



Ohio Teen Connections

To Be or Not To Be ... Online? ... That is the Question

By ASHLEY KROGEL

Program Coordinator, 4-H, Adventure Central

Or is it? These days everyone has some sort of online presence, from my 75+ year old grandma to my friends' 8 month old baby, it is no longer a question of whether you are online or not. It is how you are spending your time online. I know for me my time is primarily spent on Facebook and Google – reconnecting with old friends, sharing pictures of what's new in my life, or answering pressing questions like “what is Bieber fever?”

Through my time on the internet I have come to realize that my online presence has helped me to develop several skills that are necessary for my offline life. Here are some examples of how as a teen **your online presence relates to the skills necessary to be successful in your 4-H program, your school, and your future:**

Facebook: As a social network Facebook provides



opportunities for people to connect with one another instantaneously. With this instant ability to share information there comes a need to recognize what you put out to the world and through this you learn **social responsibility skills** that are no doubt useful in your offline life as well.

Google: When you're online searching for information you are using your **critical thinking and problem solving skills**. It is no longer about what you know but if you know how to find out what you need to know. And Google is a tool to help you solve those problems.

Think about all of the different 21st Century skills that you have been taught (oral and written communication, teamwork, diversity, leadership, etc.) and now think about all the ways that you are online (twitter, blogging, email, etc.). So the real question is...to be or not to be developing

Ohio State University Extension

embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA. Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership. TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868.



Upcoming Events & Opportunities for Ohio Teens

Urban Immersion Project

This fall, 4-H teens will see a side of Washington DC beyond the government buildings, museums, and tourist attractions through a new 4-H initiative, *The Urban Immersion Project*. Teens ages 15-18 are eligible for this 4-day service learning experience.

The cost of the experience is only \$125. This fee includes most meals, program fees, overnight lodging and transportation.

For more information about this project, go to warren.osu.edu or contact Steve Brady at 513.695.1311 or brady.111@cfaes.osu.edu. Applications are due immediately!

4-H Camp Whitewood Teen Camp July 5-8

This community-oriented camp experiences gives teens plenty of ways to meet others from all over northeast Ohio while developing important leadership and teamwork skills and of course, having a blast! Teen campers, age 13-18, stay busy all week with traditional camp activities (like swimming, crafts and hiking), community projects, leadership devel-

opment and many new activities! *Anyone interested can go to*

<http://4hcampwhitewood.osu.edu/book-it/whitewood-teen-experience>

Additional Summer Camping Opportunities

- June 22-25, 2012, **Southern Ohio Teen Camp**, Canter's Cave 4-H Camp, Jackson, OH, teens in grades 9-12, Cost TBD, Contact Erin Dailey, dailey.108@osu.edu, 740-286-5044, ext. 25
- June 29 - July 1, 2012, **Ohio 4-H Junior Shooting Education Camp**, Ages 9 - 12, Canter's Cave 4-H Camp Inc., \$200
- July 15 - 20, 2012, **Ohio 4-H Senior Shooting Education Camp**, Ages 12 - 18, Canter's Cave 4-H Camp Inc., \$290.00
- **4-H Day at Cedar Point**—4-H'ers can enjoy at day at Cedar Point at a discounted rate of \$34.00 on Friday, June 29, 2012. Tickets will be available at the 4-H window from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Members must have their membership card to document their membership.

Learning to communicate with teens on their level

By BONNIE AYERS

State Dairy Specialist, OSU Extension

Those who know me understand that I am not exactly brilliant when it comes to my computer skills, but they will relate that I find communication of utmost importance. So if necessity is the mother of invention, count me in. I saw the need and seized the opportunity to step out of a comfort zone to experience some networking that I felt would reach youth on their level.

It seemed like pulling teeth to have our 4-H Dairy youth to find the web page and sort information. They were after a quicker approach that involved more of a fun side. Thus the Ohio 4-H Dairy Program page was born. It has been nothing short of amazing PLUS one more responsibility in my day's activities. I can honestly say it is well worth the time and really not much of a chore.

Following are some steps I would recommend for setting up a page.

Step #1: Convince yourself you can figure out how and where to begin. Mine was a New Year's Resolution for 2011.

Step #2: On the Facebook page, read everything you can about setting up and organizing your page. You will discover that you must compose a few items of information. View some other pages with similar goals and inter-

Rules to Remember

#1 Facebook is a tool, not a toy. It should not be a substitute for personal connections.

#2 Guard the content by viewing your page regularly. Perhaps you will even want to enlist a second person as an administrator.

#3 Use the page for educational purposes and updates. For example, when the Labor Department withdrew the proposed youth rules, I immediately posted the link. When a clever poster or youtube video with appropriate content is available, I provide the link. This way I am using the page as a tool!

#4 I do not and will not attach names to any photos that I use.

#5 Not everyone out there is a fan of Facebook. Respect those folks.

ests, and pretty soon, you will finalize what you need to say. In my research, I absolutely relied on this resource <http://ofbf.org/media-and-publications/social-media/> from Ohio Farm Bureau. It became my textbook of sorts. In my learning style and generation, I found it simpler to often read a manual rather than Facebook Help pages. Step # 3: Surround yourself with people who "have been there and done it." Select a younger mentor to demonstrate the set up and then pick

an older mentor who can answer your questions realistically. In other words, you need someone for content and a friend that you can laugh with as you work through the process.

Step #4: If at first you don't succeed, don't give up! Just keep trying and even google your question. There are literally thousands of support pages and answers out there in cyberspace. Step #5: Promote that you have actually have a page and have friends in other groups and organizations to find you and like the page.

Again, I simply chose not to be a "purple dinosaur" when it came to this means of connecting with youth. It was not a revolution on my part, but more like evolution. Good luck!

Dairy Palooza



Participants at Dairy Palooza on April 28, 2012 pose with Buckeye Bessie.

Weebly.com: Confronting Negative Images

By BRITTANY PANGBURN
Program Assistant, 4-H
Athens County

Teenagers often have a hard time regulating their appearance on the internet, and they are constantly warned by adults not to post a plethora of images and words that can be negatively associated with the teen's own personal "brand."

During a recent Athens County Junior Leaders meeting, we explored the idea of stereotyping and negative images that appear on the internet about many teens. We talked about cyberbullying, internet appearances to employers, and opportunities that could be lost by having a suspicious photo or comment online.

However, unlike most of these meetings held with teenagers, we also discussed how we can *reverse* the trend and *promote* ourselves online.

After covering privacy settings on websites like Facebook, I showed them the website weebly.com, which many businesses and professionals now use as a marketing tool.

On this free site, members create profiles with a multitude of links where you can post your resume, references, what you provide, and a little bit about yourself. Due to the interactive programming and design that is easy to use, members literally create their own traveling portfolio that they can email out to potential employers.

This idea is essential for 4-H youth; as they apply to colleges and/or jobs, they will have a running record of their 4-H accomplishments in an easy to send format. In addition, when these members are "Googled" later, positive and carefully constructed images and words will be associated with their name.

It is vital, particularly when talking to teens, that we focus on what they *can* do and how we can proactively fight negative imaging on the internet, rather than focusing on what they are doing wrong.

Weebly is an invaluable tool for our Junior Leaders and other 4-H teenagers, and I highly recommend teaching how to utilize it with your own teen groups.



Leadership Camp registrations due July 15

Leadership Camp, sponsored by Nationwide and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, is the epitome of a successful "learn by doing" approach to leadership development.

The 2012 State Leadership Camp will be held August 8 through 12, at 4-H Camp Ohio.

Please contact your county OSU Extension 4-H educator for selection and registration information.

Stay Connected to Community Service Through Social Networking

By CYNTHIA TOLER
Extension Educator, 4-H, Lucas County

Why does a person participate in community service activities? The most common reason may be to give back to their community.

Typically, teenagers become involved in community service as a requirement for school activities.

*A 2005 survey conducted by The Corporation for National and Community Service shared some interesting facts relating to teen volunteers:

- 64 percent of teenagers who volunteer do so through various means; however, primarily through youth leadership groups such as the 4-H Program
- 55 percent of youth ages 12-18 volunteer
- 65 percent of youth who participate in service as part of a school activity are also engaged in service learning related activities

- Youth volunteers succeed academically
Various means also includes community service through social networks such as Facebook and MySpace. Some of you may already be doing this in your 4-H

Club or youth group. For example, if you are the President of your 4-H group and you communicate, lead and plan a community service project through a Facebook group, you are giving to others through social networking. The actual event may take place in the community; however, you are planning it through a social network.

With teens being involved in so many activities, they still can contribute through the innovative use of technology. If you want to find agencies that are offering civic opportunities to teenagers, check out the following civil service websites: **USAFreedomCorps.gov** and **VolunteerMatch.org**. Both of these sites allow you to search for volunteer opportunities in your community.

In conclusion, when you talk with friends on social networks, encourage them to take the time to research agencies looking for teen volunteers.

As the facts state, not only are you helping others, you will learn new skills that can help you succeed in the future.

*http://www.polkfl.net/community/volunteers/documents/servicelearning/FactSheet_ROSITV.pdf

lol ... or Maybe Not?

By GWEN SOULE
Extension Educator, 4-H,
Sandusky County

Recent studies show that approximately 65-75% of teens are active on at least one social network. Are you one of them? It might surprise you to know that college administrators and employers often research their applicants online. While social networks can be a convenient way to keep in contact with friends and family, they can also cause damage to your "online reputation." An online reputation is simply a collection of the opinions others form about you, based on information and pictures they find online. Is what they see going to make them think twice about hiring you or selecting you for their school?

You can help manage this reputation in two ways:

Limiting Access: Use Privacy Settings

Most networks allow users to adjust account setting to limit access to only specific people, such as your friends. If you don't know what your account settings are, take a few minutes to check them.

A Note about Privacy Settings:

While you can limit access to your information by using privacy settings and carefully screening your friends, it is impossible to create a completely secure social network site. For example, did you know that when a Facebook friend comments on your status update or picture, it then becomes visible to all of their friends? How well do you know all of the friends of your friends?

See page 5 for instructions on how to change your settings.

Limiting Content: Think Before You Share

So, you should use care when posting, because you never know who might see it. Something you post to be funny may not always put you or your friends in the best light. Ask yourself, could this post damage my reputation or the reputation of others?

With a little extra thought and care, you can enjoy being part of a social network without damaging your chances for getting what you want in the future.

Contact us ...

Ideas for photos, stories, columns are welcome!

Please contact Teen Connections Editors with any story ideas or suggestions.

Teen Connections Editorial Team:

Josh Kirby, State Specialist, OSU Extension
Greg Yost, Youth Outdoors, Cuyahoga County
Nadine Fogt, Fayette County
Joyce Shriner, Hocking County
Betty Wingerter, Montgomery County
Robin Stone, Cuyahoga County
Sarah Blackburn, Clark County
Mikayla Brown, Hancock County
Heather Wilson, Fairfield County
Jo Williams, Scioto County, Layout & Design

Like our new
Facebook fan page!

[www.facebook.com/
Ohio4HTeenConnections](http://www.facebook.com/Ohio4HTeenConnections)



Ohio  Teen
Connections



FUN



LEARNING



FRIENDS

Ohio4h.org/teenconnections



LEADING



SERVING



THE
OHIO 4-H
FOUNDATION



Graduation Advice: Thoughts for Students

In these next few weeks, nearly 100,000 students will graduate from high schools across Ohio. Distinguished commencement speakers will impart an array of advice, much of which has been recycled from a thousand graduation speeches that have gone before. While many issues still ring true for today's grads, some new things have emerged.

Here is my short list of things graduating students should consider:

1. Be careful what you post online. Many colleges and businesses search FaceBook profiles prior to admitting or hiring students. Remember, online posts last forever. You may remove an incriminating photo; but it has already been cached, stored, saved or downloaded on a smartphone somewhere.

2. Drop the cutesy email address. While you may be "topfootballjock@whatever.com", your professors or future employers are looking for signs of maturity. Enough said.

3. Learn text etiquette. No matter how important the 911 text message from your friend may be, your college professor (or future employer) does NOT want to see you replying while you're in class or a meeting.

4. Stay connected with your parents. Research shows brief cell phone conversations and texts are normal and helpful. But do NOT ask your parents to talk to your professor for you!

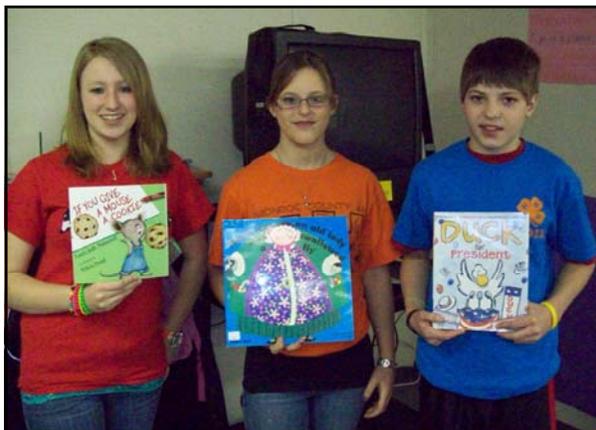
5. Become credit card savvy. Watch out for predatory credit card companies who lure students but then hook them with huge fees and interest rates later on.

6. Find a mentor. Look for someone (older) that you trust at school, at your place of worship, or among your family's friends. Ask them if they could be available to talk every now and then. Believe me, as you transition away from the familiar realms of high school, friends and family, you will NEED someone to talk with on occasion. Do this! Seriously!! It will help you immensely.

7. Enjoy life! This sounds simplistic. But graduates often get caught up in the "I have to ___" (fill in the blank). Yes, you have to do a lot of things; but don't forget to relax and enjoy life!

BRIAN RAISON, an Assistant Professor with OSU Extension, may be reached at raison.1@osu.edu

4-H Reading Makes the Best Better



4-H teens, volunteering their time and effort as 4-H Week Ambassadors, visited Kindergarten classrooms throughout Monroe County to promote literacy and the benefits of 4-H membership. The teens read books to more than 150 students. Each Kindergartener received a free book, compliments of the Monroe County 4-H Committee. Pictured (L to R): Denise Heath, Barbara Whiteman and Tanner Brown proudly display the books they read.

“How-to” change Facebook privacy settings

By SARAH BLACKBURN
Ohio 4-H Teen Connections Editor

Ever had strange people add you as a friend on Facebook or comment on your status? Ever wondered how to hide certain posts from certain people? The new changes of Facebook have made figuring out anything fairly difficult, but these tips and instructions can help you get that comfort of protection back.

When posting a status or photo to your “wall” and not a picture album, you can dictate who can see or not see that post by clicking on the gear icon at the bottom of the posting box. This is called the “inline audience selector.” There, you will see the following choices: Public, Friends, Only Me, and Custom. If you have created any lists, such as “Close Friends,” “Family,” or customized lists for the people in your life, then those will be listed after. Whichever option you select will be you can see that post. If you prefer a more customized selection, click “custom” on that list. A window will appear, where you can select certain people, lists, and/or networks of people for whom the post will be visible. All you have to do is type in the specific person’s name. You can also hide posts from specific people or lists, just by typing in a person’s name or title of a list.

To change your privacy settings in a broader sense, look to the top right hand corner of your screen. You will see your name and “Home,” as well as an arrow pointed down. Click on that arrow, followed by “privacy settings.” Now you will see a screen that says “Control Pri-

vacy When You Post” and “Control Your Default Privacy,” followed by other options. The 1st option of “Control Privacy When You Post” was explained above. The 2nd option, which is your default privacy, is used for status updates and photos that you post from a Facebook app. Basically, this setting is used for mobile posts, from iPhones, iPods, and other gadgets. You can set this to Public, Friends, or Custom. Custom here works just like custom above, type in who you would like to see or not see the posts.

The next option is “How You Connect.” Click on “Edit Settings” on the right, then select what you would like in the dialog box that appears. You can determine what groups of people can send you friend requests, Facebook messages, and look you up using the email address or phone number you provided. In the next option, “Profile And Tagging,” you can control what happens when your friends tag you or tag content you’ve posted. You can also control what happens when friends post on your wall. You can either allow all of your friends to post on your wall, or disable it so no one can. You can either enable or disable the option of reviewing posts that friends tag you in before they appear on your profile. This could be very useful to enable if you might have less-than-flattering pictures of you appear on Facebook from a party or such the night before.

To read more, check out the online article at <http://www.ohio4h.org/teenconnections>

Ohio attends National 4-H Conference

By DR. JOSHUA KIRBY

Ohio 4-H Extension Specialist, 4-H Older Youth and Camping

Each year, Ohio 4-H sends a delegation of 4-H members and an advisor to represent the state at the National 4-H Conference in the Washington, D.C. area. During the week of March 24-29, 2012, Ohio's delegates joined more than 50 delegations and 211 youth delegates from across the USA and Canada in a series of leadership development workshops, strategy recommendations to 13 federal agencies, and personal meetings with senators, congressmen, and their aides.



Representative Jim Jordan of Ohio's 4th Congressional District met with Ohio 4-H representatives and Dr. Kirby to discuss issues facing Ohio teens. Ali Mowrey, Rep. Jordan's constituent, emphasized the role that 4-H has played in improving her understanding of the science and technology skills first presented in her school.



Kayla Broughton (Miami County), Ali Mowrey (Hancock County), and Brent House (Franklin County) arrive to the National 4-H Youth Conference Center with style. Kayla, Ali, and Brent are members of the Ohio 4-H Teen Advisory Council and were selected to represent Ohio 4-H at the Conference.

Online Youth Development: Learning to Manage Risks

By MARK LIGHT

Extension Educator, 4-H, Hardin County

The manner that young people and adults are communicating with each other is rapidly changing in a society that is, in part, driven by the latest technology.

As a youth-driven program, 4-H must engage in new strategies and methods by which we communicate with youth members, volunteers, families, and the community at large. Social and mobile media are a growing and popular venue for much of our target audience and youth group leaders must learn how to leverage these networks to create positive youth development in online environments.

4-H has already established itself as a source of mentoring opportunities, and as those relationships grow into youth-adult partnerships, collaborative technologies

will allow the work of those partnerships to take place across geographic, schedule-, or age-related boundaries. As the technological world grows, young people are the ones developing new tools and strategies. It's only logical that they should be the ones to make us grow, too.

Tim Davies, a researcher in the United Kingdom, has linked positive youth development to social networking. His research involves trying to create specific applications for those who are under 19 to allow for safe and effective social networks. Rather than shutting down these powerful communication and collaboration tools, he suggests that we find a way to manage the risk (Davies, 2010). Most parents will send their children off to 4-H camp, without even thinking about the risks involved. The reason is that they know that they will be surrounded by car-

ing adults. We have learned to manage the risks at camp to allow for the growth forming experience it provides. We must do the same thing online.

If we ignore and don't engage in the opportunity to be connected to youth online, then youth are left to make their own paths online and set the online norms. As a youth organization, we also must seize the opportunity to be online mentors and use the online resources that are available and being used by our target populations.

Davies, Tim. (2010). Youth Social Networking - Myths and Realities. Retrieved September 13, 2011, from <http://www.timdavies.org.uk/2010/12/27/youth-social-networking-myths-and-realities/>