4-H Stories

The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents is collecting 4-H stories from the entire 4-H family including members, volunteers, staff, donors, and others. The stories will be used to create a 4-H Stories book much like the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. The committee is looking for stories from all 50 states sharing positive personal experiences on the value of 4-H, activities/events, learning experiences, etc. The stories should include information about the setting/situation and approximate time frame. The author’s name, address, and contact information needs to be included. The stories should be at least three double spaced pages. Stories should be sent as an email attachment to Dan Tabler at the University of Maryland at dtabler@umd.edu. Stories will be accepted until 12/31/09. The book will premier at the 2010 NAE4HA Conference. Books will be sold to counties in case lots of approximately 24 in mid November 2010. Proceeds will benefit the National 4-H Hall of Fame.

Highlighting “International Opportunities: on the 4-H Web Site

The world has become a global village and everything seems to be connected. The “International Opportunities” section of the State 4-H website offers a window to the rest of the world. The content of this section highlights the international exchange opportunities Illinois 4-H is providing for members and families. It features two main program areas – *outbound opportunities* highlight travel to selected countries participating in our exchange network; and *inbound opportunities* connect Illinois families with foreign youth seeking host families for the duration of their exchange program. In 2010, Illinois 4-H will offer outbound opportunities to Australia, Costa Rica and Japan. Each program is based on home-stays with local families and offers a unique experience of being immersed in the daily lives of ordinary families. This allows insight into a culture that can’t be experienced any other way. The memories made by such an experience will last a lifetime.

The Illinois 4-H program is looking for host families for the inbound 4-H Japanese exchange scheduled for July 24 through August 19, 2010. Japanese youth between the ages of 12 and 16 will be experiencing American culture as they become an active member of an Illinois 4-H family for their one-month homes stay. Additional information and application forms can be accessed at: [http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/members/international.cfm](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/members/international.cfm).

Illinois 4-H State Robotics Challenge

The 2nd annual Illinois 4-H State Robotics Challenge will be held April 24, 2010 on the U of I campus. This event is open to all 4-H members ages 8 – 18 who will be divided into junior and senior divisions. There is no registration fee. Teams need to provide their own travel and robot. More information on the challenge requirements and registration will be available after Jan. 1. Contact Lisa Diaz at lisabou@illinois.edu or 217.333.0911.
**Viva La Leadership!**

At the 2010 JLC

All 7th and 8th grade 4-H members are invited to the 2010 Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference…and they can bring a friend! Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21 at the Lake Williamson Camp and Conference Center near Carlinville, the weekend conference will be exciting, fun, and full of workshops, games, and activities! The *Viva La Leadership!* theme promises a strong focus on building leadership skills with hands-on workshops on self-defense, horticulture, theater, filmmaking, and more.

Registration is now open - more information and the link to the on-line registration site can be found at the 4-H website: [http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/events/juniorleadership.cfm](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/events/juniorleadership.cfm). Cost of the weekend is $98 per youth. A discount is available if 4 or more 4-H members attend from the same Extension unit. (Sorry, the discount doesn’t apply to non-4-H friends.) On-line registration is open until **Monday, January 25**.

A limited number of $25 scholarships are available for 4-H members. Scholarship applications are available through the website and the deadline is January 8. And why should youth have all the fun? Adult chaperones must have completed all University of Illinois Extension volunteer screening procedures and the Overnight Chaperone website certification at [http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/4hchaperone/](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/4hchaperone/).

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**VALUED Volunteer Orientation and Training Modules Offered Via Toll-Free Teleconference System in January – March**

The State 4-H Volunteerism Team is offering seven different volunteer training sessions this winter via the Extension toll-free teleconferencing system. These trainings are based on the **VALUED Volunteer Orientation and Training Series**. All volunteers regardless of enrollment in the VV Program are welcome to register and attend. Join with other volunteers from across the state for an evening of learning, idea sharing, and fun!

**Positive Youth Development/BIGM** – January 11 and February 2

**Communications within a 4-H Club** – January 13 and February 8

**Behavior Management** – January 20 and February 11

**Public Presentations** - January 28 and February 1

**Parental Involvement** - January 26 and February 4

**Risk Management** January 21 and February 10

**Community Service** March 3 and 4.

Every session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will last one hour. Participants may listen toll-free from their own home phones or by arrangement from the local Extension office. Each session will be offered twice.

Registration information for each of these topics will be available from your local Extension office in **early December**. Print materials for the sessions will be mailed directly to volunteers once they have registered for a specific topic and date. Registration will close approximately **ten days** prior to the teleconference. There will be no fee to register. Please contact Sheri Seibold at sseibold@illinois.edu or 217-333-0910 if you have additional questions.