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4-H Ambassadors Program

The Program is a great way for youth to stay engaged in 4-H throughout their high school years. Each Ambassador hosts a meeting that showcases their hometown or region to increase awareness of Wright County history, economy, and geography. This is a great opportunity for youth who are learning how to be leaders and want to get more involved in Wright County 4-H. They support many events throughout the year, and plan several on their own.

If interested, please immediately contact Brittany at eichx020@umn.edu or Ambassador Advisor Joy Decker with any questions.

Federation Meeting

October 26th, 7:00 PM at the Wright County Government Center, Room 120

At the October meeting, the Advisory Council will lead the process for accepting the new Constitution and By-Laws as well as approving the new budget for the year. We hope you can make it!

Note:

- A sub-committee consisting of youth and adult volunteers from Wright County have been working diligently the past few months to make the new changes. All of the changes have met the guidelines laid out by Minnesota 4-H and it is time for the new documents to be presented and voted on for approval by the Wright County Federation.

Records

Available by download or ask the Extension Office

Due November 2nd to the Extension Office

4-H is not just learning by doing. It’s learning by doing it, sharing it, understanding it, relating it, and using it. Record keeping encourages you to reflect on your experience so you can share it with others and learn. Make sure to complete a simple record for each of your projects this year and you will be automatically entered into an Awards Competition to be revealed at the Awards Banquet.

New 4-H Family Night

- Who: First year 4-H families interested in learning more about 4-H
- When: Monday, November 30th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- Where: Wright County Government Center, Room 120, Buffalo

Is your family new to Wright County 4-H? Do you want to learn more about what 4-H has to offer? New families, this event is planned especially for you! Please join 4-H volunteers for this fun evening to learn more about what being in 4-H could mean for your family. We will go over upcoming 4-H events, there will be fun, hands-on activities for the youth and a parent meeting to help parents focus on the basics of 4-H. Come and see how your family can get involved in Wright County 4-H.
National 4-H Science Experiment – Motion Commotion!

The National 4-H Science Experiment is making its way across Wright County. How can your club or school get involved? This year’s experiment, Motion Commotion! The experiment will help youth learn physics, speed, and safety. The two-part experiment combines a speeding car collision and a distracted driving demonstration in an activity that explores the physical and human factors of motion. Youth will use every day materials – including a toy car, modeling clay, ruler, calculator and cell phone – to explore physics in the real-world.

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, and raise visibility of our 4-H STEM programs by pursuing media coverage of your county’s 4-H NYSD events.

Your club can use the experiment during a club meeting or 4-H promotional experiences. We are also using the experiment in Wright County schools. If you would like more information about conducting the experiment at your club or in your school, please contact Kelly or Brittany at the Extension office.

National 4-H Week is October 4-10, 2015

National 4-H Week is a week to celebrate your 4-H pride and spread the word about our organization. It’s a great time to promote all that we do and invite new members to join.

This year, National 4-H Week is October 5-11. How is your club going to tell others about 4-H? Here are some ideas to get you started:

• Ask your teacher if you can give a presentation to the class about 4-H.

Bring a project/scrapbook as an example of fun things you can do in 4-H.

• Visit with businesses in your community to thank them for their support for 4-H. Ask them to put a 4-H promotional poster in their window.

• Hand out promotional materials at your school Open House or Information Night. Include information about your club's next meeting.

• Invite a friend to visit your club meeting. Introduce them to other club members and make them feel welcome. Our office has invitation cards you can use. Let us know if you would like some.

• Wear your 4-H shirt

• Show your 4-H pride on your Facebook page all week. Change your banner to a 4-H theme, post pictures from 4-H events, update your status to promote National 4-H Week, etc.

• Create a window display at a local business or public venue.

• Post 4-H information on neighborhood bulletin boards.

• Contact your local newspaper to ask them to write an article about 4-H. Put your club in the spotlight!

• Make a short 4-H promotional video and post it on YouTube or a local cable access channel

• Call your city hall and find out how 4-H information can be put on your local electronic sign promoting community events

• Promote 4-H on the radio. Wright County 4-H has a spot on KRWC 1360AM and we are always looking for volunteers to help us talk about 4-H. Call us if you'd like to help.
And many more!! Our office has resources to help with many of these suggestions. Please call us if you need assistance.

Spreading the word is simple! When was the last time you told someone about 4-H?

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 interview. 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 Nov. 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 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 Oct. 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on Oct. 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 Nov. 5 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on Nov. 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 Dec. 3 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and again on Dec. 8 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

To register, you can sign up at events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=volunteer.eforum. If you want to learn more, feel free to visit the North Central Region Volunteer Specialists’ website at fyi.uwex.edu/ncrvd/4-H-volunteer-e-forum/.

Online enrollment for 4-H families

Enrollment for the new 4-H year opened up on Sept. 16 and Minnesota 4-H families are reminded and encouraged to visit 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 at www.4-H.umn.edu/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 at www.4-H.umn.edu/policy or by contacting your local Extension office (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 www.4-H.umn.edu/volunteer/#application.

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 Dec. 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-Hers 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 in regards to 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.

**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 **Oct. 7**.

**4-H volunteer corner**

**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**

- **3**  Engineer It! At Delano Middle School, 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon)
- **3-4**  Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham
- **4-10**  National 4-H Week & Wright County 4-H Promotional Contest
- **7**  4-H National Youth Science Day
- **7**  Online adventure: A CRASH course in Newtonian physics
- **7**  Due date for indicating interest in the 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships
- **8**  STEM Team Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm C111, 7:00 p.m.
- **8**  North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Belonging, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- **13**  North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Belonging, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- **19**  Fall Volunteer Leader Training, Gov’t Center Rm C120, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- **22**  Awards Committee Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm C111, 6:00 p.m.
- **22**  Chartering Help Session, Gov’t Center Rm C118, 7:00 p.m.
- **26**  Federation Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm C120, 7:00 p.m. (Advisory at 6:15 p.m.)
NOVEMBER
• 2 Club charters due to county Extension offices
• 2 Club Awards Applications, Club Treasurer & Secretary Books Due, Extension Office, 4:30 p.m.
• 2 Records Deadline
• 5 Awards Committee Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm C111, 6:00 p.m.
• 5 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Community, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
• 9 Club Officer Training, Zion Lutheran Church, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
• 9 Record Judging (Any not completed), Zion Lutheran Church, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
• 10 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum: The Heart of Community, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
• 11 Extension Office Closed – Veterans Day
• 12 Horse Project Committee Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm C120, 7:00 p.m.
• 19 National 4-H Conference application postmark deadline
• 23 Federation Meeting, Gov’t Center Rm C120, 7:00 p.m. (Advisory at 6:15 p.m.)
• 23 Make Up Club Officer Training to follow Federation Meeting
• 26-27 Extension Office Closed – Thanksgiving Break
• 28 Member & Volunteer Recognition Banquet, Rockford Township Hall, 6:00 p.m.
• 30 New 4-H Member & Family Night, Gov’t Center Rm C120, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
• TBA Ambassador Meeting