



October 2009

**Valley County
Extension Office**

Valley County 4-H Members, Leaders and Parents,

Hold onto your hats, because the new 4-H year is blowing in with enthusiasm, new projects, goals and the prospect of new experiences and new friends. Members and leaders are currently enrolling in the largest youth organization in the world. Life Skills are the focus of the 4-H program and every event, activity or workshop we plan include at least one life skill building aspect.

A member could learn decision making, problem solving, communication (public speaking), or conflict management. He or she might build self confidence by trying something new and succeeding. Appreciating the value of perseverance in an endeavor might be the life skill gained, or even recognizing that even an unsuccessful attempt provides a learning environment.

As adults involved with our youth we strive to building life skills through guidance, patience and the ever present need to meet the needs of the kids in our programs.

Youth development research emphasized the importance of meeting the four basic human needs of **belonging, generosity, independence, and mastery**. Studies indicate that youth whose needs are met in positive ways are likely to develop into active citizens and contributing members of their families and communities.

*Montana State University,
U.S. Department of
Agriculture and Montana
Counties Cooperating.
MSU Extension is an
equal opportunity/
affirmative action provider
of educational outreach.*

With anticipation and confidence let's all move forward into the coming 4-H year as members, as leaders and as parents!

Sincerely,

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CLUB FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORT

Club treasurers please submit your annual report to the Extension Office by Oct 31st.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

By now you should have had your first meeting and elected your club officers for the year. Roubie Younkin is willing to come do your officer installation. Give us a call at the office 228-6241 and set up a time.

PROGRAM PLANNING

Each year as a club it is helpful to fill out the program plan for the year. Dates for your meetings, roll call, and activities planned, etc. We have forms in the office to help your clubs with this. As a club talk about what community service project you would like to do, what speaker(s) or tours you would like to do, everyone should be on the schedule to give at least one talk or demonstration at your club meetings.

ENROLLMENT FORMS

It's the beginning of a new 4H year and time to get those enrollment forms and paperwork completed, signed, and turned into your organizational leader. Dues for the year remain at \$10 per individual. Your club treasurer collects the dues and then writes one check to Valley County 4H Council for your club total. If your club gets their forms and dues turned in to the Extension Office by November 2nd your Valley County 4-H Council will issue a \$25 check to your club. So, look through the "Clover", pick the projects you would like to learn more about this year, fill out the paperwork, sign and return to your club leader.

**\$25
available for
your club**

The paperwork for members and cloverbuds includes:

- enrollment or re-enrollment form. For those returning members (**please, please** make sure your personal information is correct)
- medical release form
- code of conduct
- media release form (one per family)
- animal release form (those enrolling in animal projects except the horse)
- horse project form & helmet form (those enrolled in the horse project)

The paperwork for leaders includes re-enrollment or new enrollment form along with additional paperwork. *New This Year - all direct volunteers must have a criminal background check.* The forms and information are available in the office for your completion. Call and we will send you the forms. This is a one time background check and your Valley County 4-H Council has agreed to pay the \$12 fee for this. We have nine who have applied and gone through the process successfully. It was a breeze.

PROJECT SELECTION



Have you looked through the "Clover" and discovered the NEW projects that have been added this year?

We have some of the new project materials in the office available for you the look at.

We have:

- babysitting
- communications
- theatre arts
- visual arts
- Centennial 4H project

For those interested in Shooting Sports in the Glasgow area we do have leaders trained and ready to get started.



~~ TRIP AVAILABLE ~~ It's the *STATE EXCHANGE*

2010 Valley County will host youth from another state or county in Montana. Then in 2011 you will return to spend time with that 4-H youth.

**hurry, hurry, hurry
call by October 25th**

If you are at all interested please call the office at 228-6241 or Jeff Sather at 725-3415.

Age requirements:

Completed 6th grade to host
Completed 7th grade to travel
This is usually a two year commitment. (Host one year and travel the next).

WREATH SALES

Totals are in on the wreath sales.
Congratulations you sold:



800 wreaths
9 large wreaths
41 crosses
56 roping garland

JUNIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL

The October 26th deadline is fast approaching for the "I DARE YOU" award. Please send or bring your application to the Extension Office by then.

MARKET BEEF TAGGING

Members enrolled in the beef project please have your market animal ready for tagging December 13 at either of the two locations. Please be on time.

1:00 p.m. Hinsdale
3:00 p.m. Glasgow



Eight Elements of Positive Youth Development

1. A positive relationship with a caring adult

How young people come to understand what it means and what it takes to be a productive citizen, as well as the belief in themselves, depends largely on the adult role models and connection they have. A caring adult serves as a guide, mentor, and role model.

2. A welcoming environment

A welcoming environment is one that allows for a sense of belonging to develop, encourages and supports its members, and offers encouragement with positive and specific feedback.

3. Mastery and competency in a chosen activity or subject matter area

Opportunities for success and achievement for youth serve as building blocks for a youth's success not only in youth organizations but also in their school and community work. Mastery is the building of knowledge, skills, and attitudes and then demonstrating the competent use of this knowledge and skill. Through hands-on projects and activities, youth gain new knowledge and have the opportunity to immediately apply that new knowledge to individual projects and activities they are engaged in.

4. Value and practice service for others

Service is a way for youth to gain exposure to the larger community and the world. It is necessary for youth to actively practice and treasure service. Many times this experience enables young people to recognize the difference that they can make for others and their communities.

5. An emotionally and physically safe environment

Youth should not fear physical or emotional harm from learning environments, adults who work with them, or from youth. Through extensive training and development opportunities, volunteers and staff are equipped with the tools to provide safe environments for youth to grow and develop in a positive way.

6. Self-determination

Our youth must believe that they can have impact over life's events rather than life's events having control of their lives. Youth programs must foster the personal sense of influence that youth have over their lives and provides opportunities to exercise this potential to become self-directing and autonomous adults for the future.

7. Engagement in learning

Youth programs provide for self-reflection that enables youth to connect what they are learning today to their future. While youth are learning about specific subject matter, being engaged in hands-on learning provides opportunities to develop important life skills (i.e., problem solving, decision making, teamwork, communication, etc.). These life skills are essential to both careers and avocations.

8. To see one's self as an active participant in the future

Providing youth with the opportunity to see themselves in the future gives them the hope and optimism to shape their life choices accordingly. We can teach all the facts and figures we want in various subject matter areas, but if we don't link them to their future, those facts and figures may go unused. Youth programs must be committed to positive youth development that makes a connection from today's activities to tomorrow's success.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION DAY



November 1, 2009

2 – 4 p.m. with refreshments to follow

Evangelical Church, Glasgow
(church by High School)

This is a county-wide event.

Everyone is invited to come celebrate the completion of a successful 2008-09 4H year.

Event planner: Tampico Boys 4-H Club