



Come to the 4-H Open House on October 4

Prospective 4-H members, their families and those interested in volunteering can learn more as Somerset County holds their annual 4-H Open House during 4-H Week on Wednesday, October 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ted Blum 4-H Center.

Prospective members can learn about current 4-H club and 4-H Prep offerings in Somerset County and meet club representatives. In addition, adults can learn about the wide variety of volunteer opportunities in support of 4-H, including serving as club leaders, judges, fair volunteers, workshop presenters, helping with fund-raising activities such as the annual tricky tray or rummage sale, and more.

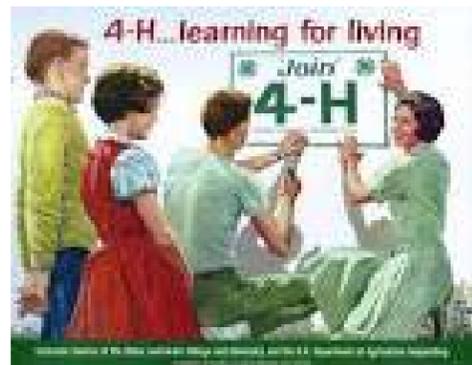
Come home – it is time for you and your family to reconnect with 4-H! ■



Carrying on a Tradition: National 4-H Week

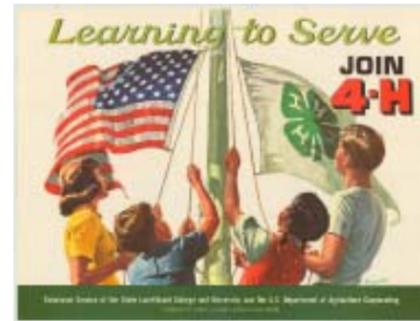
It is believed that the first official “Club Week” observance was proclaimed by the governor of Minnesota in 1926, when he established a week in April to promote the work of the Boys and Girls Clubs.

What is now known as National 4-H Week began as an outgrowth of club activities related to World War II. Following Pearl Harbor, it was decided to postpone holding the National 4-H Camp until the cessation of hostilities. Soon after, Ohio announced plans for a State 4-H Mobilization Week as a means of focusing the attention of 4-H members on what they might do for national defense. This idea met with a favorable response nationwide, leading the National Extension Service to initiate a National 4-H Mobilization Week which was observed in 1942, 1943 and 1944.



National 4-H Achievement Week debuted in November 1945. For members, the goal was to emphasize the accomplishments of that year, recognize family and volunteers for their support and plan for the year ahead. The observance was also used to showcase 4-H activities and the expansion of the program to the public, encouraging new members and volunteers to join. Results were positive, and the tradition continued.

This nationwide observance was later moved to spring, but in 1968 the date was set as the first full week in October and the name shortened to National 4-H Week. Each year, National 4-H Week had a different theme and poster design. Many of these may be viewed on the 4-H History Preservation Website.



How many of these national 4-H themes do you remember?

Learn to Live in a Changing World (1947); Better Living for a Better World (1950); Learn, Live, Serve Through 4-H (1960-1963); A New Day a New Way (1972); 4-H Pathways to the Future (1981-1982); 4-H...More Than You Ever Imagined (1995-1996); The Power of YOUth (2002-2003); Keeping It Green (2007-2008). ■

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National 4-H Camp, first held 90 years ago on the mall in Washington, D.C., was an annual event through 1957.



4-H Alumni News

August 2017

A newsletter for 4-H Alumni published by the Somerset County 4-H Youth Development Program

Somerset County 4-H Association Honors 2017 Outstanding Alumni

Two outstanding members of the 4-H family were recently honored by the Somerset County 4-H Association as this year's Outstanding Alumni.

Bryn Keck joined 4-H when she was in the second grade. She was active in the 4-H Woof Dog Club, 4-H Senior Council and served as a TOPS camp counselor.

She is also credited with starting the “Bones for Boone” project, a fundraiser to purchase bullet-proof vests for the dogs in the Somerset County K-9 Unit. The first dog to receive the vest was named Boone. Bryn and the dog club continued the project for many years, providing protection for numerous other dogs in the K-9 unit.

As an alumna, Bryn volunteered as a fair assistant for seven years, served as a TOPS camp counselor coordinator for six years, and is one of the leaders of the 4-H Senior Council, a group of teen members who focus on community service.

Bryn is an elementary school teacher and she brings her enthusiasm for teaching and working with others to her volunteer roles in 4-H. According to staff, Bryn has impacted the lives of many youth and adults who participate in the Somerset County 4-H Program.



Bryn Keck



Most recently, Bryn was invited to serve as a fair manager in recognition of her commitment and dedication. She will also bring her many years of experience and knowledge of 4-H to her new position which will benefit 4-H club members and adult volunteers alike.

Also honored as an Outstanding Alumni is **Joseph Shreve**, who started in the 4-H Prep Program as a first grader and has fond memories of attending family camp with his mom and brother. He was a member of the 4-H Wags 'n' Whiskers Dog Club, Trainmasters, 4-Leaf Clovers and 4-H Senior Council. In his teen years, he participated in Citizenship Washington

Focus, a National 4-H leadership program. And, he attended Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp as both a camper and volunteer counselor.

According to the 4-H staff, Joe is the go-to guy, always willing to offer a helping hand behind the scenes at events such as day camp and at the fair. He spent many years as a logistics coordinator for the 4-H Fair, and was recently named a fair manager.

Joe credits 4-H with providing the leadership skills that he uses today, not only as a fair manager but also in his other volunteer roles as captain of the Country Hills Volunteer Fire Department, and as a member of the rescue squad and Office of Emergency Management.

According to Joe, “It’s rewarding being able to help plan and coordinate the fair and provide kids today with the same opportunities that I had.”

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding alumni, who embody the 4-H motto: To Make the Best Better! ■

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Club Milestones

Members of the **Radio Control Cars** club recently celebrated the club’s 30th anniversary. The club was started by Dave Petito and Peter Bartelli in 1986 with six members. That year, racing took place on the go-kart track at the fair with four classes. The club’s current leader, Chris Heckman, joined as a member in 1992. Today, the club has 20 members and races in six categories, and they make use of a drivers stand created by the Marion Family. Congratulations! ■



Somerset County RCE Prepares to Celebrate Centennial

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County will celebrate 100 years of service next month. The RCE opened their first office in the county on September 10, 1917, with Agricultural Agent Harry C. Hahnes. The first county Club Agent was Noyes S. Purrington, who began on January 1, 1919, and helped to teach farming practices, cooking and food preservation. Home Demonstration Agent Charlotte Embleton joined the office on January 15, 1924, and spent the next 30 years teaching food preservation, nutrition, clothing construction, kitchen design and parenting. ■



News from the Somerset County 4-H Association

The 4-H Association brings together individuals dedicated to supporting the 4-H youth development program in Somerset County. The Association owns and maintains the Ted Blum 4-H Center and coordinates the annual fair, provides scholarships and financial aid to clubs and 4-H members, and recognizes outstanding 4-H'ers.

County Recognizes Fair Managers

Congratulations to our 4-H Fair managers who were honored with the Doris Dealman Youth Advocate of the Year Award 2016 by the Somerset County Youth Services Commission: **Abner Matthews, Mike Pappas, Mike Amorosa, Chip Graham, Joe Sheve and Bryn Keck.**

Association Members Honored

The Association recently honored four long-time volunteers with Lifetime Membership: **Holly Dunbar, Debbie Norz, Tina Pirro and Annette Smutko.**

Outstanding Volunteers Named

Congratulations to **Laura Herndon** and **Christine Schueler** who were honored as this year's Outstanding 4-H Volunteers.

4-H Family Night Returns

The Association brought back an old tradition of hosting an event for 4-H families when 150 club members, their families, volunteers and staff gathered at the 4-H Center on the night of January 21 to enjoy a spaghetti dinner, reconnect with acquaintances, share good conversation and make new friends. Veteran 4-H families were able to share their experiences with families new to 4-H and everyone had the opportunity to learn more about the wide variety of projects and activities available here in Somerset County.

State and National News

4-H Exchange

New Jersey 4-H is hosting students from Japan and Costa Rica this summer and American students may apply to spend four weeks abroad in Japan, South Korea, Costa Rica or Finland. The Exchange Program is

seeking families to host academic students who arrive in August and depart in June. For more information, visit www.state4Hexchange.org.

4-H Announces New Campaign

In 2016, 4-H launched the "Grow True Leaders" campaign, a national multiple-channel initiative with the goal of reaching 10 million young people by 2025.

Focus on the Future

As 4-H continues to adapt to meet emerging needs and the interests of young people, the focus of programs are now being grouped under the following headings:

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) that provide hands-on activities to teach problem solving, creative and critical thinking, and build excitement for engineering and technology (with 5 million annual projects).

Healthy Living: Programs that are changing and improving families and communities and that encourage healthy lifestyle choices (2.5 million annual projects).

Agriculture: Covers programs that excite and engage young people in agricultural science projects and career opportunities, including veterinary science, biotechnology, raising and training animals and forestry (3 million annual projects).

Citizenship: Empowering young people to be well informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world (2.5 million annual projects).

Clover Power Today

In 2016, there were nearly 6 million young people participating in 4-H, with support from 110 universities and the Cooperative Extension Service, and 600,000 volunteers. Today's 4-H'ers come from a mix of rural (2.6 million), urban (1.8 million) and suburban (1.6 million) areas. ■

Looking back



Where did your club exhibit its annual 4-H window display?

Calling All Alumni

You can reconnect with 4-H by joining the National 4-H Alumni Community. Informal membership include a Monthly Alumni Newsletter with stories of 4-H'ers who are making a difference, volunteer opportunities, alumni news, LinkedIn career networking; access to 4-H alumni gear and more. Sign up today at www.4-h.org/alumni. ■



Did you know . . .

All Army, Air Force and Navy installations are required by the U.S. Department of Defense to host at least one 4-H project or club to meet the needs of military youth when they move from installation to installation. Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey offers a variety of 4-H clubs and activities. ■

4-H Alumni News

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Odds and Ends

4-H Pledge Turns 90

For those who may need a bit of a reminder, the 4-H Pledge is:

*I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service,
and my Health to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country and my world.*

The original pledge was written by Otis E. Hall of Kansas in 1918, and it was 90 years ago that the pledge and 4-H motto were adopted at the first National 4-H Camp held on the mall in Washington, D.C.

Did you know . . .

Some California 4-H clubs add either, "As a true 4-H member," or "As a loyal 4-H member" at the beginning of the pledge. Minnesota and Maine 4-H clubs add, "for my family" to the last line of the pledge. Originally, the pledge ended with "and my country," but "and my world" was added in 1973. ■



Does it pass the smell test?

As reported in the June 1921 edition of "Farm Boys and Girls Leader," the question arose at a national meeting as to which state had the "strongest" club. Massachusetts claimed to have the strongest club, its Onion Club. However, California delegates took exception and immediately challenged the Massachusetts boast by announcing that they had a Garlic Club. But it was Colorado that ultimately claimed the title, with their Skunk Club. ■

Did you know . . .



There are an estimated 25 million 4-H alumni.

On the Homefront - 4-H and World War I

As we observe the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I, we also remember the important contributions made by 4-H clubs during the war and the lasting changes to the 4-H program that were brought about by the war.

In 1912, when Congress created a charter for 4-H, an estimated 73,000 boys and 23,000 girls were involved in 4-H club work nationwide. In 1914, as hostilities were beginning in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act which created the Cooperative Extension Service. The goal was to put the research and knowledge of each state's land grant university to work in local communities. The Cooperative Extension Service quickly became a

valuable resources for farmers as they were called upon to increase food production during the war. At the same time, the Cooperative Extension also supported war-time initiatives for the 4-H program.

The Cooperative Extension Service worked with 4-H clubs to increase sugar beet and sorghum production to replace sugar cane, promoted an increase in sheep and pig production, encouraged the creation of school and home gardens and taught food preservation methods.

When the United States declared war in April 1917, 4-H members sold Liberty Bonds, collected peach pits to be used in making gas mask filters and, most importantly, helped to increase food production and food conservation in American homes. At a



A canning demonstration from the 1920s.

time when preserving food was considered a patriotic endeavor, clubs offered canning demonstrations and created home gardens, later to become known as victory gardens.

As this was happening, the number of 4-H members rapidly increased, with close to one million young people participating in 4-H by the war's end. Additionally, the number of county agents/leaders increased 10 fold between 1917 and 1918, which also led to a better organized program. As 4-H was growing and proving its worth to the national, the program gained status.

Following the war, 4-H became more cohesive and continued to expand on the local, state and national level with new activities. The program also crossed the Atlantic as 4-H became established in Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Independent 4-H programs are now found in more than 50 countries.

The contributions made by the 4-H program during this time of crisis in our nation's history firmly established this youth organization and earned 4-H a place in the fabric of American life. History shows us that 4-H was able to remain true to the program's original mission while being adaptable to meet new challenges faced by young people and our nation, fulfilling the program's promise to Make the Best Better. ■



By the Numbers

In 2016, Somerset County 4-H had 800 children enrolled in 75 4-H and 4-H Prep clubs and reached 6,000 youth through 295 school-enrichment programs. Much of this was made possible by more than 500 volunteers who recorded 58,600 hours of service worth an estimated \$1.3 million. ■

