4-H Influences
Career Choices

Recently we asked 12th graders in the Illinois 4-H program, to share how 4-H influenced their career decisions. We discovered the following:

• 97% are learning skills through 4-H that they can use in a future job
• 94% know careers that are related to their 4-H project and 56% are looking into a related career
• 91% can think of ways in which their 4-H project could be a business
• 76% know a college major related to their 4-H project and 57% are likely to choose a related major

66% report that their 4-H staff member or leader did the following:
• Took an active interest in my studies
• Helped me identify my strengths and weaknesses
• Have talked to me about what skills I need to achieve my future goals
• Have spent time talking to me about what I want to do in the future

Thank you for being a caring adult in a young person’s life. Keep up the good work!

4-H NYSD
October 10

In this year’s 4-H National Youth Science Day challenge, youth will create a fun “bristle bot” and experiment with different ways to design the bot to help clean up an oil spill. Watch this video for a fun overview: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=404i_3p-SBc. Illinois 4-H Youth Science Ambassadors will be using this kit to reach thousands of younger youth and the broader public. Contact your Extension office to get involved.

Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates 4-H LCP Award Program

If you have teens who have been involved in leadership activities, here’s an opportunity for them to receive recognition for those efforts. The Illinois Farm Bureau and their Affiliates sponsor the Illinois 4-H Premier LCP Award for members age 17 or older by December 1. LCP stands for Leadership, Citizenship, and Professionalism. Each county may submit two applications. The top ten youth selected on the state level are invited to a 3-day leadership conference in April and are recognized with plaques at the Illini Summer Academies Banquet in June. Applications are available through your local Extension office or via the web: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/recognition_awards.cfm. Check with your local Extension office for the county deadline; the state deadline for submission is January 4, 2013.

Illinois 4-H Citizen Scientist Program

“Hands to larger service…” the third “H” of the 4-H pledge is what awaits Illinois 4-H members interested in taking science to a new level. The 4-H Citizen Scientist program will merge community service and science as teams of 4-H Citizen Scientists’ are properly trained to collect data on scientific issues related to water quality and environmental science. Through a partnership with Illinois RiverWatch, 4-H Citizen Scientists’ will fill an role in supplying scientific data pertaining to the environmental quality of Illinois streams (wade-able water) feeding into Illinois rivers and the Mississippi watershed. Interested junior/senior high 4-H members should contact their local Extension office to receive more information regarding upcoming training opportunities.
Focusing on Young Leaders

Help 7th and 8th grade members continue to increase their leadership skills by attending the 2013 Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference in February! Open only to Jr. High 4-H’ers, JLC will open their eyes to the opportunities within the 4-H program – whether it be helping younger members with projects, improving on their communication skills, or building officer talents… all while having fun and meeting youth from across the state. JLC is scheduled for February 23-24, 2013 at the Holiday Inn, Urbana. On-line registration will open in mid-November and ends in late January. Information will be posted on the JLC website: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/juniorleadership.cfm. Encourage your junior high members to take that next leadership step.

4-H Shooting Sports Regional Meetings

The Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports program continues to grow at a rapid pace and with the growth comes a number of possibilities and new program opportunities. The results of two recent surveys showed that there was a need to provide a ‘tool’ where counties can offer more competitions and also have the opportunity to meet with other counties for general program discussion.

For Illinois, the 4-H Shooting Sports program will divide the state into 4 regions. This will allow for the regions to establish regional competitions, allow discipline instructors and coordinators to meet and discuss programs, and provide a better opportunity for families to attend competitive events.

Options for establishing regional competitions will be discussed at the upcoming regional meetings. Selecting Illinois team members for National Invitational Contest maybe a part of the regional competitions.

There will be a drawing for a new Avanti Legend 853, for counties that are currently eligible for the rifle shooting discipline in their county, at each regional meeting. Winning counties must obtain the p-tag for inventory purposes.

Regional Meetings schedule (all meetings are at 7:00 p.m.):

- October 17 – Region A – Lee Co. – 280 West Wasson Road, Amboy
- October 24 – Region C – Champaign Co. – 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign
- November 7 – Region D – Franklin Co. – 1212 Rt. 14 West, Benton
- November 20 – Region B – Schuyler Co. – 710 Maple Avenue, Rushville

4-H Memorial Camp

4-H Memorial Camp has just finished another tremendous summer youth camping season. Nearly 1,500 youth attended one of six 4-H camp sessions. The camp also collaborated with the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Councils, the American Diabetes Association, Illinois FFA Leadership Camp, five high school marching bands and others for a total of over 4,000 campers in only 13 weeks. The fall schedule includes 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Training, a band camp, Illinois State Homemaker’s Camp, Carle Hospice Camp Healing Heart, and other events. Contact Curt Sinclair at sinclair@illinois.edu for info.

4-H Child Protection Training for Volunteers

In Illinois in 2011, there were 101,508 reported cases of child abuse and neglect. There were almost 28,000 indicated cases against children. “A 4-H Pledge: Keeping Youth Safe” has been created to help 4-H leaders understand the protection policies 4-H has put in place. This training discusses child abuse and neglect, how to report suspected abuse, and various strategies to help reduce volunteer’s risk of being accused of abuse. It also shares safety issues and expectation of working with 4-H members. Please complete this course at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc.