



# Around the State in 4-H

College of Agricultural Sciences

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4-H and Youth Development



## IS YOUR 4-H PROGRAM WELCOMING TO NEW FAMILIES? – *Christy Bartley*

The Pennsylvania 4-H program is about youth development. I think that as extension educators we all feel passionate about what we do. Research shows that efforts in after-school youth programming helps to build essential life skills. Sometimes though, I wonder if we put in place artificial barriers that prevent us from reaching some youth. How do you or your office staff respond to families who call after the established May 1 or June 1 deadline?

Do you tell them that they will have to wait until next year? If they ask for clubs in a specific location, do they hear the response that you have no programming in that town without a follow up on options?

Every week I receive at least two to three email messages from parents and children asking about joining 4-H. In most cases, the email does not mention a county or town, so I refer everyone to the extension office contact information on the web. I'm sure that many more requests are being sent or phoned directly to your offices. It's the magic of the communication age that makes all of us very accessible.

As you work with new families, remember that we have open enrollment. The enrollment deadlines of May 1 or June 1 have been put in place to ensure that youth actually have time to work on projects before they show at local fairs and round ups. If a new family does not make that deadline, the children may not be able to show that year. That should not prevent us from providing the experiential education and life skills development opportunities our program offers. Pennsylvania 4-H is about youth development not about showing. The children could have their work evaluated in their club for the first year.

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Yes, open enrollment is an inconvenience. Leaders will have to work with new youth to repeat some of the information shared. (Parents should be engaged to help!) Office staff are working at updating Clover Counter throughout the year, but it is in support of an important program. Remember the importance of getting youth involved. If families are turned away, they no longer feel welcome and probably won't be back the next year. They also provide negative advertising for our program.

Sometimes with our busy schedules, we have a hard time understanding why people can't meet deadlines and really don't want to deal with the inconvenience. Deadlines are important, but the enrollment deadlines are established by counties to determine show eligibility and should not be used to prevent children from becoming involved in 4-H. Your passion and positive attitude will continue to expand the Pennsylvania 4-H program.

Thank you for all your hard work. Enjoy the beginning of a busy summer season and always remember that our focus is to support the children and youth in our communities.

#### 4-H PROGRAM SUPPORT ENDOWMENT – *Michael Martin*

A 4-H program support endowment creates a Penn State legacy by investing in people. In his message at the beginning of the new Penn State endowment booklet, President Graham Spanier writes,

"When the U.S. Congress passed the Morrill Land Grant Act in 1862, each state in the union received 30,000 acres of federal land to sell for every senator and representative it had in Congress. States were to put the proceeds of these sales into an endowment to provide a steady source of revenue for institutions of higher learning. Even then, an endowment was considered an investment in the future.

In 1863, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designated Penn State Pennsylvania's only land-grant university, a distinction it continues to hold today. The Commonwealth received 780,000 acres of land, which sold for \$439,000. The legislature put this money into a \$500,000 bond yielding 6 percent (\$30,000) annually to create Penn State's very first endowment. This money came as a great blessing to Penn State in those early years, helping the University grow into the top-ranked educational institution it is today.

For donors, endowments create a legacy of support for the people and programs they believe in."

Program support for 4-H covers a multitude of essential services and activities that contribute to the quality of University life. Benefactors may choose to create an endowment that focuses on member recognition, leadership development, or program enhancement. The benefactor who chooses to create an endowment for 4-H program support can look forward to seeing our youth development program thrive and provide important services as a result. With a minimum of \$25,000, program endowments are designed to merge the special interests of a donor with 4-H enrichment opportunities. Examples range from endowments supporting higher education for 4-H alumni, travel support for 4-H judging teams or National 4-H Congress participants, and camperships, to providing supplemental support for county 4-H programs.

Feel free to contact me at 814-863-2754 or [mmartin@psu.edu](mailto:mmartin@psu.edu) with questions about 4-H program support endowments. Thank you for your continuing support of the 4-H youth development program.

#### NORTHEAST STATES LEADER FORUM – *Robert Lewis*

Plans are moving along smoothly for the October 14-17, 2004 Northeast States Leader Forum scheduled for the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center. The forum will offer a variety of workshops, speakers, tours and entertainment. The program is designed to meet the educational and motivational needs of the local 4-H leader. However, one audience that you may want to consider promoting this program with is the County 4-H Advisory Committee officers and County Executive Board members. This program will provide these key people with ideas, trends, and ways to overcome some of the challenges that are facing 4-H, Youth Development Program decision makers.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO 4-H HEALTHY LIFESTYLE GRANT WINNERS – *Marilyn Corbin*

Two county extension programs have been successful in receiving the 2004 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Grants sponsored by Kraft Foods in partnership with Cargill. Congratulations to Fran Alloway and Helaine Brown who will receive \$7,496.00, and Lois Killcoyne and Kelly Weisner who will receive \$4,762.87 for their nutrition and physical activity programs. Fifteen extension applications were submitted, so Pennsylvania was fortunate to have two grant proposals funded and both of them coming to extension and 4-H. By taking advantage of this funding stream, new extension programming will reach more youth in the near future in both Northampton and Delaware counties.

## 2004 PA 4-H CAPITAL DAYS – *Lydia Everhart*

The 2004 Pennsylvania State 4-H Capital Days was a great success. The event hosted 77 4-H members from across Pennsylvania and 24 adult volunteers, agents and university staff.

On Monday afternoon 4-H Capital Days was kicked off by a banquet where the members were welcomed to the city by Kerry Golden, Executive Director, House Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Four-H members then traveled to the Capital and had the opportunity to listen to a five member panel consisting of: Walt Peechatka, Kristin Ebersole, Kerry Golden, Bill Adams, and Jay Howes. This panel discussed the legislative process, their backgrounds and how 4-H helped them to get where they are today.

Chris Herr, Associate Vice President of Penn Ag Industries, was the guest speaker for the Monday night banquet. Chris spoke about how 4-H influenced his life and gave four main items that all 4-H members should take with them into their adult life. He expressed that service, leadership, involvement and commitment are very important to the future of our communities. Christy Bartley then welcomed the 4-H members and emphasized the importance 4-H holds in their lives.

During 4-H Capital Days, 4-H members had the opportunity to learn about 12 state agencies: Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement; Commission on Crime and Delinquency; Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Education, and Environmental Protection, Human Relations Council, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Pennsylvania Capital Preservation Committee, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, and State Civil Service Commission. During this round robin the members heard presentations from the agencies, gathered literature and gained a better understanding how these agencies fit within the governmental process.

Twenty Legislators attended the breakfast to visit with the 4-H members and have their pictures taken. After the breakfast the 4-H members traveled to the capital for two events. The first event was a presentation to the legislators to help give them the big picture of 4-H, and the second was a mock house session that took place on the house floor. Four-H members worked through six legislative bills, amending and passing these bills as if they were our elected officials.

The event was not all work; the 4-H members had fun Monday night at a dance.



Four-H Capital Days is a great learning experience for both 4-H members and the legislators. Mark your calendar for the 2005 4-H Capital Days Event which will be held April 3-5, 2005

## CHILDREN AND PRIVATE TIME – *Anne Heinsohn*

School age children thrive in groups; they like being with other children in formal and non formal settings. School classes, youth clubs and programs all address a child's social development. In addition, group participation plays a role in identity formation as individuals define themselves through others--including family and peers.


Maturing children need some time for themselves or some private time to day dream, sort out their day, or just read quietly. Having had such a respite, children return to group activities refreshed and relaxed.

Today's children often have long days that begin with a headlong rush to get the entire family off to school and work. After-school programs need to recognize that by the time children arrive they've been in school all day--perhaps preceded by a before-school care setting. Some will be ready to burn off physical energy while others would welcome a bit of quiet, private time. In order to meet the varied needs, providers are challenged to arrange active and quiet group activities plus opportunities and places for private time.

Private spaces and time can be created in after -school programs. Such places can be a permanent part of the program space or temporary, i.e., created when needed. Large blocks, low book cases or a rug can define private space. Individual rugs, mats or sleeping bags, sofas or easy chairs can also be used. Note the private spaces are within the larger program space, not in another room or part of the building. Private spaces should be available for use as required, but within the same space as the rest of the program. The intent is to provide a degree of privacy, not isolation from the larger group. Children need to know it's OK to seek such respite from time to time.

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The 2004 4-H calendar can be found at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu>



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In Consultation with  
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