Support Getting 4-H License Plates on the Road

4-H has the opportunity to get a specialty license plate in Illinois. It has been approved by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor. Now, it needs community support—specifically from Illinois drivers.

In order for the Secretary of State to begin production of a 4-H Specialty License plate, 1,500 Illinois drivers (who have a current license plate on file with the Illinois Secretary of State) need to show financial support. This donation helps make 4-H license plates a reality and a future revenue stream for 4-H youth in Illinois.

From April 1 to July 15, 2011, 4-H club members are engaging in a club challenge to raise the needed support to get 4-H license plates on the road. Clubs who meet the challenge will be honored at an event to be held at the 2011 Illinois State Fair. Clubs who exceed the challenge will be eligible for one of three prizes, which will be awarded to the top club in three categories (based on club size) that collects and submits the most contributions. The three categories are 1) clubs with less than 15 members, 2) clubs with 15 to 30 members, and 3) clubs with more than 30 members. 4-H members from these three clubs will also be invited to be a part of the official 4-H license plate unveiling event.

To show your support:

1. Fill out a form (http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/licenseplateinfo) with your license plate number, your contact information, and your county and club affiliation specified for the club challenge.
2. Include a check for $25 made out to “Illinois Secretary of State” (while non-refundable and non-tax-deductible, it will go to Illinois 4-H).
3. Mail to: Illinois 4-H Foundation, 1401 South Maryland Drive, 106 Taft House, Urbana, IL 61801.

Just to clarify, those who show support are not committing to buy the license plate. Once 1,500 people have shown their support in this manner, the design will be finalized and production can begin. The Secretary of State office will then provide further information if individuals want to continue their support by purchasing a 4-H license plate.

Please consider supporting 4-H youth programming and giving Illinois 4-H the opportunity for more visibility through this program. Visit http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/licenseplateinfo.

Illinois 4-H State Fair Online August 1-20

Illinois 4-H State Fair Online and Inaugural 4-H Film Festival and Map Gallery will be an exciting state exhibit opportunity for all state-fair age 4-H members, followed by live event at the Illinois State Fair. Invite your members to make a video or map that teaches others about something they learned in their 4-H project. Flip video cameras are available for members to check-out and use. Check availability with your local county Extension office. Maps can be made with free Google Maps program online. Details can be found at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/statefaironline.cfm.
The 2011 Illini Summer Academies program is scheduled for June 27-29, 2011 on the University of Illinois campus. Academies include: Art & Design (NEW); Physics (NEW); Veterinary Medicine; Aerospace Engineering; Leadership; Crop Science; Food Science & Human Nutrition; and Agricultural & Biological Engineering. The academies will offer 15-hours of interactive looks into potential careers, college courses, leadership development and more! Early bird registration fees are available until April 15. Registration closes May 25 or when an academy is full. Complete details, including 4-H scholarship information, can be found at: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/summeracademies.cfm. Encourage your 14-18 year old 4-H members to explore their future this summer – have them join us!

Statewide Youth Leadership Opportunities Are Available!!

We are currently recruiting for two statewide youth leadership opportunities. Please share this information with teens in your clubs:

- **Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee 4-H Representatives** – Open to 17-19 year olds with an interest in agriculture. Two youth are selected for the August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012 term. Youth must be able to attend meetings in Bloomington during the week. Details are provided on the application, available at: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_ifbye.cfm. Application deadline is June 13.

- **Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team** – Open to 16-19 year olds who wish to make a difference in the Illinois 4-H program. Two-year terms. Geographic representation from across the state is considered. More information on YLT and the application can be found at: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sylt.cfm. Applications will be due mid-June for interviews at Illini Summer Academies or August 1 at State Fair.

National Volunteer Week 2011

National Volunteer Week is April 10-16, 2011. 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 20,000 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”.

VALUED Volunteer Winter Telenet Series Completed

Eighteen volunteers from fifteen different counties participated in the VALUED Volunteer Winter Telenet Series. Five different club management topics were offered for a total of ten sessions. 67 individuals attended the sessions which included subject matter content, idea sharing, and networking with other new 4-H leaders across the state.

The three new online 4-H Volunteer Courses continue to be offered this spring and summer. To register go to http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/?register. The courses include 4-H Volunteer Orientation, You’re On: Public Presentations, and Come to Order, Please! – Parliamentary Procedure.

More than 140 leaders have completed the orientation session since it was revised and 50+ volunteers have completed each of the other two new courses.

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