Executive Committee & Leaders Council

Two meetings are planned for Monday, November 9.

At 7:00 p.m., the Executive Committee will meet, followed by the Leaders Council at 8:00 p.m.

Please plan on attending the 4-H Leaders Council meeting as the topics of budgets, scholarships and Constitution and Bylaws will be areas of discussion and decision making for the 2015-16 4-H year.

If you want your voice heard or have input on these topics please be in attendance. Both meetings will be in the Historic Courthouse Boardroom.

Club Charters due November 13

Club Charters with all financial reports and signatures are due to the Extension Office by Friday, November 13 (or the Nov 9 Council Meeting).

The simplified checklist handed out with the charters at the September Council meeting makes completing the charter easier. DOUBLE CHECK THAT ALL SPOTS FOR SIGNATURES ARE FILLED IN WHEN CHARTERS ARE HANDED IN.
Who Is That Guy?

Hello, hello! Introductions are in order, I suppose, as I am the new voice in the 4-H office. The name is Nathan Braaten. I grew up in the Pope County area on the family dairy farm and was an active member in the Lakeview 4-H club.

After high school graduation, I attended the University of Minnesota Morris where I majored in English, Speech Communications and Secondary Education. I also served as the Stevens County summer 4-H intern for two years.

With college degrees firmly in hand I disappeared into the world of public education for fifteen years. I taught Senior English and Sophomore Speech Communication while also directing plays, coaching the speech team and working in the spring with the trap team. While teaching was enjoyable, the classroom felt very constraining and I'm the type of person who likes to get out and stretch my legs.

So, who am I? That's a very good question. I have many diverse interests. Since it is fall, every weekend and every chance I get you will find me in a slough or along the shores of a lake hunting waterfowl with my Chesapeake companion Storm. In the winter, I build model aircraft - a carryover from my involvement in the Aerospace project. The summer finds me doing various things outside; working on decoys, fishing and traveling.

I anticipate meeting you, working with you and generating new ideas with you for the direction of 4-H this upcoming year. Perhaps the perfect opportunity for this will be at the upcoming Achievement Program. Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Nathan Braaten

Plan to attend the Achievement Program

Hard to believe that another year is coming to a close - the Fairs are done and the crops are coming off the fields. 2015, where did you go? Before we usher in the New Year, it's important to recognize where we have been the past year and what was accomplished.

Every 4-H family is cordially invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Awards and Achievement Program.

When – Saturday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.
Where – Browerville Community Center

Refreshments will be served after the program. Come celebrate the accomplishments of our 4-Hers and meet the new Program Coordinator.

Fall Volunteer Training

The fall volunteer training “All Together, Not the Same” is planned for Monday, December 14, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the board room of the Historical Courthouse in Long Prairie.

Heidi Haugen will conduct the training which focuses on integrating principles of positive youth development with diversity and inclusion practices and how to apply them to local 4-H clubs.

Past practice has been to have one volunteer from each club attend the training - this year it would be great to see two volunteers from each club attend. Expect more information on this topic in the coming weeks.

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

November is a time when we reflect and give thanks for the friends, family and communities that support us and give meaning to our lives.
I would like to thank each of you for supporting 4-H and helping make a positive difference in the lives of Minnesota youth.

Without the contributions of parents and volunteers, 4-H would not be able to provide the important learning experiences that guide youth in exploring new interests, developing new skills and finding their spark.

I give thanks for you each and every day.

Sincerely,

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

Minnesota 4-H Week of Thanks

4-H families, volunteers and supporters are invited to join our 2nd annual Minnesota 4-H Week of Thanks November 18-25. Take a photo holding this sign (http://z.umn.edu/4hwot) and share it via Facebook, Twitter or Instagram during the week leading up to Thanksgiving. Be sure to include the hashtags #ThankYou #MN4H so we can see all your fabulous photos! The 4-H Week of Thanks is sponsored by the Minnesota 4-H Foundation. Please direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins at mailto:erinkc@umn.edu.

Youth in Action Awards

National 4-H Council’s Youth in Action Awards recognize exceptional 4-H’ers who epitomize 4-H youth empowerment and leadership. It is a life changing experience!

Winners receive a $5,000 educational scholarship and the opportunity to serve as a 4-H youth spokesperson. Counties of winning youth also earn a $5,000 grant.

Register here: nd4h.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/2016_YIA_Webinar_Registration.html.

For qualifications, application rules, and information on past honorees, visit the Youth in Action Awards website at n4h.convio.net/site/R?i=_HMmPFnxzI3Y/MVzR-6NCQ.

Applications must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. EST on Monday, November 30.

National 4-H Conference

Are you recognized as a youth leader in your county programs? Have you experienced leadership opportunities outside of your county? Minnesota will send four youth delegates to Washington D.C. in April 2016 with selection based on qualifications, contents of delegate nomination/recommendation forms and interview. All information is outlined on the 4-H events website under National 4-H Conference at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/national-conference/index.html. Deadline to apply is November 19.

Citizenship Washington Focus

Minnesota youth delegates will be heading to Washington D.C. for Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) leaving on July 2, 2016 and returning to Minnesota on July 9. CWF is a week-long 4-H citizenship program that takes place at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Participants will learn from and meet young people from across the nation, strengthen their civic engagement understanding and skills, experience Washington D.C., and learn how to develop and implement a CWF Call to Action plan upon returning home.

Information about this great experience can be found on the 4-H events website under Citizenship Washington Focus at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html. You will find a flyer and information regarding the application process.

Pre-registration materials will be found on this website beginning January 15 with full application
materials available February 17. This is a first-come first-served application process. Check with your county program coordinator to find out if there are any additional county requirements for this experience.

Changes to Volunteer Re-enrollment Forms

As you are re-enrolling this fall, you might notice a change to volunteer re-enrollment forms and in 4HOnline. New this program year, we are asking adult volunteers to provide us with the same health information 4-H youth provide us during the enrollment process. In the past, a separate form was used to collect this information in conjunction with special events. To make things easier, you can now share this information once and it will be accessible when needed as you travel outside of your county for any 4-H related experiences. While this information is not required for individuals who will not travel outside of their county in their role as a 4-H volunteer, it is recommended as a best practice to ensure the safety of all of our volunteers. Many individuals travel to neighboring counties for 4-H club/group activities, regional events and volunteer training in addition to state events like YELLO or state fair.

If you have already completed your enrollment paperwork for the year, you may go into your records in 4HOnline and update your information to include the health fields. If you have not yet re-enrolled, you may share your information on the 4-H re-enrollment form.

4-H Volunteer Corner

Ensuring a safe 4-H environment

What makes some youth programs better than others? The answer is that high-quality youth programs ensure a safe environment, which is defined as a place where everyone feels physically and emotionally safe. Physical safety refers to an environment that is free of hazards that can cause bodily harm. Emotional safety refers to an environment that is respectful, welcoming and values each individual. In order for youth to have a quality experience, 4-H volunteers must first ensure that young people feel safe and supported.

To learn more, view Ensuring a Safe 4-H Environment: www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/. This online training offers valuable information on how to create a 4-H environment that is physically and emotionally safe.

Calendar

NOVEMBER
5  N Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Heart of Community, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
9  Executive Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m.
9  Leaders Council meeting, 8:00 p.m.
10 N Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Heart of Community, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
13 Club charters due
18-25 MN 4-H Week of Thanks
19 National Conference application deadline
21 Achievement Program, 7:30 p.m.
30 Youth in Action awards application deadline

DECEMBER
3  N Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Heart of Leadership, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
4  National service learning emcee deadline
8  N Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Heart of Leadership, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
14 Fall Volunteer Training, Historic Courthouse, Long Prairie, 7:00 p.m.