Illinois Leader
Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

Illinois 4-H by the Numbers

Thanks to the dedication of our Illinois 4-H Volunteers, program expansion continues in 2013.

- We are annually reaching 1 in 15 Illinois youth ages 8-18; Half of Illinois’ counties are reaching 1 in 7 youth (15% of population).
- We have over 25,000 4-H club members, with nearly every county having at least 100 members and some over 1,000 members.
- We have the human capacity (in staff) to reach 200,000 in youth programs.
- Short-term programs for youth grew 25% and now reach 100,000 youth annually.
- 4-H Club Membership continues to grow with a net increase of 1,000 memberships each year.
- Community Clubs continue to be the most popular experience for youth with 1,129 separately organized clubs. SPIN (Special Interest) Clubs are gaining in popularity – expanding to 350 club offerings involving 4,700 members, and 1,000 volunteers in 2013.
- While youth living on farms and in small towns has declined, the number of youth in 4-H coming from these same areas has remained constant. Our largest growth in 4-H membership came from medium (10-50,000) size towns/cities and suburbs in metro areas.

Not only does 4-H make a difference in the lives of the youth that you work with, but 4-H is a very large statewide program that contributes to positive communities. You make 4-H possible!

2014 Illinois Junior Leadership Conference

Saving the World Through Leadership

It takes a superhero to become a great leader. At the Jr. Leadership Conference (JLC), 7th and 8th grade 4-H’ers experience what it takes to become a super leader. The 2014 JLC is set for February 8-9 at the Decatur Conference Center.

Workshops will include: Avengers Assemble to Harness the Wind; Citizens to the Rescue; Lookup on the Screen - It’s a Picture, It’s a Movie…it’s JLC; and more.

The registration fee will be $135.00. Registration opens mid-November. Complete details, including, workshop description and registration details are posted on the Illinois 4-H Website:

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/juniorleadership.cfm.

SAVE THE DATE!!
May 3, 2014

The 6th Annual State 4-H Robotics Competition will be held May 3, 2014 at the U of I in Champaign. This event is free to all 4-H members and open to youth ages 9-18. Teams must have at least three members. Details on this year’s team challenge will be released February 1. More details will be posted to the State 4-H Events page as they become available:

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/

2014 Illini Summer Academies Announced!

The 2014 Illini Summer Academies will be held June 21 - 25 at the University of Illinois, Champaign. ISA allows teens an opportunity to explore a college major, including hands on activities planned by University faculty, staff and graduate students. The Planning Committee has started preparations and everything’s in motion for a great program. **NOW is the time to start recruiting your 8th grade and high school members for this event!** A mailing list registration site is setup for those interested in receiving updates and notice when registration opens. Use this link: https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=9017.
The Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports Program will hold its first State Shoot on May 31, 2014 at the Brittany Shooting Park, Bunker Hill, IL.

Illinois 4-H members aged 14-18 and enrolled in the program will be able to compete in the shooting disciplines of: recurve archery, compound archery, shotgun, air rifle, and .22 rifle. Teams of four in each shooting discipline will be selected to represent Illinois at the National 4-H Invitational Competition to be held in late June in Grand Island, NB.

We encourage all enrolled youth who wish to participate to do so – participants do not need to be considered for the National Teams if they so wish.

Equipment such as 3-D targets for archery and metal silhouette targets/stands for rifle, plus volunteers to help with set-up on May 30 and assistance on May 31 will be needed, and certainly appreciated.

Additional information and registration materials will be forthcoming.

Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports currently offers the shooting disciplines of archery, rifle (air and .22) and shotgun to 4-H members. A coordinator position is also utilized and serves as a mid-management position working closely with County Extension offices.

The Illinois program will add the Wildlife/Hunting discipline beginning in 2014-2015. Four adult leaders who have successfully completed a state certification training in the above disciplines will be eligible to apply to attend a National training that will be held in Alexandria, LA in April, 2014. Once trained, the four instructors will become part of the Illinois’ State Instructor team and will train participants at our adult volunteer weekend certification trainings. The Wildlife/Hunting discipline will then be implemented into county programs throughout the state.

Contents of the Wildlife/Hunting curriculum includes: wildlife identification and conservation, ethics, hunter and landowner relations, orienteering and compass education, mapping and GPS use, survival skills, laws and etiquette, and, of course, hunter safety and responsibility.

Applications will be available in the near future.

Do you have older members who want to share their experiences and benefits of 4-H with county board members and state legislators? Then Speaking for Illinois 4-H might just be what they’re looking for! Once 4-H members have gone through training, they are placed on a statewide SFI4-H “roster” for county and state opportunities to share their 4-H story with civic groups, county board members, state legislators and more. SFI4-H members are also contacted about participating in the 4-H Legislative Connection events at the State Capitol.

The next training session is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2014 in Springfield. Registration is now open on the Speaking for Illinois 4-H website page: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm. The registration fee for training is $10 and includes lunch. Encourage your older 4-H members to join us! Registration for the January 11 session closes on January 3rd, so tell your members not to delay!