Evaluating our Effectiveness

This spring we will be collecting data statewide to answer 3 critical questions:

1) Are we incorporating the essential elements of positive youth development programming (BIG-M) into our 4-H club experiences? We will be asking about 1/3 of our clubs to complete a survey and will analyze the data statewide. Perhaps we will be asking your club to participate.

2) Have we positively influenced youth’s aspirations and interest in 4-H Science? Youth attending science rich events for 4-H members and non-members will be asked to participate in the evaluation.

3) As 4-H members graduate we want to know how 4-H has influenced their career decisions. 4-H members 17 and 18 years of age will be asked to complete an online survey.

Look for a report this fall and thanks for helping us collect this information.

4-H Memorial Camp Preps for Accreditation Review

To insure the highest quality camp program possible, 4-H Memorial Camp is preparing for an intensive review in 2012 from the American Camping Association (ACA). This would continue 4-H Memorial’s current 19 year run as an accredited camp. Each year only approximately 20% of all camp programs in the United States achieve accreditation status by the ACA, so 19 years in a row is a noteworthy achievement!

The main purpose of the ACA-accreditation program is to educate camp owners and directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation. Particular attention is given to program quality and the health/safety of campers and staff. The second purpose of ACA accreditation is to assist the public in selecting camps that meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards.

4-H Memorial Camp will serve over 1,500 youth during the six weeks of 4-H Camp. Contact your local Extension office, call 217.762.2741 or visit website http://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hmemorialcamp/ for more details.

2nd Annual Illinois 4-H State Fair Online

Remind your members about this exciting state exhibit opportunity that is open to all state-fair-age-eligible members. Check out videos submitted last year at https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/4hstatefaironline/. Details on the timeframe for 2012 will be released by April 15th.

Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports- Adult Certification Training

The Illinois 4-H Shooting Sports program will hold an adult certification training May 18-20 at the 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL. Adults, aged 21 and older, who are interested in becoming trained in the disciplines of archery, rifle, shotgun and coordinator can become certified to teach by attending this training. The training begins on Friday from 6:00 p.m. to Sunday ending at 2:30 p.m. Cost for the training is $115.00 which covers all meals, 2 nights lodging, curriculum manual and all expendables, including ammunition.

Currently Illinois has 73 of the 102 counties ‘eligible’ to deliver the program in their respective counties, and have trained 351 adults statewide. Please contact your local Extension office or Dan Dawson dddawson@illinois.edu, State Coordinator, for additional information.
April marks “Month of the Military Child”, a time to honor youth impacted by deployment. In celebration, Illinois Operation: Military Kids (OMK), part of the 4-H Youth Development program, invites you to join us for “Purple Up! For Military Kids”. Register at: http://bit.ly/PurpleUp

We are encouraging every Illinoisan to wear purple on Friday, April 13th as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.

When going online to register for “Purple Up!” registrants also have the option to participate in creating a Wall of Heroes through their 4-H club, school, business, library, or other civic organization. Registration for this provides a downloadable toolkit that includes ideas for photos, banners, proclamation, and other promotion items.

Teens have 11 options at this year’s ISA – including four new ones in Electrical & Computer Engineering, Landscape Design & Urban Planning, Bioengineering, and Molecular & Cellular Biology. The Academies offer 15-hours of interaction into careers, college courses, and leadership development.

We’ve added an additional day to the event. The 2012 Illini Summer Academies program will start with registration the afternoon of Sunday, June 24 and go through Wednesday afternoon, June 27 on the U of I campus. Register at: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/events/summeracademies.cfm. Early bird registration is due April 15 and regular registration closes May 23.

We are currently recruiting for two youth leadership opportunities on the state level: Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee and Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team. For the Youth Education Committee, details and applications will be available by mid-April. Deadline is June 15. Go to: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_ifbye.cfm. 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 June 15 or August 1 depending on interview dates.

National Volunteer Week is April 15-21, 2012. The theme this year is “Celebrating People in Action” which clearly describes 4-H leaders as they serve as role models for Illinois youth. Illinois 4-H salutes 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.

Twenty volunteers from fourteen different counties participated in the VALUED Volunteer Winter Telenet Series. Six different club management topics were offered. 49 individuals attended the sessions which included subject matter content, idea sharing, and networking with other 4-H leaders across the state.

The three 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. A new course on Club Program Planning will be available shortly.

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