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Meeting and Trainings

AnSc PDC – Tuesday, October 13 at SCALE Facility

At 6:30 p.m. there will be a youth only PDC meeting, and at 7 p.m. the regular meeting will begin. During the regular meeting the budget will be set for the 2015-2016 year. We will also be reviewing the job descriptions and PDC groups will be selecting potential judges. There will be a meeting in November to vote for new Youth PDC Chairs.

Back to the Basics Volunteer Training – Thursday, October 22 –
6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. Training at Extension Office

This volunteer training is to engage and update volunteers and leaders in our program on best practices for working with youth and parents. This is a refresher class and will not take place of our fall leaders training. Please RSVP to Katie if you would like to attend by Monday, October 20.
Leaders Council Planning Night –
EXECUTIVE BOARD ONLY – October 20

There will be a planning meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. for the Executive Board of Leaders Council on October 20 at the Extension Office to plan the education and programming for the year.

Clover Drive at Tractor Supply
October 7 - 18

The Prior Lake Tractor Supply will be hosting a Clover Drive. It typically earns our county between $1,000 and $2,000. We need YOU to help by volunteering your time on either October 10-11 or 17-18 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., displaying projects, selling clovers, and telling customers about 4-H in Scott County. If you or your club are willing to sign up, please call or email Katie ASAP.

Save the Date – Fall Leaders Training

Fall Leaders Training will be held on Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 pm at the SCALE Facility. We will be talking about Diversity and Inclusion. **We are making Breakfast for Dinner!!!!** It is **required** that at least one adult/one youth from each club/PDC attend this training. We encourage as many as possible to attend. If you have any questions please call Katie.

SAVE THE DATE – Club Officer Training –
Saturday, November 14

4-H Officer Training will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at the Carver County Extension Office. This is a very important training for your new officers.

Horse Club/PDC Meeting

The October Horse Club will be meeting on Monday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.

Dog Club/PDC Meeting

The October Dog Club meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20 at 6 p.m. at the Prior Lake Library.

Shooting Sports Leader’s Meeting

The October Shooting Sports Leader’s meeting will be held on Monday, October 5 at 6 p.m. at the SCALE Facility.

Youth Programming Opportunities

K – 5th grade Clover Project Exploration
Mornings at Extension Office

Clover Exploration Mornings are back by popular demand! Are you ready for a fun-filled morning, full of hands-on activities? At Clover Exploration Mornings we will play games, make treats, sing songs, focus on different 4-H projects monthly, and you will leave with a completed beginner project ready for the fair. We hope to expand to the next level on projects when interest is shown. Space is limited so reserve your spot early. The cost is $5 for 4-H members and $10 for non-members. This program is open to youth in grades K - 5. Older member are invited to be teen leaders.

Saturday, October 10 – 9 a.m. – 12 noon
Engineering and Design

We will explore the world of technology by working as a team to complete a Rube Goldberg Challenge. We will explore electricity with circuit boards and make a simple rocket. We will have a simple Mindstorm Robotics challenge and learn more about the Lego Robotics Team. **To register, call 952-492-5410 by Monday, October 5.**

Saturday, November 14 – 9 a.m. – 12 noon
Pie Baking Fun

Are you getting ready for the Holidays? Join us for a morning of cooking fun. Each participant
will make their own pie to take home and bake. We will be making Thanksgiving crafts, playing games, and having a great time with our 4-H friends. We will also be exploring the Food Review, Food Preservation, and Food Nutrition project areas and talking about possible projects that you can bring to the fair. To register, call 952-492-5410 by November 9.

Shakopee 4-H Afterschool Enrichment Classes

Join 4-H Afterschool for 90 minutes of fun, games, projects, and cooking. Registration is through Shakopee Community Education (http://www.shakopee.k12.mn.us). This is a great way to introduce your friends to 4-H. The cost is $60 for the 5-week series. Each week a healthy snack will be provided.

Week #1 - Hula Hoop Fun - We will be making Hula Hoops and learning some fun games.

Week #2 - Yo-Yo Yada - We will be making a few different yo-yos and learning some new tricks.

Week #3 - Jump Rope Madness - We will be making a jump rope and learning some new games.

Week #4 - I scream for Ice Cream - We will be making homemade ice cream with all the toppings.

Week #5 - Winter Wonderland - We will be making fun crafts and doing snow experiments.

Sun Path Elementary: Wednesday, November 4 – December 9, 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Eagle Creek Elementary: Thursday, November 5 – December 17, 3:50 –5:20 p.m.

Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

National 4-H Week is October 4-10, and time to kick off our new program year by celebrating 4-H youth and the great ways they are learning and leading.

This year’s theme is “4-H Grows Here” to highlight the many positive ways youth grow through their hands-on learning experiences in 4-H. We know that through 4-H, youth gain valuable 21st century skills such as communication, team work, problem-solving, and confidence that help them succeed throughout their lives. We will also celebrate 4-H National Youth Science Day on October 7, when 4-H’ers across the country will learn about physics, speed, and safety through the Motion Commotion experiment.

I encourage you to learn more about “4-H Grows Here” and 4-H Week activities and events in your county, and join us in celebrating the impact 4-H is making in the lives of youth and communities throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,

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

Club Chartering Date Change: Due November 1

Just a reminder that club chartering documents are up on the Minnesota 4-H Website.

All of the directions and documents can be found on the website along with a video that explains the entire step-by-step process. In the previous newsletter it was stated that club chartering documents were due to the Extension office by November 30. This was a misprint as the documents are due to the Extension office by November 1. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused.
Sign Up for an Online STEM Adventure – a CRASH Course in Physics!

Registration is now open for our latest online adventure, “A CRASH course in Newtonian physics.” It will start on October 7 and run for four weeks. Each week, the very cool and smart Andrew Maxwell-Parrish (andrewmaxwellparish.com/) will issue 1-2 fun, hands-on video challenges for youth to think about and respond to, using video and online chat.

Each of the challenges will illustrate Newton’s laws of physics, governing motion, and collisions, so the challenges will ask the kids to drop and throw household objects and see what happens. It gives youth who are interested in STEM subjects or Rube Goldberg machines a chance to learn and explain their learning to others using scientific terminology.

The weekly challenges are related to this year’s National Youth Science Experiment "Motion Commotion" (www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/science-experiments-projects/motion-commotion/). There is no cost to take part in the CRASH course, but there is a limit of 20 youth. Register here.

Participants must be age 10-14 or in grades 5-8; have a video camera such as the one in most phones or computers; Internet access; and an interest in dropping things and watching them go splat. They will interact with other youth from across the state and gain understanding about physics, the scientific process, and presenting their findings. We suggest adult supervision since they will be dropping and throwing things.

Learn more about this online adventure on our website: www.4-umn.edu/projects/set/physics-crash-course/index.html

If you have questions, contact Ann Nordby, nordby@umn.edu or Todd Mehrkens, toddmehr@umn.edu, co-leaders of the state 4-H online learning team.

2016 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 4-H will send four selected youth delegates to Washington D.C. for the National 4-H Conference April 9 - 14, 2016. Selection is based on qualifications, contents of delegate nomination/recommendation forms and interviews. All information is outlined on the 4-H events website under National 4-H Conference: www.4-H.umn.edu/events-national-conference/index.html.

Application postmark deadline is November 19. Go to the website today. Find out requirements to apply and also the steps in the application process. Talk with your program coordinator today for further details.

North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum

You are cordially invited to participate in the North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum. Get energized as you network with other volunteers and staff from the twelve North Central Region states. Leave with new ideas you can use to infuse heart into your 4-H programs. This is the third year the North Central Region has offered a volunteer e-Forum. Individuals meet in small groups for hands-on activity and discussion while listening to content delivered via webinar. This format has been very successful and we are excited to bring you a new option for participation: the e-Forum Kitchen Table Conference!

An e-Forum Kitchen Table Conference is just like the e-Forums you may have participated in during previous years, except now we are also offering you materials to host a session from the convenience of your own home with other
volunteers from your 4-H club. You may contact your county 4-H program coordinator, Katie Schneider (schne616@umn.edu), or State Director of Volunteer Systems, Molly Frendo (mefrendo@umn.edu), for more information on how to participate.

There are three sessions this year, which will each be offered twice. October’s session is called “The Heart of Belonging” and focuses on how to create a welcoming and inclusive environment in your 4-H program and promote positive behavior. This session takes place on October 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on October 13 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. November’s session is entitled “The Heart of Community” and will strengthen volunteers’ skills on incorporating citizenship into 4-H programming to build community engagement. This session takes place on November 5 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on November 10 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. December’s session is “Encouraging the Heart of Leadership” and will explore how to intentionally build leadership skills in youth during 4-H programming. This session takes place on December 3 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on December 8 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

To register, click [here](#). If you want to learn more, feel free to visit the North Central Region Volunteer Specialists’ [website](#).

### Online Enrollment for 4-H Families

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opened up on September 16 and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to visit [mn.4HOnline.com](http://mn.4HOnline.com) 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 10 minutes or less. 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](#).

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](#) or by contacting your local Extension office ([www.extension.umn.edu/county/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/)).

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. Learn more at [http://www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer](http://www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer).

### 4-H & Text, Talk, Act

4-H is partnering with an innovative program that has proven effective in getting young people more comfortable talking about mental health. Text, Talk, Act uses text messaging to facilitate a face-to-face conversation on mental health. Participants gather in small groups (3-4 people) with one cell phone per group. They text START to the number 89800 to receive a series of text messages that guides their group through a conversation on mental health: why it is important, how to care for it, and how to help a friend in need. The text messages include videos, social media interactions, polling questions and discussion questions.

On **Tuesday, November 10**, 4-H is teaming up to bring Text, Talk, Act to all 4-H programs nationwide, free of charge.

4-H is also hosting a webinar on **October 1** at 12 noon Eastern where you can learn about Text, Talk, Act and how to bring this to your program.

To register, visit [attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8601905344351950850](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8601905344351950850).

4-H’ers that host Text, Talk, Act can win $1,000 for their program. For more information, visit [creatingcommunitysolutions.org/texttalkact](http://creatingcommunitysolutions.org/texttalkact).
If you are interested in learning more about Text, Talk, Act, please contact Raquel Goodrich at rgoodrich@email.arizona.edu.

National Service-Learning Conference: Seeking Youth Emcees

The National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) is seeking youth emcees to speak at the National Service-Learning Conference, March 30 - April 2 in Minneapolis! Applicants must be 23 years old or younger at the time of the conference, and submit a complete application by December 4. More information is available at http://z.umn.edu/nslcemcee.

2016 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge

As part of the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development, 4-H has made improving science literacy a priority, and is working to develop the next generation of agriculture scientists. 4-H provides hands-on, experiential, inquiry-based learning opportunities that promote excitement and interest in science, and improve science literacy by equipping youth with science knowledge and skills. Through 4-H, youth:

- Gain exposure to cutting-edge science and technology in agriculture that produces abundant, healthy and economical food.
- See themselves as scientists.
- Explore college and careers in agriculture, science and engineering.

The 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge event will challenge youth to explore and develop science-based solutions to agricultural problems they have identified in their communities. 4-H’ers will work on teams of 3-4 youth, in 6th grade and above. Participants will attend a statewide event to present their 4-H Science of Agriculture projects, which will be evaluated and judged. The top three teams will be awarded scholarships that range from $500 to $1,000 per team member. Youth will also have a chance to connect with representatives from the University of Minnesota and agribusiness community, who are eager to meet the next generation of leaders in agriculture and STEM.

Through “hands-on” 4-H agriculture, science, technology, engineering and math learning experiences, youth who participate in the Science of Agriculture Challenge will:

- Get excited about and interested in agriculture and STEM.
- Have a greater understanding and knowledge of food production and its importance in our economy and world.
- Gain 21st century skills, including technology, health, business and economic literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, initiative and self-direction.
- Consider and connect with agricultural-related studies at the university level while being exposed to and exploring future careers in agriculture.

Please contact your county 4-H program coordinator, Katie Schneider (schne616@umn.edu), regarding starting a Science of Agriculture team for the 2016 event. More information about the Science of Agriculture, including the quick start guide, sample videos of presentations from the 2015 event, and stories from 2015 teams can be found on the Science of Agriculture webpage at http://z.umn.edu/scienceofag.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions?

From what to eat to where to go, every day we make decisions. The media, peer pressure, the need to fit in - all these factors play major roles in the decisions we make. We are happier with our decisions when we learn to make informed decisions.
Minnesota 4-H introduces a new innovative program, My Project Place – Consumer Decision Making. This new online version of our Consumer Decision-Making judging program provides an opportunity for youth to learn about decision making, practice decision making and share their experiences with peers and adult mentors. The 12-week online class will involve one to two hours of weekly activities, starting mid-October. Youth will learn about finances, decision making, consumerism, review scenarios, and compare products to make informed decisions. Participants will post information about their decision making process and decisions made while interacting with peers and adult mentors online at their convenience.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Extension Educator Carrie Olson (olson166@umn.edu, 320-589-1711) today.

Minnesota's 2015 National 4-H Shooting Sports Champion Team

Minnesota sent nine teams of 33 youth to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships in Grand Island, Nebraska. These youth represented Minnesota 4-H and were coached by Minnesota 4-H volunteer coaches during their competitions. The air pistol team of Brett Carlson, Cade Haiby and Caitlyn Klejeski of Beltrami County and Maria Turbes of Redwood County were national champions. The air pistol team was coached by Rose Erickson and Mike Porter of Beltrami County. Congratulations to this outstanding team and their coaches for a job well done. Minnesota was represented well by these youth and coaches at this national event.

2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships: Interested Youth Encouraged to Apply

The 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships will be held in Grand Island, Nebraska, June 26 - July 1. Youth born in the years 1997-2000 and who participated at the 2015 Minnesota 4-H State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational are eligible to apply. An interest survey link and more information can be found on the 4-H SS&W website at www.4-h.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-national-championships/index.html.

The due date for indicating interest on a national team is October 7.

4-H Volunteer Corner

Be the “Connector” in Your 4-H Club to Create a Welcoming Environment

Take a moment to reflect on your time as a youth joining a new organization or attending a new school for the first time. Do you remember that nervous feeling in the pit in your stomach of not knowing anyone and feeling unsure if you belonged? Also reflect on the individual(s) who greeted you and introduced you to other people, creating an inviting, welcoming environment. These individuals are “connectors”- people who build bridges between others and expand social networks. Being a connector isn’t just the responsibility of the 4-H club leader or the person greeting individuals as they come into the meeting. Everyone in the 4-H club (adults and youth leaders) have an opportunity to be a connector: it takes a team effort! 4-H clubs that create a welcoming environment retain more members and have greater parent involvement.

To learn more, view the 30-minute 4-HOnline training module Creating a welcoming 4-H
environment: Engaging, encouraging, and respectful available at www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training.

Let's Talk Money: County Financial Practices

There is a saying that the least entertaining part of an organization’s business meeting is the financial report… that is, unless it’s announced that the organization is completely out of money, then the meeting gets really exciting! As one can imagine, that is not the kind of excitement we are looking for at a meeting.

4-H Youth Development focuses on teaching life skills that include wise financial management. “County Financial Practices” is an available online training module. Learn about the practices that have been put in place to create a quality learning experience for the county youth treasurer. The practices also protect the financial resources that support youth educational programs. To learn more, view the 4HOnline training module County Financial Practices available at www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training.

Calendar

OCTOBER

1  Text, Talk, Act Webinar, 12 noon EST
3-4  Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador Training, Perham
4-10  National 4-H Week
5  Horse Club/PDC Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office
5  Shooting Sports Leader’s Meeting, 6 p.m. at the SCALE Facility
7  4-H National Youth Science Day
7  Online Adventure: A CRASH Course in Newtonian Physics
7-18  Due date for indicating interest in the 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships
8  Paper Clover Drive at Tractor Supply Prior Lake
9  North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Belonging, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
10  Engineering & Design, 9 a.m. – 12 noon, Extension Office
13  North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Belonging, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
13  AnSC PDC Meeting 7 p.m. at SCALE Facility (6:30 p.m. youth only)
14  Pie Baking Fun, 9 a.m. – 12 noon, Extension Office
20  Executive Board Only Leaders Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office
20  Dog Club/PDC Meeting, 6 p.m. at Prior Lake Library
22  Back to the Basics Volunteer Training, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. at the Extension Office

NOVEMBER

1  Club charters due to county Extension offices
5  North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Community, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
10  North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Community, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
10  Text, Talk, Act
12  Fall Leader’s Training, 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office
14 Officer Training at Carver County Office, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

19 National 4-H Conference Application Postmark Deadline

DECEMBER

3 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Encouraging the Heart of Leadership, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

4 Youth Emcee Application Deadline for the National Service-Learning Conference

8 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: Encouraging the Heart of Leadership, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

APRIL

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