The Great American NO BULL Challenge

The Great American NO BULL Challenge is the first campaign to empower teens to take a stand against cyberbullying. Paige Logan, an Effingham County 4-H member is one of the National Campaign spokespeople. Paige credits the leadership skills she gained in 4-H with helping her deal with her own encounter with cyberbullying. Other Illinois 4-H teens can join this effort as they combine creativity with their technology skills to create a 3-5 minute video that lends their voice to ending cyberbullying! For more information, go to www.nobullchallenge.org for directions on how to get involved. Video’s can be uploaded from January 15 – March 15, 2012. The public will have the opportunity to view and vote on the video that conveys the message best. Check out the website for contest rules, tips on making a video, and other ways to get involved in the Great American NO BULL Challenge. National 4-H is one of the official partners of the Great American NO BULL Challenge.

Speaking Out for Illinois 4-H!!

Interested in giving back to the Illinois 4-H program? Do you have members who want to share their experiences and benefits of 4-H with county board members and state legislators? We are seeking older 4-H members age 14-19 to SPEAK OUT for the 4-H program. Speaking for Illinois 4-H (SFI4-H) is an opportunity for advance training in public presentations, with focus on volunteer recruitment; speaking to civic groups; soliciting donations from local groups, businesses, or individuals; and getting the word out about 4-H to elected officials on the local, state, and federal level. We are currently looking to schedule two dates for the first half of 2012 – one in southwestern Illinois (early 2012) and one in the northeastern part of the state (April/May). Please check for dates and registration information to be posted soon http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm. The registration fee for training is $10 and includes lunch. Encourage your older 4-H members to join us!

New Online 4-H Volunteer Course – Working with Committees

This new 4-H volunteer course provides 4-H leaders with basic information about committees, advantages to utilizing committees within the 4-H club, types of committees, how to select and orient committees, committee reporting procedures, and club action steps. The courses shares two videos that highlight examples of standing and special committees used by 4-H clubs. Related resources are also posted on the web site for use by leaders. A special thank you to the Peoria County Federation and Peoria Spirits 4-H Club for their assistance with the videos. To enroll in the course go to http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hc/.

4th Annual State 4-H Robotics Competition

Please remind 4-H members interested in robotics that the 4th Annual State 4-H Robotics Competition that will be held April 21, 2012 at the University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana. Free to all 4-H members, ages 9-14 for teams of at least three members. Details on the 2012 robotics team challenge will be released Feb. 1, 2012. Scholarships for winning teams! For information on last year’s event, visit http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/4hroboticschallenge.cfm.
It’s not too early to remind members about the additional state judging opportunity that is made available through the 2nd Annual Illinois 4-H State Fair Online event. Members in all project areas are invited to make a video or map to share with a larger public to teach something they’ve learned in their 4-H project area. Entries are submitted online during the summer. Details on last year’s event and entry examples can be viewed at https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/4hstatefaironline/.

The 2012 Jr. Leadership Conference registration is up and running. The State 4-H Youth Leadership Team has a great program planned for 7th and 8th graders! Find the Clue to the Leader in U is the theme. Participants will search for the aspects of becoming a great teen leader, explore skills in forensic and food sciences, and find the actor in themselves.

JLC is scheduled for February 25-26 at the Holiday Inn in Urbana. And they can bring a non-4-H friend along if they wish (in an effort to recruit them as members, of course)! Delegates will come away with new skills that they can use immediately in their 4-H projects and your club programming. Mixers, team-building, and just plain fun is being built in so they can meet new friends from across the state.

Registration deadline is January 30, 2012. Promotional information, scholarship application, and registration info can be found on the Illinois 4-H website http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/juniorleadership.cfm. Payment and final paperwork must be postmarked by February 1. Cost of the weekend is $125 – that includes hotel, 3 meals, insurance, and all programming. A limited number of 4-H scholarships are available for 1st time 4-H attendees. Check with your local Extension office to see if they also offer scholarships. We want to see your members there!

Illinois 4-H is offering six different volunteer training sessions via the Extension toll-free teleconferencing system. All 4-H volunteers 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 24
Communications within a 4-H Club – February 2
Behavior Management – February 8
Risk Management – February 13
Parental Involvement – February 28
Community Service – March 6

Sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will last one hour. Participants may listen toll-free from their own home phones. Registration information 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. There will be no fee to register. Please contact Sheri Seibold at sseibold@illinois.edu or 217-333-0910 if you have additional questions.

In addition, there are four online volunteer training courses that are available for 4-H leaders which can be accessed 24/7 on their own computer. These include Volunteer Orientation, Parliamentary Procedure, Program Planning, Public Presentations, and Working with Committees.

Illinois Leader is published six times a year in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. R. Hoeft, Interim Director, University of Illinois Extension at Urbana-Champaign. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. The 4-H Name and Emblem are Protected Under 18 U.S.C. 707.