

Ohio 4-H News and Notes

Week of January 26, 2014

Ohio State Fair Skillathon Information

All nine Ohio State Fair Skillathons are open to any Ohio 4-H member, age 8 and in the 3rd grade to age 18 as of January 1, 2014, and FFA members. Therefore, 4-H and FFA members turning 19 on or before December 31, 2013 are too old to participate in the Skillathons. Youth do not have to be an exhibitor at the Ohio State Fair to participate. The 2014 Skillathon information below can be found at: <http://www.4hansci.osu.edu/skillathon/skillathon.php>.

(1) OSF Skillathon and Judging Events Calendar; (2) OSF Skillathon Rules; (3) Tips for Completing a Successful OSF Skillathon; (4) Tips for Skillathon Facilitators; and (5) Skillathon Facilitator Volunteer Form. Please contact either Paul Kuber (kuber.2@osu.edu) or Lucinda Miller, (miller.78@osu.edu) if you have any questions.

Attention 4-H Professionals – Workforce Prep Day at the Ohio State Fair

As a reminder, each year your outstanding youth have the opportunity to compete in Workforce Prep Day at the Ohio State Fair and now is the time to start planning. The date for the event this year is July 23 (pre-registration July 11) and more details can be found in the [Workforce Prep Day Instructions](#). Don't forget, a \$250 cash award goes to the top senior and top junior in this event, so participation in this Workforce Prep event does pay!

For your promotional efforts we have included a [flyer](#) and an [invitation](#). The flyer is designed to be sent out to the masses and the invitation to be customized for an individual. From past experience, those youth that participate in the event for the first time generally did so because of a recommendation or invitation from their 4-H professional. You have great influence! We hope that you will think of a few individual youth in 2014 and give them a special invitation. If you have any questions or need further information, contact Nate Arnett (Arnett.67@osu.edu).

Quality Assurance Surveys

Quality Assurance Surveys to be handed out at **each quality assurance training session** can be found on the password protected page of the 4-H Animal Science website: <http://4hansci.osu.edu/>.

In connection with the Assuring Quality Care for Animals Signature program, the Assuring Quality Care for Animals Core Team has created these surveys to help capture data that shows learning from Quality Assurance programs. The Design Team helped to pilot the surveys in 2013 and confirmed there was evidence of learning from the pre and post survey's given. To match the 2014 GPP's taught, we have replaced four of the pilot survey questions with two each representing GPP's 3 and 6. GPP 1 was already represented on the pilot survey. We hope to be able to capture better data in 2014 with all counties participating.

Please give these surveys out and collect the data at each quality assurance session. When complete, please send the cover sheet and stack of surveys to Crystal Ott at the state office. We are working on a process to get the data entered and summarized from the state level. Each county's data will also remain separate which will be a great resource for your 2014 RiV.

Please contact Paul Kuber (kuber.2@osu.edu) or Lucinda Miller (miller.78@osu.edu) with any questions in regards to the purpose or content.

Achievement Record Procedure Reminders

On the 4-H for staff resources website there is a **spreadsheet for you to use to submit the names of your nominees and alternates** for the Ohio 4-H Achievement Record judging. As in the past, if one of your 4-H members is entering 10 project areas – I need only their name and county on entries 2-10. Please return the completed spreadsheet to Crystal Ott (ott.109@osu.edu) **prior to February 3**. We will then append all the county files into our award database. It is very important that we receive this spreadsheet from each county to assist in making sure all entries are reviewed in the correct category.

In addition, the **coversheet to attach to each 4-H Achievement award entry** along with a series of helpful tidbits is posted on the Ohio 4-H web site on the staff resources page.

If you have questions, please contact Allen Auck (auck.1@osu.edu).

Citizenship Washington Focus and Leadership Washington Focus

Do you have youth interested in CWF or LWF? Make sure you send the numbers you expect to send from your county to Crystal Ott (ott.109@osu.edu) as soon as possible. You can find more information about both trips on the Ohio 4-H Events and Opportunities page: <http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-youth/club-members/events-opportunities>. You can also find the delegate information sheets that are required on the 4-H for staff resource page.

If you have questions, please contact Allen Auck (auck.1@osu.edu).

990 E-postcard Tutorial

A PowerPoint tutorial has been created to assist volunteers with reporting their 4-H club/affiliate 990 E-Postcard. It has been posted to our website so that volunteers can easily have access. Please feel free to use it for your county trainings or direct volunteers to reference it as they file their club/affiliate 990 E-postcard.

<http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-parents-volunteers/club-leaders/finances>

Project Central Visitor Statistics

If you're data nerds like us then you might be interested to learn about the demographics of the Project Central visitors. Which county has produced the most visitors? Where do users find the link to the site? What type of devices are visitors using?

We have been using Google Analytics to learn the answers to all of the questions above and more. And yes, we will share this cool information!

Data from December 20 – January 20

Total number of visitors: 1,018

Average visit duration: 5 minutes, 51 seconds

Top 5 counties using the website:

Franklin

Medina

Licking

Hardin

Defiance

Top 5 referral sources:

Facebook

Licking.osu.edu

Pickaway.osu.edu

Twitter

Warren.osu.edu

Top 3 mobile devices used:

Apple iPhone

Apple iPad

Samsung Galaxy

This data helps us understand how Project Central is being used and discover other ways we might reach 4-H members and volunteers. Thank you for your continuous efforts to make Project Central a great resource, and please don't hesitate to ask us questions! Contact Erica Clark-Covert at (clark-covert.1@osu.edu) or 614-688-1934.

Cloverbot Challenge 2014

The Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge received a generous grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation. This grant will enable us to partially cover the expenses for some new teams in 2014. If you are unfamiliar with the program, here are the basics:

- Teams of 2-8 Cloverbuds form a team to participate in the Junior FIRST LEGO League (JrFLL).
- Each team designs and constructs a model using LEGO bricks and moving parts and a "Show-me" poster.
- The project is based on the 2014 theme: Disaster Blaster.
- Teams bring their projects to the Ohio 4-H Center in Columbus on May 31, for the Ohio Cloverbot Challenge where they share their efforts with reviewers and families and are recognized for their efforts.

The program will be introduced at a session at the 2014 Ohio 4-H Conference. Your interested adult volunteers should register for session #702 held during Workshop B from 10-11:30 a.m. Participants will be able to register their teams and learn about the 2014 Challenge. Participating teams must have an advisor or other representative at this session.

Your volunteers need to know that the grant funding will only cover half of the team expenses, which will require the new teams to secure approximately \$130. This will cover the registration costs with the FIRST LEGO League and the basic kit of parts.

All of the teams that participated in a previous Cloverbot Challenge will be able to utilize their kit of parts from last year and will only have to pay the \$50 registration fee.

We wanted you to have ample time to share this information with your interested volunteers, so that they understand the expense involved and have ample time to secure funding through fundraising, club dues, county committee support or community donors.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Boomershine, (boomershine.10@osu.edu) or Sally McClaskey at (mcclaskey.12@osu.edu.)

FEMA seeks applicants for Youth Preparedness Council

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is seeking applicants for its Youth Preparedness Council.

Any individual between the ages of 12 and 17 who is engaged in individual and community preparedness or who has experienced a disaster that has motivated him or her to make a positive difference in his or her community, may apply to serve on the Youth Preparedness Council. Individuals who applied last year are highly encouraged to apply again. Adults working with youth and/or community preparedness are encouraged to share the application with youth who might be interested in applying.

All applications and supporting materials must be received no later than February 24, 2014, 11:59 p.m. EST in order to be eligible. New Youth Preparedness Council members will be announced in May 2014.

For more information about the Youth Preparedness Council and to access the application materials, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council>.

4-H Launches 1st Curriculum-based App, Celebrates National Drug Facts Week

National 4-H Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have partnered with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to promote their annual [National Drug Facts Week](#) (NDFW) celebration January 27-February 2, 2014.

It's not too late to host and promote an event for teens during the week of January 27-February 2, 2014, and help shatter the myths about drugs. For more information on how to participate in National Drug Facts Week, visit www.drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov.

Council will also launch a new interactive learning game called [Health Rocks! Carnival](#)—the first app developed for a national 4-H curriculum. To learn more, visit the [Health Rocks! web page](#).