



Pennsylvania 4-H Alumni Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2000

Welcome

Dear 4-H Alumni, Friend or Volunteer:

This is our first issue of a newsletter to individuals interested in the Pennsylvania 4-H youth development program. With this newsletter, our goal is to inform you of current activities taking place in 4-H. The newsletter is available electronically and also on paper. We would prefer to send it to you by email so, if you have an email address send it to Patti Fantaske at paf119@psu.edu. If you have already given us your email, please send it again so that we may verify your address.



The writers of this newsletter are faculty and staff with responsibilities to the 4-H youth development program. All of us involved with the program continue to work towards *Making the Best Better!*

We hope you have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Corbin, Ph.D.
State Program Leader for Children, Youth and Families



4-H Youth Program Volunteers Make A Difference

Throughout the country and in Pennsylvania the 4-H youth program is recognized for its positive impact with youth. The 4-H youth program reaches over 100,000 young people each year in Pennsylvania through a variety of educational programs and delivery methods.



A key part of that 4-H youth experience is the positive adult-youth interaction that takes place. In Pennsylvania, over 12,000 adult and teen volunteer leaders guide young people and make a very important contribution in their lives. The volunteer leader roles vary from working directly with youth in a project setting, to key leaders with some special expertise, to serving as a committee member. Some individuals make a major contribution through giving financial or in kind support to 4-H.



The question that is often asked, "could 4-H reach more young people with the variety of educational projects and activities that it has available." The answer is without question, "Yes"! 4-H could do so much more with additional volunteers. Please contact this office or your local Cooperative Extension office for more information on how you can make a bigger difference in the lives of our young people. You may also fill out and send us the form at the end of this newsletter.

Bob Lewis, Ph.D
Professor of 4-H Youth

What's New in 4-H Curriculum

We've added many new exciting topics to the list of 4-H projects available to our 4-H'ers. Four of our new projects are highlighted in this article.



Woodworking

The 4-H Woodworking Wonders Project is a four level series on woodworking. It includes a variety of activities that may be used with a group as well as ideas for developing additional woodworking educational activities. The four youth activity guides are designed in a systematic order with the subject matter content increasing in difficulty from the first book, *Woodworking 1, Measuring Up*, to the last, *Woodworking 4-Finishing Up*.



The Rent Event

The Rent Event is a project designed for older teens, ages 16-19, the group most likely to need information how to rent their first "home away from home." Enhancing self-esteem and learning effective decision-making skills have been identified as two of the most critical issues in the development of older adolescents. The Rent Event address both of these issues through topics such as understanding a lease, getting connected, insurance, inexpensive furnishings, and more . . .



Electricity

With help from the College of Engineering, we will be introducing a new electricity curriculum to counties this year. The curriculum is a four-level series for youth in third grade to twelfth grade. This new project will be used in traditional 4-H clubs as well as in 4-H school enrichment programs. This project is "wired" for excitement!



Theatre Arts

A new theatre arts curriculum helps youth to practice important life skills while they explore the world of theatre arts. There are 56 activities in the youth guides that can be completed as individual or group activity. Topics include acting, puppetry, stagecraft, and more. A "Talk Back" section after each activity helps youth develop skills they can use every day of their lives.

All of the 4-H projects are designed to help youth develop skills and competencies needed to succeed in life using the content of the project to develop these skills. Hands-on involvement is the most effective method to teach the projects. The 4-H motto is "learn by doing" and our curriculum continues to support this approach.

Claudia Mincemoyer, Ph.D
Assistant Professor-4-H Curriculum Specialist

Pennsylvania 4-H on the Web

In 1997, Pennsylvania 4-H got into the web with an informational web site to supplement the national advertising campaign. The original site provided general information for members and volunteers who might access the site from the campaign web site.

Since that time, our web presence has undergone some changes for the better. Now you can see the latest statistics on membership, volunteer leaders, and program participation. An on-line guide of 4-H publications was recently added that provides insight into the range of possibilities for participation in 4-H programs. Agents and leaders have access to various curriculum resources to augment their efforts with providing youth development programming.

You may visit the site at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu> for more information. Please send comments and suggestions for the site to the webmaster by clicking on the link on the home page. We hope you'll enjoy your visit.

Patti Fantaske, MA
Program Coordinator

Let Us Know What You Are Doing

Are you involved in a special 4-H project that you would like to share? Have you reached a goal that you would like your peer 4-H alumni to hear about? Would you just like to be remembered to other Pennsylvania 4-H alumni? Then tell us about it!

We would like to initiate an "alumni highlights" section to future newsletters to provide you some space to be heard. So, don't be bashful, send your news to:

Pennsylvania 4-H Alumni Highlights
The Pennsylvania State University
323 Agricultural Administration Bldg.
University Park, PA 16802

A Profile of 4-H

The Pennsylvania State 4-H Program continues to be a strong youth development program.

In 1999, Pennsylvania had 119,373 4-H member enrolled. Below is a statistical breakdown of those members.

1998-99 INVOLVEMENT IN 4-H IN PENNSYLVANIA

4-H Members:

Boys	56,645	(47%)
Girls	<u>62,728</u>	(53%)
Total	119,373	

Racial-Ethnic Characteristics:

White	80.8%
African American	8.6%
American Indian	6.3%
Hispanic	3.4%
Asian	.9%

4-H Members by Residence:

Cities	25,952	(21.7%)
Suburbs	13,423	(11.2%)
Towns (10–50,000)	24,503	(20.5%)
Towns (<10,000)	47,999	(40.2%)
Farms	7,496	(6.3%)

4-H Members by Age:

8-12 yrs.	77.9%
13-15 yrs.	15.7%
16-19 yrs.	6.4%

4-H Volunteer Leaders:

Adult	10,927
Teen	<u>1,592</u>
Total	12,519

Total Youth Served:

Enrolled 4-H Members	119,373
Other Youth Served	<u>51,631</u>
Total Youth Served	171,004

TOTAL PROJECTS **1998-1999 ENROLLMENT BY DELIVERY METHODS**

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>4-H Units</u>
Organized 4-H Clubs	14,385	21,753	36,138	1,971
4-H Special Interest or Short-Term Programs	6,433	6,418	12,851	342
4-H School Enrichment	41,011	40,356	81,367	2,312
4-H Individual Study	<u>52</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>129</u>	<u> </u>
Total	61,881	68,604	130,485	4,935
Total (with duplications eliminated)	56,645	62,728	119,373	

Phil Hoy
Youth Program Management Coordinator

Department of Agricultural and Extension Education
The Pennsylvania State University
323 Agricultural Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802-2601

**NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
UNIVERSITY PARK PA
PERMIT NO. 1**

Help Us Find 4-H Alumni

If you know of other 4-H alumni from Pennsylvania, please ask them to contact their local 4-H agent and get on our alumni list. We would like to be able to keep them up to date on 4-H opportunities in the state. Soon, they will be able to send us their information on the internet at our Pennsylvania 4-H web site:
<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu>.



Protected Under 18 U.S.C. 707

PENNSTATE



College of Agricultural Sciences

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; Tel. 814-865-4700/V; 814-863-1150/TTY.

detach here

Yes, I would like to support 4-H Programs in Pennsylvania by:

- Providing a contribution to the 4-H/Youth Development fund in the amount of: \$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____
- Becoming a 4-H volunteer leader in _____ County.

Please detach and mail to: Pennsylvania 4-H, 323 Ag Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.