Teens Can Live It Up! at the 2009 Illini Summer Academies

High school students are bombarded with decisions about college and their future. Many have no idea what they want to major in or know little about different careers. Help teens by encouraging them to try out the Illini Summer Academies (ISA) this summer! In a relaxed and fun-filled atmosphere, they will be able to explore possible career interests while checking out a Big Ten college campus and experiencing a little piece of campus life. Academies offered this year include: Aerospace Engineering; Agricultural & Biochemical Engineering; Crop Science; Food Science & Human Nutrition; Leadership; Veterinary Medicine; and Youth Community Informatics.

The ISA features fun and recreation, outstanding speakers, a banquet, and a dance- all perfect opportunities to meet new friends. Youth will also be involved in campus tours, financial aid discussions, and sessions with current students to learn what college-life is like!

ISA is open to currently enrolled 8th to 12th grade students – 4-H membership is NOT required to attend. The ISA are scheduled for June 29 - July 1 on the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana campus. For more information contact your local Extension office. Early registration is due April 15 and final registration is May 26.

Don’t miss this opportunity to help 4-H teens LIVE It Up! Lead, Inspire, Value, and Explore this summer as they get a head-start on preparing for college and their future!

One Million New Scientists. One Million New Ideas™: The United States is falling dangerously behind other nations in developing its future workforce of scientists, engineers, and technology experts. To ensure global competitiveness, we must act now to prepare the next generation of science, engineering, and technology leaders. The 4-H Youth Development Program—with its direct connection to the research and resources of the Cooperative Extension System’s 106 land-grant universities and colleges—is strategically positioned to strengthen US global competitiveness and leadership.

4-H will address our nation’s critical challenge by preparing 1 million new young people to excel in science, engineering, and technology by 2013. Currently, 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology programs reach more than 5 million youth with hands-on learning experiences to encourage young minds and fill the pipeline of young leaders proficient in science.

The SET mission mandate focuses on many 4-H projects such as Animal Science, Aerospace, Crops, Clothing & Textiles, Robotics, Computer Science, Welding, and Geospatial Technologies. For a complete listing of SET individual projects, review pages 22-34 in the 2008-09 Illinois Clover and pages 44-45 for group projects.

How can you help youth think like scientists? Encourage inquiry skills such as: observing, categorizing, organizing, inferring, questioning, predicting, hypothesizing, evaluating, stating problems, and planning investigations.
National Volunteer Week 2009

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, 2009. The theme this year is “Inspire by Example”, which clearly describes what 4-H volunteer’s do as they role model positive behavior for youth across Illinois.

University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development staff would like to thank the nearly 24,000 youth and adult volunteers who support Illinois youth as they participate in 4-H community clubs, after-school programs, special interests groups, and camps. We truly appreciate the time and effort volunteers expend to create positive youth development environments for Illinois’ youth. Volunteers have the power to inspire the people they help and to inspire others to serve.

Electricity, Welding, and Robotics Skill-a-thons set for April 25

4-H will be partnering with the College of Engineering, Department of Ag and Bio Engineering, and the Illini Mech Club to conduct three skill-a-thons for 4-H members enrolled in Electricity, Welding or Robotics. The contests will be held on the U of I campus in the Ag and Bio Engineering Building on Saturday, April 25 and are open to 4-H members 14 years of age as of January 1, 2009. The Electricity and Welding are individual event opportunities while the Robotics will be a team event. Participants will demonstrate their knowledge, skills and abilities in one of the three areas. These events will be used to select our representatives to the 2009 National 4-H Engineering Challenge scheduled for September 27-29 at Purdue University. Individuals interested in participating can obtain additional information and specific requirements for each skill-a-thon from their local Extension Office. Registrations are due to the State 4-H Office by April 15.

GREEN Bloodlines in Your Family?

The Illinois 4-H Foundation welcomes nominations for the 2009 Illinois 4-H Family Spirit Award which will be presented at the 4-H Family Picnic at the Illinois State Fair on August 15. The Illinois 4-H Family Spirit Award recognizes a family with at least three generations and at least 15 different family members (including in-laws) that have either been 4-H members, leaders, or volunteers; having at least 100 cumulative years of 4-H membership or volunteerism represented within the family. Selection is based on the total number of family members with 4-H connections, total number of years of 4-H involvement, diversity of experiences and recognitions earned by the 4-H members, and the collective impact family members have made as advocates of their county and state 4-H programs. Find application information at: www.4hfoundation.illinois.edu. Click on “awards” and select this award. For more information, contact the Illinois 4-H Foundation office at 217-333-9295 or 4H@aces.uiuc.edu. Nominations are due by June 1.

Previous recipients of the Illinois 4-H Family Spirit Award are:

• The Leo and Shirley Hennenfent Family, Knox (2008)
• The Bauer-Hileman Family, Union (2007)
• The Fred A. Francis Family, Will (2006)
• The Thomas & Fern Troyer Rice Families, Iroquois & Woodford (2005)
• The Howard Peverly & Marvin Schnitzler Families, Macon & JoDaviess (2004)
• The Clarence & Mabel Ropp Family, McLean (2003)
• The W.B. Otwell Family, Macoupin (2002)