points on the Terrific 10 score sheet.

2015-2016 Federation Schedule

7:00 p.m. at the Martin County Courthouse (unless otherwise specified)

March 14: Fox Lake
April 25: Galena
May 23: Pleasant Prairie
June 27: @ the Martin County Resource Center
*Club Host: Rutland
July 25: @ the Martin County Resource Center
*Club Host: Silver Lake
September 26: Waverly/Westford

PLEASE NOTE:
- 4-H Council meets at 6:00 p.m. prior to each Federation meeting (unless otherwise specified)
- Club host: give a club update & have club member(s) give a demonstration.
- If a proposed agenda is absent of action items, the scheduled meeting may be canceled at the discretion of the Program Coordinator. Advance notice will be given in these circumstances.

SAVE THE DATE: Presentation Day!

4-H Presentation Day is on Thursday, July 21st at Five Lakes Shopping Centre in Fairmont, MN.

The following project areas will be judged on this day:
- Clothing (Clothes You Make & Clothes You Buy)
- Fashion Revue
- Performing Arts
- Demonstration
- Food Review

PLEASE NOTE: Non-Garment projects will be judged with other General Exhibits on the Monday of the County Fair.

Email Address Updates

Please take the time to check your email to get all pertinent information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and 4-H updates. We utilize email to continue to use 4-H and Extension dollars wisely.

Also, please let us know if you’ve changed your email address recently or need to add
another frequently checked email to our list. Please email mnex3-martin@umn.edu with any updates.

Are you at college?

Would you like to receive 4-H notices and newsletters while you are at college? If so, please send us your college address (including email) and we will be happy to send your mailings to you.

Severe Weather Reminder

We would like to remind you that all county 4-H meetings (as well as most club meetings) will be postponed or cancelled when there is threatening weather. We will do our best to cancel/postpone meetings at least two hours before their scheduled start time.

Announcements will be made on KSUM 1370 AM/KFMC 106.5 FM, and also by email. Remember that weather conditions do vary from one side of the county to the other, so please use your own judgment in deciding if traveling is safe for your family. We always welcome your calls if you are concerned about the weather and we will do our best to inform you well in advance of any cancellations.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding that safety comes first!

County 4-H Committees

All Junior and 4-H Leaders are invited to be on the following committees: Livestock-Auction, Chaperones, Finance, Food Stand, Presentation and Clothing/Performing Arts Day, Scholarships, Exhibit Building, and Policy Committee. As a member of these committees, you will assist in developing policy and programming for the 2014-2015 year! What a wonderful way to get involved!

Contact the Martin County Extension Office if you would like to join any of these committees. We’ll also have sign-ups available at the Fall Council Meetings.

Project Development Committees

Project Development Committees (PDC) are developed to provide leadership, oversight, and planning in specific project areas within 4-H. They are typically made up of a combination of older youth and adult leaders. We currently have a Horse PDC, Poultry PDC, Clothing & Fashion Revue PDC, and more! If you wish to have your project area form a PDC or wish to join/receive future communications on an existing PDC, let me know at gaals001@umn.edu.

Enrollment/Re-enrollment: Be sure to get this taken care of ASAP!

The process is quick and easy; even families with multiple youth should be done in 10 minutes or less. To enroll or re-enroll just visit mn.4HOnline.com! Re-enrolling early ensures that critical communications will be received, especially as it relates to deadlines and project specific information. Detailed information about online enrollment and re-enrollment is available here: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/4honline/
As part of enrolling or re-enrolling, youth, their parents and adult volunteers will all be agreeing to the Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct, which is available for review in its entirety, along with other policy and authorization statements here (http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/policies/) or by contacting your local Extension office.

If you are not yet an adult volunteer but are willing to share your time and talents to make a difference, 4-H needs you! The first step to becoming an adult 4-H volunteer is to complete the volunteer application process: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/volunteer/

REMINDER TO CLUBS: With the new Safety of Minors policy, there must be TWO SCREENED ADULT VOLUNTEERS at any youth 4-H activity! To ensure your club’s activities can go as planned, you will want to be sure you get the adults involved in your club screened! Please encourage and send this link to the adults in your club to get this accomplished: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/volunteer/

Martin County 4-H is on Facebook

A Martin County 4-H Facebook page has been created to keep 4-H members, families, and volunteers with Facebook profiles up-to-date on 4-H activities and events in Martin County. Find the and “like” the page on Facebook to receive notifications on Martin County 4-H!

You can find the page by searching, “University of Minnesota Martin County 4-H,” on Facebook.

Remember, all users are to communicate with respect, representing 4-H well. If something inappropriate is posted to the wall, the administrators have the authority to delete the post and/or block the person posting, if necessary.

Please Note: No one is required to create a Facebook profile. The information provided on this Facebook page will also be distributed to 4-H members and volunteers through traditional communication means (e.g. email, mail, phone, and etc.). This is just another way to receive information specific to Martin County 4-H.

2016 Andrea Ruesch 4-H Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Andrea Ruesch Scholarship.

The Family of Andrea Ruesch established a 4-H scholarship with the Minnesota 4-H Foundation in memory of her dedication and contributions to the Minnesota 4-H program. The focus of this scholarship is on demonstrated learning through hands-on experience and using what you have learned to help others (youth leadership). A minimum of four scholarships of $1,000 each will be awarded annually in a nine county region. The scholarship application materials are available on the county Extension website under 4-H downloads section at www.extension.umn.edu/county/martin or the MN 4-H Foundation http://z.umn.edu/sga
Who is eligible: Be a high school senior or first year college student currently enrolled in 4-H in one of the following nine counties: Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock and Watonwan (Due to Andrea’s 4-H experiences as a youth and adult, when all else is equal, preference will be given to youth from the following counties: Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson and Nobles).

- Be active in 4-H leadership roles
- Be continuing your education at a post-secondary institution
- Demonstrate passing grades in high school
- Submit a current photo of yourself; it will not be returned

What: Applicants must submit the following:

- Typed application (two pages). You may add up to one additional page of
- Supplemental information; no more than three pages total.
- 4-H story (one to two typed page(s), double spaced, 12 point font).
- Two typed letters of recommendation.
- A copy of your high school transcript or unofficial college transcript.
- One individual photo. The photo will be used for publicity if you receive the scholarship; it will not be returned.

When: Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 7, 2016. The scholarship recipients will be announced in April 2016.

Contact: Sharon Leopold at 372-3900 ext 3901, leopo008@umn.edu with questions regarding the scholarship or the application process.

2016 SS&W spring Leader Certification Trainings: Two sites!

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 23-24, 2016
St. Mary’s Church and Kanabec County Gun Club, Mora

April 23-24, 2016
Worthington Regional Office, Worthington

Registration materials will be available online Feb. 1 at at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. Deadline to register is April 8, 2016. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

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, 2016. Visit the Minnesota 4-H Foundation
Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Awards: Due April 1

The Red Wagon Awards honor young people in grades 6-12 in Minnesota that have shown resilience and overcome obstacles to achieve academic gains, give back to their community and grow to become leaders among their peers.

In 2016, the Alliance will be honoring three Minnesota youth and one youth-led community service club, each nominated by caring adults, peers or partners in their local community. Each individual winner will receive a $500 education scholarship, and the winning youth service group will receive $500 to support the work of their group. Any young person or youth-led service group in grades 6-12 in Minnesota is eligible for nomination.

The nomination form is available online through April 1.

The award winners will be honored at the 2016 Alliance fundraiser and Red Wagon Awards celebration event on June 23 at Macalester College. For nomination criteria and additional information about the Red Wagon Awards, visit mnyouth.net/work/red-wagon-awards/.

Youth Day at the Capitol with Minnesota 4-H!

Enrolled Minnesota 4-H members are invited to attend a Youth Day at the Capitol (YDAC) event with the Minnesota Alliance with Youth from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016! The YDAC will provide both training and engagement opportunities for youth in grades 6-12 to participate in the legislative process. Screened volunteer chaperones will also be needed. The application process will open on Feb. 18, and the deadline to apply is March 11. Additional details are available at 4-h.umn.edu/events/youth-day-at-the-capitol.

Presidential Inauguration Focus

Minnesota 4-H will be selecting a group of 50 youth from across the state to attend the 2017 presidential inauguration in January. The application material will be posted in early March and will be due in mid-April, with selection occurring in May. This will be a competitive application process, and open to Minnesota 4-H members in grades 9 through one year past high school, as of January 2017. More information will be posted Mar. 1 at http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration.

Making Clubs Better

Quality is one of the most important issues in youth programs. High quality youth programs are related to having a positive impact on the development of young people and 4-H clubs and activities have a great responsibility for experiences they provide.

The Pyramid of Youth Program Quality has four parts. In an interactive environment youth are partnering with adults on a variety of experiences, involved in small groups within their clubs, have a feeling of belonging and lead and mentor other youth.

- Are youth leading the ideas and activities of the club or project with support from adults who are able to sit back and let the youth take the lead?
- Are some of the activities and projects happening in smaller groups instead of with the entire club?
• Are member’s names being used to make them feel like they belong and are all members ideas sought out, even the quietest of youth?

• Do the older youth mentor the younger members through project support, youth leadership opportunities and/or inviting them to be part of an event?

4-H clubs can improve the quality of the experience for youth by focusing on just one or two areas! Please look over the pyramid and refer to it before, during and after your 4-H club meets in this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

• 7 Andrea Ruesch Scholarship Application Due

• 11 Summer Program Assistant Applications Due

• 11 Youth Day at the Capitol application deadline

• 13 Ice Skating, 1-2:30 pm (note time change)

• 14 Council & Federation Meetings

• 15 Martin County Fair Cookbook Recipes Due

• 17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls

• 19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls

• 22 Horse PDC Meeting, 6 pm, Courthouse

• 29 Youth Day at the Capitol

APRIL

• 1 Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award nomination deadline

• 2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date

• 7 County livestock PDC training webinar

• 9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.

• 15 Minnesota 4-H Foundation college scholarship applications due

• 15 Ak-Sar-Ben Market Beef DNA Due

• 16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids

• 21 Nature Painting Workshop Registration Due

• 23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora and Worthington

• 25 Council & Federation Meetings

MAY

• 1 SW MN 4-H Camp Early Bird Discount Registration Deadline

• 7 Nature Painting Workshop, 9-11:30 am (registration due by April 21)

• 15 Animal ID deadline

• 15 2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due
JUNE

- 23 Council & Federation Meetings

June 7, 14, 21, 28 & July 5, 12, 19, 26 – Flag Football Adventure

- 9 & 10 Fine Arts & Crafts Day Camp Series, 8:30-11:30 am, Sylvania Park, Fairmont

- 15 Ak-Sar-Ben DNA Due for Market Swine, Meat Got, Market Lamb, Feeder Calf

- 17 4-H Science Fun, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Sylvania Park, Fairmont

- 22-24 SW MN 4-H Summer Camp, Lake Shetek

- 25 Hog Barn Painting Community Pride

- 27 Council & Federation Meetings

JULY

- 2-9 Citizenship Washington Focus

- 6, 7, 8 Wild About Wildlife! Day Camp Series, 8:30 -11:30 am, Sylvania Park, Fairmont

- 9 Hog Barn Painting Community Pride

- 12 4-H Fun in the Park!, 1:30-4:30 pm, Sherburn City Park, Sherburn

- 21 Presentation Day

- 25 Council & Federation Meetings