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Calendar

OCTOBER
3-4 SS&W Leader Certification, Palisades, MN
5-11 National 4-H Week
8 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD)
20 4-H Volunteer and Leader Training
24 Awards Banquet

NOVEMBER
18 National 4-H Conference application deadline
19 Get Green – LOW School
19 Leader’s Council – 5 pm
22 Holiday Extravaganza

FEBRUARY
21-22 Northwest BLU, Moorhead, MN

APRIL
6-11 National 4-H Conference
Fall Volunteer and Leader Training

Oct 20th - 5pm at the LOW Courthouse. Everyone is welcome to join us in this fun filled session where new and exciting 4-H activities will be unveiled.

Awards Banquet

Oct 24th - 7pm at the 1st Lutheran Church, pot luck deserts.

Fruit, Meat and Cheese Sale

Oct 24th the Fruit, Meat and Cheese packets will be available to all sellers. Remember this is one of the major fundraisers for us each year and top seller prizes are awarded.

Get Green

November 19th - 3pm at the LOW School. Each club is invited to showcase their activities from the past year provide a short game, snack or craft and hopefully recruit some new members.

Leader’s Council Meeting

November 19th 5pm at the LOW School.

Holiday Extravaganza

November 22nd 2pm at the LOW School 4-H will again be helping with crafts and assisting Santa.

National 4-H Week: #iam4H

National 4-H Week Oct. 5-11 provides a great opportunity to put 4-H in the spotlight! 4-H families and volunteers will participate in events across the state to celebrate and recognize all of the ways youth are learning and leading in 4-H.

This year, national 4-H has created the #iam4H social media campaign to help spread the word.

During 4-H Week, post a picture of yourself with an #iam4H sign on the Minnesota 4-H Facebook page, your county 4-H Facebook pages, or via twitter using @MN4H.

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. Attached is a flyer if anyone has an upcoming event, and would like to help promote the Invitational. This email is just to get the date out to everyone, registration forms and question forms will be sent out in November.

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 me at 218-964-5689 or ctorstveit@gvtel.com.

Chad Torstveit

NORTHERN LEADERSHIP RETREAT: So new – it’s yet to be named!!

October 18-19, 2014, Sand Hill Lake Bible Camp (Near Fosston)

Northern Leadership Retreat is an opportunity for youth grades 7+ to learn leadership skills, learn and practice service, plus gather and have fun with people from nearby counties. If your county requires ambassador training, this would fulfill that requirement.
Cost is $65 and includes meals, lodging, and program fees. Check with your local county office for Scholarship information (if available). Please make checks payable to U of M (payment is non-refundable). To register, please contact your local county office. **Deadline for registration and payment is Friday, October 10th**

Start time is 1PM on Saturday October 18 and departure time is 2PM on Sunday October 19. A follow-up communication will come out before to give a packing list, schedule, and any last-minute information.

### Making 4-H MORE Fun!
**Annual Fall Volunteer Training**

Young people stay in 4-H because it’s fun! Find out how to create vibrant 4-H experiences that will make members want to keep coming back. The statewide fall volunteer training is for all 4-H youth & adult volunteers in clubs and county-wide groups and programs, including PDC’s, Federations, Leader’s Council and others. At least one volunteer from each club needs to plan on attending, but you are encouraged to come as a team of youth and adults.

Participants will dig into ideas and activities to get 4-H'ers engaged and excited. Discover "grab and go" resources that are available in your county and region to add fun to your 4-H club, project, afterschool or group gatherings. Resources will include 4-H club ideas, healthy living, animal science, science, and more.

**You will leave this training with:**
- A toolkit of ready-to-use ideas to get kids involved in fun!
- Ideas from other volunteers on what works for them.
- A plan to increase the fun in your 4-H group.

**Area trainings are planned for:**

- October 5, 3:30-5:30 pm, Riverside Lutheran Church, 17989 State Hwy 89, Wannaska
- October 6, 6-8 pm (light meal at 6 pm), 101 North Main Ave, Thief River Falls
- October 23, 6:30-8 pm (light meal at 6 pm), Family Service Center, 715 11th St. N., Moorhead
- November 6, 6:30-8 pm (light meal at 6 pm), Courthouse, 124 Langevin Ave, Red Lake Falls
- November 24, 6:30-8 pm (light meal at 6 pm), Courthouse, 208 E Colvin Avenue, Warren

Additional locations are also being scheduled. These times and dates don’t work for you? Volunteers are welcomed at any location. Visit the website to find other trainings near you www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/training-2014. There is no cost, but registration is requested by contacting the County Extension Office three days prior to the training.

### 4-H Volunteer Corner

**Trained Volunteers – “The Competitive Edge in Youth Recruitment and Retention”**

Fall marks the start of the new school year. Along with it comes the opportunity to enroll in out-of-school organizations and program opportunities.

Times have drastically changed in the “world” of out-of-school youth programs. A few decades ago in many communities, out-of-school opportunities were limited to school sports, as well as faith-based youth groups and organizations such as 4-H and Scouts. Today, out-of-school programs have become a highly competitive market with youth and parents having to carefully pick and choose from a seemingly unlimited list of programs and organizations.

As parents and youth “shop” for a youth program, they assess the quality of the program based on the following questions: Is it fun? Is the learning environment safe? Are caring adults leading the program? Are there educational opportunities that appeal to the child’s interest? Finally, will the child experience a sense of belonging? Youth organizations that are highly proficient at insuring a quality learning...
environment have a competitive edge not only in recruiting new members but also in retaining current members.

Trained volunteers who apply what they have learned make all the difference. In the Minnesota 4-H Program, training comes in a variety of topics and formats. Interactive 30-minute online training modules will help volunteers build their leadership skills and knowledge from home. Explore the variety of training topics.

www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/volunteer/online-training/

The 2014 Volunteer Training Topic: “Making 4-H More Fun!” is offered as a face-to-face training for each county. An article with more information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

As we begin the new 4-H year, remember:
Positive youth development begins with trained volunteers.

Patrick Jirik is an Extension Educator working with Volunteer Systems based out of the Rochester Regional Extension Office.

**Message from Dorothy**

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

It’s hard to believe that fall is here! We’ve had another wonderful and successful summer of county and state fairs where we saw the learning and accomplishments of thousands of 4-H’ers from across the state.

This month, we will celebrate National 4-H Week Oct. 5-11. 4-H families and volunteers will participate in events in your counties to recognize all of the ways youth are learning and leading in 4-H.

Minnesota 4-H’ers will also join millions of young people to become scientists for the day on 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) on Oct. 8, 2014. The goal of the event is to spark an interest in science, technology, engineering and math, and get youth excited about science, which can lead to future college degrees and careers in science. This year’s 4-H NYSD experiment is Rocket to the Rescue! In light of the recent natural disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan, this year youth participating in 4-H NYSD will design and build an aerodynamic food transportation device that can deliver a payload of nutritious food to disaster victims! The experiment will help youth learn engineering concepts, develop math skills, learn about nutrition and help solve a relevant, global issue.

The 4-H NYSD is an important part of Minnesota 4-H’s priority to spark an interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and provides a great opportunity to engage new audiences of youth in our 4-H STEM programs. It’s also time for 4-H youth to choose what they want to explore and learn about in 4-H for the next year. Discovering what sparks their interest is an essential element in building a passion for life-long learning.

I hope you take advantage of these opportunities to recognize the 4-H’ers in your county and their accomplishments from the past year, and encourage and support them as they set their goals for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate Dean and State 4-H Director

**National 4-H Conference**

The 4-H events website contains new and updated information regarding the 2015 National 4-H Conference. An informational brochure, application materials, recommendation forms, and insight into the fall 2014 selection process can be found at this site. Application deadline includes a Nov. 18, 2014, postmark date. See URL at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events.

If you are 4-H member that meets age requirements and have portrayed leadership qualities at the county, regional and/or state level, please consider talking with your program coordinator and apply for this national leadership opportunity. Other qualifications are
listed on the website. If you need further information, please contact Judith A. Conway at conw0076@umn.edu.

Citizenship Washington Focus

Can you see yourself in Washington, D.C. next summer? Do you want to expand your knowledge on citizenship and have an opportunity to practice citizenship back home? Be sure to check out the 4-H events website on Oct. 22 and see if Citizenship Washington Focus is for you. Website URL found at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/events/.

Online enrollment for 4-H families

Enrollment for the new 4-H year is now open and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to go to 4HOnline to enroll/re-enroll both youth members and adult volunteers. The process is quick and easy; even families with multiple youth should be done in ten minutes or less. Re-enrolling 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 at: www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/4honline/.

Youth, their parents and adult volunteers, as part of enrolling or re-enrolling, 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 at www.4-H.umn.edu/policy or by contacting your local Extension office: www.4-H.umn.edu/county.