Commitment to Volunteers

University of Illinois Extension recently took a critical look at how and why we work with volunteers across our programs. Many of you completed our online survey – thank you! As a result we have a better understanding of what we do well and what needs to be improved. When compared with other organizations, you believe we are more organized and effective than most. You value the work of University of Illinois Extension, but we don’t always help you see the vital role you play. We are pleased that you would like to know more about Extension programs beyond 4-H and we pledge to make that happen. You told us how positive your interactions with staff are and that during our reorganization you have observed no noticeable change. We will continue to seek your input at the state and local level to ensure we are providing you a rewarding experience. You are one of over 30,000 volunteers in Extension. We appreciate YOU!

4-H National Youth Science Day
October 5

On October 5, millions of young people across the nation will become scientists for the day during the fourth annual 4-H National Youth Science Day. The 2011 experiment, Wired for Wind will find youth exploring ways to engineer renewable energy technologies and the positive impact that they can have in communities across the country and the world. Engaged youth will use the engineering design process to design and test their own renewable energy turbine, experiment with different blade pitch angles to determine effect on performance, and identify the best location for a wind farm in Illinois. To download youth and facilitator guidebooks go to www.4-H.org/NYSD. Check with your local Extension office to see how your club can participate.

Are Your Teens into LCP?

If you have teens who have been involved in leadership activities, here’s an opportunity for them to receive recognition for those efforts. The Illinois Farm Bureau and their Affiliates sponsor the Illinois 4-H Premier LCP Award for members age 17 or older by December 1. LCP stands for Leadership, Citizenship, and Professionalism and that is the focus of this program which includes county and statewide recognition. Each county may submit two applications to the state level and both of those youth are recognized on the county level. The top ten youth selected on the state level are invited to a 3-day leadership conference in April and are recognized with plaques at the Illini Summer Academies Celebration Banquet in June.

Applications are available through your local Extension office or via the web: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/recognition_awards.cfm. Each Extension Unit determines how and when they select their two nominees for the state competition. Check with your local Extension office for the county deadline; the state deadline for submission is January 4, 2012.

North Central Region Volunteer e-forum
Nov 7, 17, and 22

The 2011 North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum will be held November 7, 17, and 22 via distance technology. 4-H leaders will gather at local Extension offices to join other leaders from the 12 North Central states. Sessions will evolve around Positive Youth Development (Quality Matters in Chocolate and 4-H and The Teen Brain: A Work in Progress), 4-H Program Management (Keeping Your Cool While Working with Youth and Reducing the Risks at 4-H Club Meetings), and New & Emerging Curriculum (Get Connected in Your 4-H World, 4-H Science, and Community Service Learning). Sessions will last from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Registration information will be available in October.
2012 Jr. Leadership Conference Announced

Now is the time to start recruiting your junior high age members for the 2012 Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference! Registration will open in early November for the conference, slated for Saturday/Sunday, February 25-26 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Urbana, IL. The Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team will be posting information and the registration link for this fun and educational event on the 4-H website: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/juniorleadership.cfm. Encourage your 7th and 8th grade members to check us out and get started on a 4-H leadership journey!

4-H Shooting Sports Adult Certification Training

The fall training for the 4-H Shooting Sports program will be held October 28-30 at the 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL. The weekend program will offer training in the disciplines of archery, rifle, shotgun, and coordinator. Cost will be $115.00 which covers all meals, 2 nights lodging, curriculum manuals and all expendables. Currently Illinois has 70 counties that are eligible to participate. If interested contact your local Extension office or Dan Dawson, State Coordinator at 217-726-9227, dddawson@illinois.edu.

Il 4-H License Plates

The Illinois 4-H Foundation working with the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office had legislation signed to create a new Illinois 4-H License Plate. Now they must secure 1,500 commitments before production can begin. Help the Illinois 4-H Foundation secure commitments by filling out the Specialty License Plate Registration form found at www.4hfoundation.illinois.edu or from your local Extension office. Include a check for $25.00 made out to the Secretary of State. This is non-refundable and will go to the Illinois 4-H Program. Once 1,500 commitments have been made, production will begin. More information is available through your local Extension office.

Calling Older 4-H Teens – SPEAK UP for Illinois 4-H!

Do you have older 4-H teens in your club who are interested in public speaking and want to “give back” to the Illinois 4-H program? Then have them talk to your local Extension office about becoming a member of the Speaking for Illinois 4-H (SFI4-H) team! We are currently recruiting older teens from across the state to be a part of this group and become involved in local and statewide speaking opportunities with donors, civic groups, and elected officials, including participation in the 4-H Legislative Connection event. Although recommended for older teens, youth as young as 14 may participate in the training and become a member of the SFI4-H program – as long as they have been approved by their local Extension offices.

Two trainings are being offered this fall: Saturday, October 22 in Galesburg and Saturday, November 5 in Effingham. Training starts at 9:30 a.m. with registration and ends at 3:00 p.m. Lunch is included with the registration fee of $10. Youth must attend the entire day in order to be added to the SFI4-H statewide roster and receive the “official” green SFI4-H shirt. In order to stay on the SFI4-H team, members must participate in annual update training. Complete information on the Speaking for Illinois 4-H program, the application, and online registration can be found on the Illinois 4-H website: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm.

Encourage your older members to check out this fun and exciting program as a step in their leadership development. Registration closes on October 12 for the Galesburg program and October 26 for the Effingham training, so don’t delay!