Illinois 4-H Website – Member Section Overview (Part III)

In this newsletter, we’ll finish exploring the Member Section of the Illinois 4-H website and venture into another area where members can see “results” of fun events in the Photo Gallery! Click on the “Members” tab to get started and scroll down to explore new experiences in the 4-H program!

- **Member Resources** – Currently, the information in this section focuses primarily on new 4-H members and families, providing them with a look at our Welcome to 4-H materials and a New Kids in the Clover newsletter series. Both provide a look at projects and what new members can expect over their first year of membership. This resource section also includes information for experienced members on how to be a 4-H Big Friend to new members and directs them to appropriate 4-H publications.

- **Camping** – Illinois 4-H camp experiences vary greatly across the state, but you’ll find something for everyone! This section contains links and/or contact information for the four Illinois camping programs and notes on what campers and parents can expect from an Illinois 4-H camp experience.

- **International Opportunities** – Our 4-H program offers youth and their families various opportunities to explore the world with our international program offerings. From hosting a youth from another country for four weeks to a year or travelling abroad from 4 weeks to six months, 4-H exchanges vary in locations across the world and from year to year. Information, deadlines, and applications are all provided for the various programs.

**Photo Gallery** – While not specifically located in the “Member” section of the website, the Quick Link to Photos (in the blue column on the left) provides members and their families a look at a variety of statewide programs. Photos of participants involved in leadership activities, award trips, conferences and trainings await those looking for memories of an event or searching out potential opportunities for participation. Galleries are added throughout the year as photos become available.

As a volunteer, checking the “Members” section regularly will help you keep abreast of wonderful opportunities for your 4-H members. You can also encourage them to review the section monthly so they won’t miss an offered 4-H experience!

**Extension Goes Mobile!**

The University of Illinois Extension is pleased to announce the availability of subject-matter websites now being offered in a mobile format. These sites can be downloaded on a smart phone or handheld device at [http://m.extension.illinois.edu](http://m.extension.illinois.edu). The 4-H Overnight Chaperone Orientation is the first 4-H website to be offered in this format. 4-H Volunteer Orientation should be available on July 1. Other websites featured include those on babysitting, credit card smarts, composting, dealing with clutter, financial issues, gardening, stains, soil testing, etc. New sites will be released monthly.
Love the State Fair?
We Need Your Help!!

If you enjoy attending and/or exhibiting at the Illinois State Fair, think what fun you’d have planning or working there!! We are currently looking for teens and adults to work at the 2010 Illinois State Fair Junior Department and/or serve on the State Fair Jr. Department Advisory Committee.

Workers are needed as project assistants, livestock and dorm crews, and judges. From set-up crews starting the end of July to working the first weekend of the fair, we need you! A few select positions are available for youth as young as 14 and 15 (State work permits are required) while other positions are open to older youth or volunteers. Job descriptions and the application are posted on the 4-H website at the end of the Fairs and Exhibits information: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/fairsandexhibits.cfm. We will accept applications through August 1; however many positions are filled prior to that time. First-time applicants must include two reference letters. Judging positions require extensive experience in the areas in which applying.

The State Fair Jr. Department Advisory Committee is looking for new members to join the group this fall. The advisory committee makes recommendations regarding 4-H involvement at the State Fair and 4-H exhibit classes in the non-animal categories. This group consists of Extension staff, volunteers, and 4-H members from across the state – regional representation is strongly encouraged. Terms are 2-years in length and start September 1. Meetings are held 3-4 times a year; two face-to-face meetings and 1-2 teleconferences are planned. Mileage expenses are covered to meetings. The application is available on the 4-H website under Members: Leadership Opportunities and Members: Fairs & Exhibits.

Marketing 4-H

In April, volunteers from 48 counties completed an on-line questionnaire conducted by Creative Services of the University of Illinois which provided helpful insight as to why youth join 4-H and why adults volunteer. Members and leaders picked almost identical words that best represent 4-H: learning by doing, serving my community, having fun, learning skills for the future, growing confidence, practice being a leader, learning responsibility, and making friends. This fall, Illinois 4-H will debut NEW marketing materials aimed at increasing club membership, attracting more volunteers, retaining members, increasing stakeholder awareness, and creating a consistent visual identity. In the meantime, check out the NEW floor banners which you can reserve at http://my.extension.uiuc.edu/4hbanners/. Your local Extension office also has a NEW CD featuring great 4-H promotional videos like 4-H Passport to Adventure on YouTube http://www.youtube.com/. Thanks for the key role you play as volunteers in the 4-H youth development program. You help make it easier to market the 4-H program to other youth and adults. We appreciate YOU!

2010 North Central Region Volunteer Forum

2010 North Central Region Volunteer Forum will be held Oct. 7 -10, 2010 on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. The theme is “Heads On Hands On!” and will feature workshops, speakers, and networking. Registration materials should be available in early June at http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/ncrihvf/index.html. Early bird registration is August 15, 2010 and the cost is $200. This conference is open to all 4-H volunteer leaders from the twelve North Central states.

The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to: Illinois Leader, Sheri Seibold, 1902 Fox Dr. Ste. A, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 333-0910 sseibold@illinois.edu

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