



Illinois Leader

Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

October-November 2009

New 4-H Flyers Available



Two new 4-H flyers are available for 4-H leaders and families. The first flyer is the “Value of 4-H” which shares some of the key findings from the “Waves of the Future” longitudinal research study conducted by Tufts University 2002-2007. The second flyer is “The Future of Illinois 4-H Youth Development Programs”. This piece shares the three product lines that University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Programs offer – Positive Youth Development Experiences, Educational Opportunities to Empower Youth, and Professional Services for Organizations. Each of these flyers may be downloaded from the Illinois 4-H web site at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h> under Volunteers: Volunteer Support: Illinois Leader. Take a few minutes to review each of these new publications.

October 7 – 4-H National Youth Science Day



Supported by a grant from the Illinois Soybean Association, BioFuel Blast Kits are currently available on a first-come, first-serve basis to volunteers and older youth who are interested in helping to facilitate broader local engagement in the **4-H National Youth Science Day – October 7, 2009**. Kits include copies of the youth and leader guides, supplies for the experiment (including samples of dried miscanthus from the University of Illinois biomass research program), and laminated visual aides. Contact your local Extension office if you would like to use a kit. Groups are asked to complete an impact report form. National 4-H is also offering small cash prizes to counties with the highest participation in sharing the results of their experiment online. For more information on the experiment, visit www.4-H.org/NYSD which will include a video demonstration.

Illinois 4-H Web Site Preview



The Illinois 4-H web site has recently been redone to make it more user friendly for members, parents, leaders, teachers, and agency/organizational personnel. The new address is <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h>. Each issue of *Illinois Leader* will feature a brief overview of one section of the new web site. This issue will focus on the **Volunteer** section. This section is divided into Volunteer Opportunities, Placement, Orientation, Training, Support, Recognition, and a separate section for Cloverbud Volunteers. **Volunteer Opportunities** highlights the types of volunteer positions at the club, county, and state level. You can contact your local Extension office through this section to learn of current opportunities. The **Volunteer Placement** section contains information on the volunteer application process, volunteer role descriptions, and volunteer behavior guidelines. **Volunteer Orientation** provided the links to the online volunteer orientation session and the 4-H Overnight Chaperone Orientation as well as information about the Child Protection Orientation and 4-H Cloverbud Orientation which would be offered as face-to-face sessions at the local Extension office. This section also contains information about the VALUED Volunteer Orientation Series and the print and DVD materials available called *Letters to New Leaders*. The Volunteer Training, Support, and Recognition sections will be highlighted in the December/January issue of the *Illinois Leader*. Take a few minutes to review the resources posted in these sections.

Are Your Teens into LCP?



Each county has them – outstanding teens who help without complaint, believe in the leadership roles they can play, and serve as role models to others. How can we recognize them and thank them for what they have accomplished? How about encouraging them to apply for the 4-H Premier LCP Award?

Are your teens into **LCP** – *Leadership, Citizenship, and Professionalism*? The Illinois Farm Bureau and their Affiliate Companies offer a wonderful recognition opportunity for 4-H members ages 17 and above. The 4-H LCP Award provides several levels of recognition to applicants – two recipients per county; ten 4-H members with the highest cumulative point totals for state recognition at the Illini Summer Academies; and ten 4-H members who may attend the IFB Premier 20 Leadership Conference in April.

Applications are available through your local Extension office or via the web: http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/members/recognition_awards.cfm. **Each Extension unit determines how they select their two nominees for the state competition.** Applicants must be 4-H members who are at least 17 years of age by **December 1, 2009**. Check with your local Extension office for the county deadline; the state deadline is postmarked by **December 15, 2009**.

2010 Leadership Conference Focuses on Junior High 4-H Members



Help motivate junior high 4-H members into exploring their leadership abilities - - Encourage them to attend the **2010 Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference!** This event, designed for 7th and 8th grade 4-H'ers, is scheduled for **Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21, 2010**. The Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team will again be hosting this event at the Lake Williamson Camp & Conference Center near Carlinville, Illinois. More details and registration information will be appearing on the new 4-H website at:

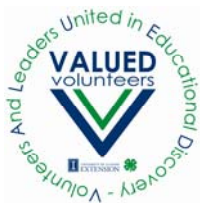
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/events/juniorleadership.cfm> and in the next issue of the *Illinois Leader*.

Salute to Excellence Nominations Sought



It's time to nominate Illinois 4-H volunteers for the **Salute to Excellence** Program sponsored by National 4-H Council. There are two award categories: **Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award** for those individuals who have served 10 or more years and **Volunteer of the Year Award** for those with less than 10 years of service. The list of criteria is available at your local Extension office. Nominations must be submitted to your local Extension office by **November 10**. A winner will be selected in each category in the five Illinois Extension regions. Then one Illinois state winner in each category will be selected and their nominations will be forwarded to National 4-H Council in December by the State 4-H Office. National winners will be announced in early spring 2010.

VALUED Volunteer



The **VALUED Volunteer Orientation Program** is gearing up again this year. New and less tenured volunteers who are interested in the orientation program should contact their local Extension office to enroll by **October 15**. The six one-hour **orientation** modules are offered through face-to-face meetings, teleconference sessions, and web-based or self-study sessions. Participants are asked to complete evaluation forms for each module. Recognition is provided for those leaders who complete all six modules during the 4-H year. Topics include volunteer roles in 4-H, club organization, club program planning, and communications within the 4-H club, positive youth development, and experiential learning. Join more than 400 Illinois 4-H leaders who have participated in this series. New and experienced volunteers are welcome.

The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to: Illinois Leader, Sheri Seibold, 1902 Fox Dr, Ste A, Champaign, IL 61820, (217) 333-0910 www.4-H.uiuc.edu

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