Sign Up Today for the 4-H Volunteer Training Series

There’s still time to register for the 2011 4-H Volunteer Training Opportunities for leaders. Five different topics will be offered on two different evenings during January through March. Each session is offered via the toll-free teleconference system so you can dial in from your own home. The sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will each last one hour. The topics being offered include: Positive Youth Development, Communications within a 4-H Club, Behavior Management, Parental Involvement, and Risk Management. To register, go to [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/valuedvolunteer.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/valuedvolunteer.cfm). A packet of materials will be mailed to each participant prior to the session. All 4-H volunteers are welcome to register. Contact your local Extension office if you have questions or need help with registration.

Incorporate Science into Club Meetings

Involving club members in science activities is a good way to expand their view of science. Incorporating science activities does not have to be scary with the help of *Science Excited* experiments. Youth interested in flying might be interested in *Cleared for Takeoff: The science behind flight*, the *Science Excited* experiment for February and March. Participation in this experiment will help members understand the forces associated with flight: Lift, Gravity, Thrust, and Drag. Minimal materials (paper, scissors, and paper clips) are all that is needed. This would be a great activity for members enrolled in aerospace and/or model rocketry to lead for their club. Please contact your local Extension office for a copy of the experiment. An Impact Summary Report Form needs to be completed at the end of each experiment conducted and turned into your local Extension office.

4-H Shooting Sports Training Offered this Spring

Two 4-H Shooting Sports trainings will be offered this spring. In order for an adult to become certified in 4-H Shooting Sports, they must attend the entire weekend training. Both trainings will be held at the 4-H Memorial Camp in Monticello. The trainings will be held March 25-27 and May 13-15, 2011. Contact your local Extension office for the registration form and agenda. Please note that additional forms will be required to be completed when the adult participant registers at the workshop(s). Those forms are: the Illinois 4-H Adult Emergency Medical form, Adult Acknowledgement of Risk form, and a background information sheet of their previous experience. All adults wishing to be trained must also complete the Illinois 4-H Volunteer Leader Application and the required screening process. Counties are responsible for assuring the completion of this requirement prior to attending the certification training.

Host Families Needed for Exchange Programs

**Japanese Exchange Program:** The summer 4-H exchange program involves Japanese youth (ages 12-16) living with a family for approximately one month from July 21 through August 20, 2011. Families have opportunities to learn about Japanese life and culture and share their own culture. For more information about the Japanese and other hosting opportunities, contact your local Extension office. Consider expanding your intercultural knowledge and apply to host a Japanese youth this summer!
4-H License Plate Orders Needed

The Illinois 4-H Foundation needs your help to put the Illinois 4-H license plate on the road. 1,500 people are needed to fill out an application form and mail it, along with $25 to the Secretary of State’s office. The $25 is non-refundable and non-tax deductible yet will go toward supporting Illinois 4-H programs. After the 1,500 requests have been received, production will begin, and supporters will be notified when the plate becomes available. The form can be accessed at http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/licenseplateinfo

Changes for 2011 State Fair Announced

We have “challenging” news from the Illinois State Fair: At this time, we will not have access to the Jr. Home Economics Building or Jr. Department Dormitory for the 2011 Illinois State Fair. The years have finally taken its toll on the building – from roof leaks to mold issues, it has been deemed that most of the building is no longer acceptable for exhibits or exhibitors. This means we do not anticipate having any sleeping quarters available for exhibitors OR staff during this year’s State Fair.

We are working with the State Fair Manager to secure other exhibit locations across the fairgrounds for our 4-H exhibits. We will share the final information with local Extension offices. Counties have been assigned to one of four exhibit days, Friday through Monday, August 12-15. Check-in and judging times will be staggered throughout the day and projects will remain on display for a period of time each day. Your local Extension office will have your assigned date and final judging times by early summer.

Changes were made to several project exhibit areas for this coming year:

- Welding will be offered one day only, Saturday, August 13.
- Exhibit classes have been deleted in Performance Showcase; Electronics; Communications; and Journalism.
- Opportunities have been added for older 4-H exhibitors to be selected for the National 4-H Engineering Challenge in Welding, Electricity, Bicycle, Computer Science & Small Engines.
- Cooking 401 class has been added and 2 food classes were deleted.
- Major changes in Photography, Leadership, and Robotics exhibit classes were made.
- Filmmaking/Video and Geospatial exhibits underwent a major reorganization, resulting in the 1st 4-H Film Festival and Geo-Mapping Display, scheduled for Saturday, August 20. There are also two new classes for 4-H’ers not enrolled in Filmmaking or Geospatial, but who want to possibly explore using these skills with another one of their 4-H projects. Local Extension offices have more information on the 2011 Illinois 4-H State Fair On-Line opportunity. (This replaces the 2010 4-H Virtual Fair program.)

Other changes that may be of interest...

- 4-H clubs/groups will have the opportunity for 4-H Action Presentations. The premium amount has been increased.
- 4-H Promotional Windows will ONLY be available in the Illinois Building. Premium amounts have been increased for this opportunity.
- The Quality Assurance & Ethics website will open February 1 and will close June 15th. State Fair entries are still due June 9 for horses and July 1 for livestock. ALL Beef Steers must be weighed, tattooed and tagged during the January 29 – March 15, 2011 dates.

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