



Around the State in 4-H

March 2007

Office of 4-H Youth Development

GROW

Resilient Children and Youth

PENNSTATE



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Program of
the College of
Agricultural
Sciences

March 2007

ATS Looking for Program Input

by Christy Bartley

The 4-H Youth Development Advisory Council recommended that some ATS issues have programming suggestions sent in from educators around the state. Deadlines are the first of each month. Items may be sent to Marissa Coke at mdc11@psu.edu. We did not include requests for June and July since we know you are very busy during that time. If you would like to send in information on the following, please do:

- April-Member/volunteer recruitment
- May-Fall leader training
- August-Recognition
- September-Professional Development
- October-Regional teen retreats
- November-Participant articles from state and national events
- December-Spring leader training

Articles or brief ideas may be sent in at any time before the deadline, but please be sure to designate the month and topic of the submission. Thanks for your help in continuing to improve communication about programming.

Ordering 4-H Publications

by Lydia Everhart

Are you looking at working with a large school group or doing a large activity? Do you need to order over 300 books from the Publication Distribution Center? STOP! If you are looking at working with large groups and are in need of large quantities of a 4-H publications please follow the following steps:

- Ask yourself is there a grant involved that can cover the cost of these publications?
- Plan ahead, look for outside funding resources.
- Call Lydia before ordering quantities over 300 from the PDC. Ordering large quantities like this can deplete the supply of a project and cause problems for other counties who need these books for their traditional programs.

The 4-H program orders publications based on their yearly usage, and when counties work on special programs that require more than our annual usage we run into some challenges. Please remember when working with outside organizations such as schools, day cares, etc., to build in the cost of publications with a grant of some kind and be sure to be using the cost recovery formulas for school enrichment and After-School programs as well.



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Bring Japan to Pennsylvania

by Patreese Ingram

Bring the world into your home this summer by hosting a Japanese student! These young people are excited to learn about your family's customs and culture, your values, foods, clothes and lifestyles. But, mostly they want to make friends with other young people and try communicating in English!

The exchangees of this program range in age from 12 to 18 years old and are members of the Japanese Lex, Labo or Utrek Organizations. Since 1972 over 36,000 Japanese youth have stayed with families in North America. The Lex and Labo Japanese teenagers will stay with Western Pennsylvania host families from July 22 through August 19, 2007. The Utrek Japanese teenagers will stay with Eastern Pennsylvania host families July 22 through August 16.

Host families share one thing in common – a willingness to welcome a Japanese youth into their home as a family member, not as a tourist or special guest. Families are required to have a child who is the same sex and who is close in age to the Japanese youth, and they need to have the enthusiasm to share their lives and their culture with their Japanese visitor for the four-week home stay.

The Japanese members want to experience daily life in North America, so no special trip or entertainment is required. They look forward to doing family chores, learning new games, shopping, trying new foods, and sharing their own Japanese culture, foods and customs with their host family. The Japanese youth are happy to share a room with their host sister or brother. Exchange students have their own insurance and spending money.

Living with a Japanese “son” or “daughter” will expose your family to a new way of communicating. Once they overcome their initial nervousness and start to feel at home, the Japanese youth generally open up with more and more English. However, communicating with gestures, using a dictionary and phrase book provided for the host families and speaking “through the heart” are the most effective ways to communicate. Bilingual chaperones also accompany each delegation.

The costs of hosting a Japanese student are minimal. The Japanese organizations provide complete medical insurance, and students bring their own spending money for souvenirs and personal purchases. Hosts are not required to be 4-H members currently to participate, although the Penn State University approved screening process and eventual 4-H enrollment is required.

Host family applications and additional information about this or other 4-H opportunities in Western Pennsylvania are available by contacting Darlene Kightlinger at Penn State Cooperative Extension in Crawford County at duk16@psu.edu or you may call 814-333-7460. Or, you may contact Ellen Linamen at Penn State Cooperative Extension in Butler County at ehl3@psu.edu or by calling 724-287-4761. If you are from Eastern Pennsylvania and are interested in the program, you may contact Christi Buker at 717-766-1636 or buker4h@comcast.net.

Tidbits of Information

◆ Future Dates to Remember and Mark Down

Capital Days 2008 April 13-15
Capital Days 2009 April 19-21

State Days 2008 August 5-7
State Days 2009 July 28-30
State 4-H Leaders Forum February 1-2, 2008

◆ May 1 Fashion Revue Ribbon Deadline

◆ Regional fashion revue chairs will need to order fashion revue ribbons

4-H Baker Scholarship

by Lydia Everhart

The 4-H Baker Scholarship provides 1-2 scholarships per year for current and past 4-H members who are enrolled at Penn State University. This application and information can be found at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/118.htm>. All applications are due to Lydia Everhart by June 1, 2007. Please be sure that the applications include all materials if they do not they will automatically be disqualified from selection.



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Child Protective Services Law Changes

by Christy Bartley

The Child Protective Services Law has existed without change since Act 127 was enacted in 1998. In November 2006, Gov Rendell signed a bill that created several significant changes which will become effective in May 2007. Several of the changes speak directly to mandated reporting:

The requirement for a child to come before a mandated reporter has been removed. This means that the mandated reporter no longer has to have direct contact with the child.

Penalties for willfully failing to report child abuse have been increased. Conviction for the first violation will be a misdemeanor in the first degree. Conviction of subsequent violations will be a misdemeanor of the second degree. Potential fines and jail time will also increase accordingly.

Child Abuse Clearances and criminal background checks will now be required from organizations for all employees who have a significant likelihood of contact with children. If your 4-H board or Cooperative Extension Board hires individuals who will be working with children, this may impact you. I have also forwarded this information to Human Resources so decisions can be made for current employees.

Endangerment of a child will now include circumstances where a person, in an official capacity, prevents or interferes with the making of a report of suspected child abuse.

Other changes to the law have been made but do not impact mandated reporters. If you would like more information, visit the following web site:

www.pensylvaniasupportalliance.org

(Source: *The Alliance*, published by the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance, Spring 2007).

AfterSchool Programs Can Improve Social, Academic Skills: How 4-H Can Contribute

by Claudia Mincemoyer

A newly released study concludes that afterschool programs employing evidence-based approaches to improving students' personal and social skills "were consistently successful in producing multiple benefits for youth" and those benefits include

improving children's personal, social and academic skills, and their self-esteem.

The evidence-based skill training approaches identified in the report (Sequenced, Active, Focused, Explicit) are found in most of our 4-H programs and curriculum. 4-H uses sequential curriculum to teach skills in a hands-on, active learning environment with an emphasis on teaching personal, social or life skills.

"The Impact of After-School Programs that Promote Personal and Social Skills," by Roger P. Weissberg, President of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and Professor Joseph Durlak, Loyola University - Chicago was intended to fill what the authors regarded as a gap in existing research. While many studies have focused on after-school's impact on students' academic achievement, large-scale studies focused on programs' impact on students' personal and social skills were less common.

So they conducted a meta-analysis, using data from 73 existing studies to identify broad conclusions. The two they deemed most significant:

* "[A]fterschool programs succeeded in improving youths' feelings of self-confidence and self-esteem, school bonding (positive feelings and attitudes toward school), positive social behaviors, school grades and achievement test scores. They also reduced problem behaviors (e.g., aggression, noncompliance and conduct problems) and drug use. In sum, afterschool programs produced multiple benefits that pertain to youths' personal, social and academic life."

* "Programs that used evidence-based skill training approaches were consistently successful in producing multiple benefits for youth, while those that did not use such procedures were not successful in any outcome area."

The authors considered programs to be using "evidence-based skill training approaches" if they used a "sequenced set of activities to achieve skill objectives," "active forms of learning," and at least one program element "focused on developing personal or social skills" that targeted specific skills.

The study was conducted for CASEL with funding from the William T. Grant Foundation. It is available online at <http://www.casel.org>.



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4-H Youth Development

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



The 2006/2007 4-H Calendar can be found at:
<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/>

APRIL

- ◆ April 18-20
"NRA Range Officer" Training, Wellsboro, PA
- ◆ April 20-22
Shooting Sports Volunteer Instructor Training,
Wellsboro, PA

MAY

- ◆ May 12
4-H Forestry Field Day
- ◆ May 28
Memorial Day—CLOSED

4-H Curriculum & Event Committee Nomination Time

by *Lydia Everhart*

In early April each 4-H Contact, County Extension Director and Regional Director will be receiving the nomination packet for curriculum and event committees for the 2007-2008 program year. Please review this packet and be sure to discuss within your county and region whom will be representing you on these committees. All nomination information is due back to Lydia Everhart by June 1, 2007 for both curriculum and event committees. Please also note that we have made some changes to the Volunteer/Youth form to include letters of reference and more contact information. These documents can also be found on the web at: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/235.htm>.

2007 4-H Wildlife Field Day - Flocks Of Fun!

by *Sanford Smith*

A wildlife "field day" for fun and learning is scheduled on Saturday, April 21, 2007, (9:30 am - 3:00 pm) at Rock Springs (Ag Progress Days Site) near Penn State. This state event is wide open to all 4-H'ers (ages 8 -18) interested in or currently taking wildlife projects. 4-H adult volunteers and parents are also encouraged to attend. There will be two program options offered concurrently at the event.

The first option is the "Exploratory Tract," designed for youth ages 8-11. It will include hands-on wildlife educational activities and guest speakers. This year's theme is "Habitat Improvement." Wildlife habitat is everywhere in Pennsylvania and people can do many things to change and improve it. Come explore habitat improvement practices and activities!

The second is the "Competitive Tract." It will offer youth, ages 12-18, and a chance to participate in a wildlife habitat evaluation contest. This is an educational competitive event that provides a great opportunity for youth to apply their knowledge about wildlife to real life situations. The Competitive Tract will also include a guest speaker, and a habitat tour. There is a project book that 4-H'ers should study before coming to this event, it can be downloaded from the web site listed below. Four 4-H'ers, between the ages of 14 and 18 years old, will be selected to attend the 2007 National Wildlife Evaluation Event.

Volunteer Leaders, Agents, and parents are welcome to attend the field day to observe either option. A free picnic lunch will be served for all. Attendees are encouraged to dress for the field, and bring along snacks and water bottles. There is no fee for the event, but all youth and adults planning to attend should sign up through their Extension Offices. Let us know which option your youth wish to undertake. Additional information and directions to the event can be found on the event web site: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/79.htm> Sign-up deadline is April 13, 2007. Sign-up soon!





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2007 Pennsylvania 4-H Forestry Field Day - Tree-mendous!

by Sanford Smith

Pennsylvania's 4-H Forestry Field Day is slated for May 12, 2007, from 9:45 am - 3 pm at Laurel Haven Conservation Education Center, Julian, PA. This event is open to all 4-Hers who have taken, or are planning to undertake any 4-H forestry project. The event has two options. There is an "Exploratory Tract" for younger 4-Hers (ages 8-11) and a "Competitive Tract" for older youth (ages 12-18). All adults and 4-H volunteers are welcome to attend.

Participants signing up for the Exploratory Tract will learn tree identification, compass use, and tree measurement, which are all components of the Trees + Me = Forestry 4-H project. This is non-competitive, educational, and fun. No advance study is required for the Exploratory Tract. 4-Hers in the Competitive Tract will participate in forestry knowledge and judging contest. A project book with everything one needs to know for this tract is available as a download at the web site listed below. The top four teens (ages 14 years and up) will go on to participate in the National 4-H Forestry Invitational.

There is no fee for this event, but all youth and adults planning to attend must sign up through their County Extension Offices. Participants must bring their own sack lunch and drink, and everyone is encouraged to dress for field conditions. Additional information and directions to the event can be found on the event website: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/78.htm> The sign-up deadline is May 7, 2007.



2008 State Leader Forum

by Pam Paletta

Do you know someone who is great at teaching Rocketry; Meet the Plants, Woodworking, or other 4-H projects? Then we are looking for them. The 2008 State Leader Forum will be held at Penn State University on February 1 and 2, 2008. If you know of a 4-H leader, Educator, or community person who has been teaching a 4-H project for a few years and would be willing to present a workshop on a specific project, please contact Christy Bartley at cek4@psu.edu.

4-H Capital Days, April 15-17, 2007

by Lydia Everhart

4-H Capital Days is just around the corner! The registration site is now closed, but the draft program is posted and all of your preparation materials that you need are on the 4-H Capital Days web-site at: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/74.htm>. Please look over these materials and promote this great event to all the teens in your county. We are looking forward to a great year for Capital Days!



2007 4-H Foods & Nutrition For Interested 4-H Youth

by Lydia Everhart

This year's 4-H State Achievement Days will offer a career exploration track. One area of this track we are recommending for your youth who traditionally have been involved in the Foods and Nutrition Contest. We recommend that you sign these youth up for the Ag Exploration Track and have them select the food science option. They will gain valuable knowledge on consumerism, packaging, food science and much more. Please check out the flyer for this event at <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/77.htm>



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2007 4-H State Achievement Days, July 24-26

by Lydia Everhart

4-H State Achievement Days are less than 5 months away. Start recruiting now for this event. The web-site is being updated regularly, and **registration opened on March 15th, 2007.**

The site address you want to see is:

<http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/77.htm>.

There are a few changes to this year's event I would like to highlight:

- ◆ Everyone will participate in Service Learning Day. It will be held at the Ag Arena from 1-5 p.m. There will be shuttles to take you to the arena every 15 minutes.
- ◆ **Please pay particular attention to dress code. If a member shows up to any competitive or educational event in inappropriate attire, they will automatically be disqualified and not allowed to participate.**
- ◆ Look over each competitive and educational event for rule changes and reference changes to be up-to-date for this year.

2007 4-H State Days Ag Exploration Track

by Lydia Everhart

For the second year the College of Agricultural Sciences, Office of Undergraduate Education is providing a hands on career exploration day to 4-H members ages 13-19. These members will have the opportunity to explore Penn State, career opportunities in various disciplines. This track will allow members from your county to come to Penn State for 4-H State Days and participate in an event where there is no need to prepare for a competition, and have fun with hands on activities in the areas of engineering, small animals, forest resources, food science, crop and soil science, and much more. For specific information regarding this event at the 2007 4-H Achievement Days please see the PDF document under 2007 contest labeled Ag Exploration Track at the following website: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/77.htm>

4-H State Days Night with the Spikes

by Lydia Everhart

The last few years we have offered alternative activities for Wednesday evening. This year I am happy to announce that we have

arrangements
Baseball Team
attend the game



been able to make
with the Spikes
for members to
on Wednesday,

July 25, 2007. The information flyer for this event has been posted on the state days website under the 2007 Preparation Materials <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/77.htm>. If you have youth that would like to attend this event, you will need to click the Wednesday with the Spikes Event on the registration site, and your registration fee for that individual will show a \$6 fee for the game.

New Archery Curriculum

by Earle Robbins

4-H Archery instructors should check out the archery curriculum available from the "National Archery in the Schools" program. This curriculum is designed for 3 different age groups grades 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12. This includes instructional material, lesson plans, and a variety of shooting games and activities for participants, <http://www.nasparchery.com/activea.asp>. This can be used with the Pennsylvania 4-H Shooting Sports record books now found at: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/102.htm>

4-H National Congress, November 23-27, 2007

Atlanta, GA

by Lydia Everhart

Mark your calendars; talk with your teens. 4-H National Congress is on its way. Each county in PA can send two youth to this great event in November 2007. All the planning information that you need is now available on the National Congress site at: <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/82.htm>. Please take note of all of the deadlines for this event. The first deadline is to have a regional coordinator identified by July 15, 2007; the next is to commit to having youth attend by July 25, 2007.



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4-H Youth Development

EDITOR'S PAGE

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State 4-H Program Leader

In Consultation with
4-H Youth Development Faculty & Staff

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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