New 4-H Year – New Goals! Here’s Your Challenge!

As we get ready to start the new 4-H Program Year on September 1, we challenge each and every volunteer leader, member, and club/group to try something NEW this year – *CHALLENGE YOURSELF!* Stretch yourself personally and encourage your members and club/group to do the same. Find something new to keep yourself motivated, thinking creatively and outside the box – set a new goal for your group, try a new project, attend a new event or training, hold a new community service project, contact a new potential donor or partner for your current program, whatever. How can you expand your own ideas and the ideas of your members? Think about it – we’d love to hear what you’re going to try!

4-H Updates on Social Media

How current are you with social media? Do you have a Facebook page? Does your 4-H Club/Group? How about your older members? If you haven’t already, you might want to check out the *Illinois 4-H* and *Illinois 4-H Foundation* Facebook pages for information on what’s happening with statewide programs and opportunities that you as leaders or your club members can take advantage of. 4-H takes you to the official National 4-H page. “LIKE” us on Facebook!

SFI4-H is Heading to Northeast Illinois!

The next *Speaking for Illinois 4-H* training is set for **Saturday, October 5th** in **Cook County**. While the exact location hasn’t been determined at the time of this writing, we hope to have that finalized and registration posted on the SFI4-H webpage by August 1.

This is your opportunity to recruit older 4-H members to help Extension staff with presentations to civic groups, county board members, donors, and legislators. *SFI4-H* trains 4-H members, age 14 and older, in public presentation skills, PYD – BIG-M information, and facts to share with stakeholders as they tell their 4-H story. SFI4-H youth are invited to help at the spring Legislative Connection event(s).

The final registration deadline for the October 5th program will be **September 25th**. Youth can register starting in early August at: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm)

Volunteer Tools to Support Effective 4-H Outreach

Be prepared to plan and implement positive youth development club experiences using the tools you need as a leader; and also by sharing those resources with youth involved in leadership roles. Access 4-H resources on the Illinois 4-H website: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/volunteers/support_clubresources.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/volunteers/support_clubresources.cfm)

- **Club/Group Support Resources**
  - Officer resource guides
  - Meeting and activity planning guides
  - Goal setting tools
  - Tools to involve members in evaluating their club experience
  - Leader Fact Sheets highlighting all aspects of club management

- **On-Line Volunteer Orientation and Training Opportunities**
  [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/)

- **Positive Youth Development Resources**
  Club meeting lesson plans to strengthen each of the eight critical elements and create a more positive club experience for youth available at: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/volunteers/pyd.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/volunteers/pyd.cfm)
4-H Memorial Camp

Checkout the Fall activities at 4-H Memorial Camp! Camp White-Tail will be held for those wanting a hands-on experience in getting their Hunter Safety card. Our brand new Family Camp program allows kids and their parents the opportunity to participate in traditional camp activities together. Information on both these programs can be found at:
http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hmemorialcamp/specialtycamps.cfm.

4-H National Youth Science Day

On October 9, 2013, millions of young people will become scientists for the day during the sixth annual 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD). This year, the National Science Experiment will be 4-H Maps & Apps! designed by Colorado State University Extension, turning young people into geospatial thinkers as they design and map their ideal park, use GIS mapping to solve community problems and contribute data about their community to the United States Geological Survey. NYSD is a great way to engage new audiences during National 4-H Week and an opportunity for club members to be 4-H ambassadors. Talk with your local county office about opportunities for a NYSD booth and/or learning activities in your community. Details for the 2013 experiment can be found at:
http://www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/

New Projects and Publications for 2013-14

Visual Arts: 4-H Cake Decorating, multiple year project with levels for beginner, intermediate, and advanced members

Visual Arts: 4-H Scrapbooking, multiple year project with levels for beginner, intermediate, and advanced members

Theatre Arts 1 Facilitator’s Guide: Imagination in Action (#08445), beginner level group project for youth in Grades 5-8; can be adapted for older youth

Theatre Arts 2 Facilitator’s Guide: Imagination in Action (#08446), intermediate level group project for youth in Grades 5-8; can be adapted for older youth

Theatre Arts 3 Facilitator’s Guide: Imagination in Action (#08447), advanced level group project for youth in Grades 5-8; can be adapted for older youth

Moving Teens to a Higher Level of Participation

The Illinois 4-H program offers tons of possibilities for teens to become involved in events and leadership opportunities beyond the club and county level. If the teens in your club are ready to move up, why not show them what’s available and encourage them to try something new? Personal invitations to become involved are the best way to help teens move forward to an advanced level of participation. Check out the following pages on the 4-H website as a start and/or ask your local Extension office for other statewide leadership opportunities for your teens. Getting them involved beyond the county helps them gain additional skills to come back and share.

• Illinois 4-H Awards Program -
http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/recognition_awards.cfm

• Speaking for Illinois 4-H -
http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm

• Science, Citizenship, and Healthy Living Ambassadors – Check with your local Extension office for statewide opportunities

• National 4-H Conference -
http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/nationalconference.cfm