The new Illinois 4-H website provides a much quicker way for members to explore different opportunities available to them. Whether 8 or 18, clicking on the “Members” tab and then scrolling down through the sections can open doors to new experiences:

- **Upcoming Events** – The year-long calendar features many of our annual events for members of all ages. By clicking on a specific event, you can check out dates, ages, registration fees, additional website links, and photos! (Additional photo albums can also be found by clicking on the Photos Quick Links button in the left hand column.)

- **Fairs and Exhibits** – This section provides information on exhibit opportunities in 4-H, including local 4-H fairs and the State Fair. Information on the conference judging experience is outlined for new members. Links to specific State Fair forms needed for individual project areas are also highlighted.

- **Recognition, Awards, & Scholarships** – If you enjoy being recognized for what you have achieved as a 4-H member, check out the available awards and scholarships. A quick explanation of the Recognition for Excellence program is provided. You can explore forms and applications under the 4-H Member Recognition Resources, including the Illinois 4-H Project Planning Forms, Illinois 4-H Award application and new State 4-H Key Award application. 4-H recognition policies and state 4-H award winner trip opportunities are also highlighted.

- **Leadership Opportunities** – Teen 4-H members have numerous ways to become involved on the state level in a leadership capacity. These include planning committees for the Illini Summer Academies or State Fair and advisory groups such as the State 4-H Youth Leadership Team or Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee. Check this section out if you want to expand your horizons in the leadership arena!

Check out the website on a regular basis as it is constantly being updated.

---

**Registration Now Open for 2010 Illini Summer Academies!**

High school students are invited to check out this year’s **Illini Summer Academies**! Seven academies will offer 15-hours of interactive, intense looks into potential careers, college courses, leadership development, and more. ISA is scheduled for **June 28-30** on the University of Illinois campus. 2010 academies include: Journalism (**NEW**!); Veterinary Medicine; Aerospace Engineering; Leadership; Crop Science; Food Science & Human Nutrition; and Agricultural & Biological Engineering. Early bird registration fees are available until April 30. Registration closes **June 1** or when an academy is full. All the details are at: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/summeracademies.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/summeracademies.cfm).
Head to the Michigan “mitten” for the **North Central Region 4-H Volunteer Forum** which will be held **October 7-10, 2010** at Michigan State University in East Lansing. The forum will be held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Early bird registration is **August 15, 2010** and the cost is $200. Registration materials should be available in April.

The conference is a great opportunity for 4-H volunteers to gain knowledge and insight, learn new teaching skills to take home and share with their 4-H members, develop healthy youth and adult educational partnerships, and have a great time making new 4-H friends and exchanging ideas.

**National Volunteer Week** is **April 18-24, 2010**. The theme this year is “Celebrating People in Action” 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 interest groups, and camps. We truly appreciate the time and effort volunteers expend to create positive youth development environments for Illinois’ youth. Illinois 4-H “Celebrates 4-H leaders in action”.

Remember to register your junior and senior teams for the 2nd annual **Illinois 4-H State Robotics Challenge: Roboball**. Teams of all levels of experience are welcome. At least three youth are needed per team; must be enrolled in 4-H; but don’t need to be enrolled in robotics. All materials that are needed to prepare for the event, as well as registration forms, can be found at [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/4hroboticschallenge.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/4hroboticschallenge.cfm). Registration deadline is **April 1**.

4-H is introducing new **4-H Volunteer Courses**. You will need to register and receive a password with U of I Extension to proceed through the courses. Once you are registered you may sign up for one or more courses. Upon completion of a course, you may print out a certificate and a notice will be sent to your local Extension office and the State 4-H Office. Go to [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/?register](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/?register).

**You’re On: Public Presentations** is a new web-based course for 4-H volunteers. It takes leaders through the process of planning and delivering presentations including talks, demonstrations, formal speeches, and oral interpretations. There are related resources posted on the web site that volunteers can use to help 4-H members strengthen their talks and demonstrations. The course also includes three sample videos that can be shown to members and critiqued according to the 4-H score sheets. The module can be accessed at [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/).

**4-H Volunteer Orientation** is a newly revised web-based course for volunteers. It includes information about 4-H program opportunities, volunteer leadership roles, organization and projects for clubs, Extension/4-H organizational structure, policies and required volunteer training. This is a **MUST** for all new 4-H volunteers. Again, go to [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/).