Help Teens Get Involved!

With the end of this 4-H program year and the beginning of a new one, NOW is the time to push those Illinois 4-H teens into action! Lots of opportunities exist for members on the county and state level – help them find out what’s available and give them that encouragement and “push” to get started! Teens can build up and demonstrate their leadership skills six different ways through the 4-H program – Planning, Promoting, Teaching, Mentoring, Advocating, and Advising. Over the next few issues of the Illinois Leader, we’ll highlight each one of these areas and provide suggestions for teens to become more involved and develop those leadership skills.

**Planning** – Teens can really provide a helping hand and a youth voice to aid in planning events, service opportunities, camps, contests and more. Whether on the club, county or state level, there are opportunities to become involved. This is often one of the first steps to moving beyond the local club to county programming efforts. Does your county have a Federation or other teen group that helps plan county events for clubs and members? Encourage your teens to become involved in that group. In addition to the skills they’ll learn, the opportunity to meet and interact with other teens from across the county is usually a great motivator for youth to become involved! Are there other county planning committees that are looking for a youth voice? Ask your local Extension staff how your older members can help.

**Promoting** – Many counties have some type of Ambassador group that help promote the 4-H program. Whether it’s in a specific subject matter area, such as 4-H Science Ambassadors, or promoting the 4-H program in general, encourage your members to step forward and share their passion about the 4-H program with others! For teens age 14-18, there’s also the Speaking for Illinois 4-H program that is constantly looking for members to take the training and help local Extension offices share the good word about Extension and the 4-H program with elected officials. And you’re in luck – there is an **SFI4-H training set for Saturday, Sept. 27 in Champaign** so they can get the year started off right! Teens who complete SFI4-H training are invited to assist with the spring Legislative Connection events at the Capitol in Springfield, where they’ll tell their 4-H story to state legislators and elected officials. Information is posted and registration is open for the training until Sept.17 at: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm). Contact your local Extension staff to help you recruit your older members for this great opportunity!

A new program is introducing 4-H to Latino families across the state. Families who wish to use Spanish as their primary language may contact Illinois 4-H via phone @ 217-265-0105 or via email @ [4Hsenespanol@illinois.edu](mailto:4Hsenespanol@illinois.edu). Ricardo Diaz is the new staff member at the State 4-H office assisting with this program.

**Salute to Ag Day**

The Illinois 4-H Foundation invites you to Salute to Agriculture Day at the University of Illinois on Saturday, Sept. 6. Illinois takes on Western Kentucky. We will be at the orange and blue striped tent located along First Street directly west of Memorial Stadium. We plan to start serving at 9 a.m. and run through 10:30 a.m. **Order game and meal tickets online @ [http://go.illinois.edu/salutetoagriculture](http://go.illinois.edu/salutetoagriculture).**
Nominate Exceptional Volunteers

Illinois has a rich wealth of volunteers. We want to celebrate their wonderful service by nominating outstanding individuals for the National 4-H Council Salute to Excellence Award. The award recognizes volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to 4-H. Two divisions are available:

- **Volunteer of the Year** – recognizing individuals who have served as 4-H volunteers for less than 10 years at the local, county, region or state level.
- **Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer** – recognizing individuals who have served 10 or more years at the local, county, region or state level.

Applications are available from local Extension offices and are due to the state office by Sept. 26. Check with your local office in case they request an earlier deadline.

Get Your Cookbooks Before They’re All Gone

Only 600 copies of the popular *Favorite Recipes of Illinois 4-H Through the Years* cookbook are still available. Now, purchase a cookbook for only $10, plus shipping. Even bigger savings are available for bulk orders. Recipes are listed by 4-H project book, alphabetically, and by food category for easy reference in this 8 ½” x 11” spiral-bound cookbook. The cookbook will not be reprinted. Order the books online @ [http://www.4hfoundation.illinois.edu](http://www.4hfoundation.illinois.edu). Proceeds from the cookbook support current 4-H foods project resources and training for 4-H volunteers.

Back at the Range for Next State Shoot

The fall state shoot will be Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill. Check with the local office for updated rules and registration information. Participants must have passed their 14th birthday by Jan. 1 of the current year and may not have passed their 19th birthday before Jan. 1 of the current year. Participants must be currently enrolled in the shooting event/discipline they enter and must be in good standing in their respective 4-H Shooting Sports Club. 4-H members may only participate in one of the following shooting events: archery/compound; archery/recurve, air rifle; smallbore rifle; or shotgun.

**REMINDER:** Adults interested in teaching the shooting sports project to young people should attend the fall’s adult volunteer certification training for the Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports program Sept. 26-28 at 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age. Cost is $120.

Look for These NEW Publications

The following new 4-H publications will be available for order after Sept. 1. Contact your local Extension office to request copies.

- *Entomology 1* – introduces the world of insects
- *Entomology 2* – learn how to make collection tools and study insects
- *Entomology 3* – do your own research using the scientific method
- *Entomology Facilitator’s Guide* – provides information on studying insects
- *Hunting and Outdoor Skills* – learn to be a safe, responsible hunter (only available to members enrolled in a shooting sports group program)
- *Welcome to 4-H: An Introduction to 4-H* – a beginning project for every new 4-H member
- *Introduction to 4-H* – for potential or new 4-H volunteers and leaders

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