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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.

The Search Institute has created a useful booklet called "Bringing Developmental Relationships Home: Tips and Relationship Builders for Families," with activities and tips that families can use to help youth develop these important skills and strengths: http://www.search-institute.org/downloadable/SearchInstitute-DontForgetFamilies-Activities-10-13-2015.pdf.

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

DATE CHANGE!! Summer Camp 2016 at Camp Patterson!!!!

The 2016 4-H Summer Camp dates have been changed! We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused!!

(Note: If the date of your county camp does not work, you can always attend a different session).

Youth Camp: Grades 3-6
June 13-15: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet
June 15-17: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca
June 20-22: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley

Teen Camp Grades 6-8
June 22-24: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, and Waseca.

You won't want to miss out on camp 2016! It will be three packed days full of fun activities and adventures! Camp is located at Camp Patterson on Lake Washington in Madison Lake, MN. For details and camp registration forms click on the links below. Save the date on your calendar and join us for summer camp!

Youth Camp Session 1
Teen Camp

CAMP COUNSELORS – DATE CHANGE FOR CAMP PATTERSON

If you applied to be a camp counselor please note the date change.

Youth Camp: Grades 3-6
June 13-15: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet
June 15-17: Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, Waseca
June 20-22: Carver, Scott, McLeod, Sibley

Teen Camp Grades 6-8
June 22-24: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Scott, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Steele, and Waseca.

If you have problems with these dates please contact your local Extension office.

Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota

At our January livestock committee meetings, we had Rochelle Koberoski, farm manager of the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota come and speak with us about opportunities for our 4-H'ers. Here is a little info to share with all of you:

Farm Animal Experience: Would you like your 4-H animal to be on display at The Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota? Our outdoor play area and farm yard will be opening late in April and we are looking for farm animals to come stay with us! Sheep, calves, ponies, goats...we’d love to have them! Your animal can stay in a 12’ x 12’ pen, which can be enlarged if needed and can stay a week or longer, depending on your needs. We provide straw for bedding and will care for your animals while they are here. The owner is responsible for providing feed or hay. 4-H members would be encouraged to talk with visitors about their animal at some point during their stay. Give us a call and we can talk about details and answer any questions you may have!

Garden Opportunities: If your club is interested in a service project or a project for the fair, we will an opportunity for you to adopt a garden! We will have raised vegetable garden beds, along with a crop plot with soybeans and corn and small beds of oats, wheat and alfalfa. We are in the planning phase now so requests would be appreciated as soon as possible. Contact Rochelle at 386-0279 or rochelle.koberoski@cmsouthernmn.org

Web site: www.cmsouthernmn.org

Educational Group Visits: The Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota welcomes groups that would like to visit and explore an educational program along with free play-time. Check out our web site for more information or call Mia at 386-0279.

Tri-County Fair Board Meeting March 14th

The Spring meeting of the Tri-County Fair Board will be held on Monday, March 14th at 6:00pm at the Pizza Ranch meeting room in Mankato. Please let Amanda know if you cannot attend.

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.
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/.

Camp Counselor Training
April 2nd

The first session of Camp Counselor Training will be held on Saturday, April 2nd from 9am-3:00pm at the Courthouse in Mankato. All counselors are expected to attend! More information will come as we get closer.

LQAE – Livestock Assurance & Ethics Training- April 12th

Blue Earth and Nicollet County will be hosting their LQA&E training on Tuesday evening, April 12th from 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Government Center in Mankato. Notices have gone out to all 4-H'ers who need this training. Although, if you aren’t re-enrolled for this 4-H year, we haven't notified you, so please get re-enrolled for the year. If you aren’t sure if your child needs LQA&E this year or not, please contact the Extension Office to find that out. Please RSVP for LQA&E by calling or emailing the Extension Office at 507-304-4325.

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 website (http://z.umn.edu/sga) to learn more. Direct questions to Erin Kelly-Collins (erinkc@umn.edu/612-624-7667)

Spring County Fair Clean Up
April 16th

We’ll be partnering with the Blue Earth County Fair Board for our 1st Annual Spring County Fair Clean up on Saturday, April 16th. Please mark your calendars now and save this date. More information will come as we get closer.

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 [www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/](http://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!

### 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](http://z.umn.edu/cwfinauguration).

### Are you on Facebook?

Have you “liked” the Blue Earth County 4-H Facebook page? SEVERAL photos have been posted recently from all aspects of the Blue Earth County Fair and the Minnesota State Fair! We hope you’ll become a “fan” of the page and keep up to date on happenings there!

### Dates to Hold on your Calendars

**County Fair – July 26**
- General Project Entry Day

**County Fair – July 27**
- Livestock Check In Day

**County Fair – July 28-July 30**

**County Fair – July 31**
- Livestock Release

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March**

- 5 Regional Project Bowl, Foley
- 11 Youth Day at the Capitol application deadline
- 12 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings
- 14 Tri-County Fairboard Meeting, 6 p.m., Pizza Ranch, Mankato
- 17-19 M4-HAVA 2016 Annual Conference, Fergus Falls
- 19 Regional Project Bowl, Bemidji
- 19 Regional Project Bowl, Redwood Falls
- 29 Youth Day at the Capitol

**April**

- 1 Minnesota Alliance with Youth Red Wagon Award nomination deadline
- 2 Regional Project Bowl, Snow date
- 2 Camp Counselor Training, Mankato
- 9-14 National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 14 LQA&E Training, Mankato
- 16 Spring County Fair Clean Up
- 16 State Project Bowl, Sauk Rapids
- 17 County livestock PDC training webinar
- 23-24 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification training, Mora & Worthington
### May

15  Animal ID deadline  
15  2016 4-H Rube Goldberg Challenge registration due  

### June

13-15  Session I 4-H Youth Camp – *(Date Change)*  
15-17  Session II 4-H Youth Camp – *(Date Change)*  
20-22  Session III 4-H Youth Camp – *(Date Change)*  
22-24  Teen Camp *(Date Change)*  

### July

2-9  Citizenship Washington Focus  
26  General Project entry day  
27  Livestock Check In Day  
28-30  Blue Earth County Fair  
31  Livestock Release  

### August

24  Livestock entered at State Fair  
24-28  Livestock encampment at State Fair  
25-Sept 5  Minnesota State Fair