



# Around the State in 4-H

August 2006

Office of 4-H Youth Development

# GROW

Resilient Children and Youth

## Recognition: Think About It by Christy Bartley

Volunteers have been helping out all summer. They've made sure their 4-H club members completed projects. They've helped you evaluate your program. They've stepped in when someone was needed at the last minute for 4-H round up or for the day camp program. Think about how you are going to recognize these individuals while all their great works are still fresh in your memory. Later in the year, national 4-H will be asking for nominees for the Salute to Excellence and Hall of Fame Awards. Local volunteer groups may be asking for volunteer of the year nominees during April when they can be recognized during National Volunteer Week. You can begin the process now to recognize these individuals so they are not forgotten later in the year. For more information on the Salute to Excellence program, go to <http://www.fourhcouncil.edu/SaluteToExcellenceProgram.aspx>. Hall of Fame information may be found at <http://www.nae4ha.org/hof/>. Begin to gather information now and you will be ready to nominate your great volunteers!

## Civic Engagement by Connie Flanagan

The mid-term elections in early November have been in the news of late. Although many of our 4-H youth are too young to vote, it's not too early to get them interested. Research shows that voting is a habit we learn early, one that stays with us through life. Like many habits, the earlier we start the more likely it is to stick with us. Those who vote when they are first eligible are more likely to keep it up thereafter. Not surprisingly, getting registered to vote is the best predictor of actually voting. Demystifying the process of registering and voting is a big help to first time voters. All this takes is helping them get the registration forms, letting them practice with mock ballots, and helping them figure out what precinct they vote in.

Youth, like adults, are more likely to vote in elections that are highly contested. It may be that it is more obvious in such elections why it matters that we take a stand. They also are more interested and likely to vote when the issues in the campaign have a personal meaning. That does not mean that they have to feel that their own lives will be affected, only that they care about the issue and see how the lives of others in society might be affected.

It is common for young people today to be involved in community service. Many feel they can have an impact on their communities through service but that their vote doesn't count. Adults who work with young people can help them connect the dots – make the connections between the community issues they would like to effect and the policies and positions of those running for office. In fact, it's good for all of us to remind ourselves that government in a democracy isn't what "they" – the elected officials – do. It's what we decide together and why it's our job as citizens to hold elected officials accountable.

Although the media focus attention at the national level, it is easier to have an impact at the local level. Getting to know public servants and candidates running for office also is a good way to get young people interested in civic affairs. It helps to put a face behind the abstract notion of "government". When young people understand what public service means, they also can imagine themselves in such roles in the future. After all, nurturing future leaders has always been what 4-H is about.

### THINGS TO DO:



Send Farm Show Demonstration titles and presenter names to Christy by September 15.

Inform 4-H Clubs about the Statewide Service Project, Trail to Fitness.

Publish Leadership Conference flyer in your newsletter.

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## Volunteers Have Own Web Site by Christy Bartley

Have you shared this web site with your volunteers?

[www.4hvolunteersusa.org](http://www.4hvolunteersusa.org)

The site has volunteer resources, news, events, and a way for volunteers to keep in touch. For those volunteers who are proactive in their work, this will be the site that will keep them up-to-date and informed. You may even ask one or two volunteers to check the site each month and write a short news article for your leader letter on new information or opportunities for getting involved.

## Pennsylvania competes in National 4-H Forestry Invitational by Dr. Robert Hansen

Pennsylvania was among the 15 states that participated in the 27th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational from Sunday, July 23, through Thursday, July 27.

The event was held at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, W.Va. The International Paper Company Foundation and the Cooperative Extension Service sponsored the invitational.

Representing Pennsylvania was Chad Barclay of Home, Arielle Thornton of Rome, Lisa Dunkerton and Michael Dunkerton, both of Smethport. The team was coached by Ann and Tom Dunkerton.

Illinois won the event. Virginia and Arkansas placed second and third respectively. Elizabeth Shiley received the high-point individual award. Second place was given to Meghan Mullins of Virginia, and third place went to Zach Beaver of Illinois.

The Joe Yeager leadership award was given to Chad Barclay of Pennsylvania. This award is presented to the individual who demonstrated excellent communication, management, decision-making and interpersonal skills.

Students compete for overall team and individual awards in several categories. Events included a forestry written exam, tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, insect

and disease identification, topographic map use, the Forestry Bowl and forest evaluation.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



The 2006 4-H Calendar can be found at:  
<http://pa4h.psu.edu>

- ◆ September 15 - A 100's Due
- ◆ October 1-7 - National 4-H Week
- ◆ October 12 - Lights on *AfterSchool*
- ◆ October 12-15 - Northeast Regional Leaders Forum, Long Beach, NJ
- ◆ October 22-26 - NAE4-HA, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## TIDBITS OF INFORMATION:

- ◆ Check out a new, research-based alcohol prevention Web site for youth aged 11-13. The Cool Spot ([www.thecoolspot.gov](http://www.thecoolspot.gov)) was created by The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- ◆ National 4-H Week (October 1-7) media materials may be found at:  
[http://www.4hmediaresources.org/4HWeek\\_Kit.aspx](http://www.4hmediaresources.org/4HWeek_Kit.aspx).
- ◆ Website for Volunteers: [www.4hvolunteersusa.org](http://www.4hvolunteersusa.org)



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## EDITOR'S PAGE

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4-H Youth Development Faculty & Staff

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