**Ohio 4-H News and Notes**

**February 17, 2013**

*Hi,*

*Earlier this month at the State 4-H Professionals’ Update, Steve Brady presented some questions that I developed. We wanted to use the “clicker” system for other than recreational purposes, as well as get a sense of where we were on some important issues relative to the direction of the State 4-H program. The results were flashed on the screen momentarily for everyone to see, but I thought it would be good to let you have time to review in more detail.  Below is a table with a few of the questions, the percentage of responses for each scale division, and the number of people who responded.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question: | Very Dedicated | Somewhat Dedicated | Not Dedicated | N |
| How dedicated are you to insuring that your county’s data is entered into ACCESS 4-H? | 59% | 35% | 6% | 81 |
| How dedicated are you to completing 4-H volunteer screening processes? | 89% | 9% | 2% | 87 |
| How dedicated are you to completing requirements for 4-H [Foundation Grants](http://www.ohio4h.org/ohio-4-h-news-and-notes)? | 54% | 31% | 15% | 80 |
| How dedicated are you to your Educator specialization? | 70% | 26% | 4% | 70 |
| How dedicated are you to maintaining your county’s 4-H club financial records for EIN & GEN purposes? | 74% | 17% | 9% | 77 |
| How dedicated are you to your 4-H design team? | 43% | 42% | 15% | 69 |

*At first glance, things look pretty positive. But I would highlight a few flaws with this approach.  First, the scale used is skewed.  If I divided the responses into* [*groups*](http://www.ohio4h.org/ohio-4-h-news-and-notes) *of those who were in some degree “Dedicated” versus those “Not Dedicated”, then things are wonderful – that range goes from 85% up to 98% “Dedicated”. I really do not think things are that good. A good response scale in balance from one extreme to the other, and this one is not.*

*Also, if you remember the make-up of those in the audience, there were primarily 4-H Educators, but also 4-H Program Assistants, 4-H Program Coordinators and 4-H Specialists. Some of these people are not involved at all with one or more of the questions asked. They may not have responded, or they may have stated that they are “Not Dedicated”, because that is not within their job description – we just do not know.*

*My take-aways from these results in general make me feel good, but I want more specifics. I want to know the responses from those actually doing the activities listed. Also, we had limited time for this data collection activity, and there were several other questions that we had developed that were not asked. My plan is to generate a web-based* [*survey*](http://www.ohio4h.org/ohio-4-h-news-and-notes) *to be released in early spring to better identify that status of elements of Ohio 4-H programming in 2013.  As we identify where we are, we can fix those things that need to be fixed to make us better.*

*If you have any items that you think should be asked within this upcoming spring survey that I am developing, let me know. I do not want to make the questionnaire long, but I do want to make it relevant.*

*Thanks,*

*Tom*

**Pigeon Project Information—Speakers Available!**

Please pass along this message from Ron Pairan, author of idea starter [**365.22 Pigeons**](http://www.ohio4h.org/sites/d6-ohio4h.web/files/365_22%20Pigeons.pdf), to 4‑H members, families , and club advisors.

Pigeons make a very interesting and inexpensive 4-H project. There are dozens of breeds to choose from, including pigeons raised for their meat, pigeons raised for showing, pigeons raised for performing, and pigeons raised for racing.

Pigeons have delivered messages during war time which have saved thousands of lives.  The Dickin Medal, originating in England in 1943 and honoring the valor of animal war heroes, was earned by 32 homing pigeons, including the American homer G. I. Joe.

If you are interested in someone giving a presentation concerning pigeons at one of your 4‑H meetings, I may be able to arrange for a free speaker. My name is Ron Pairan and I am the Lakes Zone Director for the American Racing Pigeon Union. While I can’t guarantee anything, I do have contacts throughout the state and may be able to help you. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me after February 25 at **rpairan@avolve.net** or 740-467-3108.

**4-H Space Adventure Camp**

4-H Space Adventure Camp is planned for June 18-20, 2013, at Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio. The camp is designed for students who are currently in grades 5-7 and ages 11-13. They do not need to be current 4-H members in your county program. Participants will live on the Marietta College campus and explore the world of flight with the help of college faculty and trained 4-H camp counselors. It's three fun-filled days of rockets, computer simulations, hot air balloons and more. The cost of $190 includes housing, meals, and all program materials. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Space is limited to 36 campers and is designed as a one-time experience.

Please note: Because of limited space, if your county wishes to send campers, in order to 'save a space' we will need the $50 deposit per camper in order to hold the spot. By submitting the deposit, this will allow you time to decide who is attending from your county and to get all of the camper paperwork completed and returned to us.

Promotional materials for the camp have been posted on the Space Adventure Camp webpage at [**http://spaceadventurecamp.cfaes.ohio-state.edu**](http://spaceadventurecamp.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/). Visit the section under Forms, Extension Educators for information that you can share with science teachers, in your newsletters and news media. Also found on the website are the promotional flier, financial nomination form, teacher recommendation form, etc. Please know that hard copies of all forms will not be sent to counties this year, but your assistance in promoting this science camp is greatly appreciated. Questions? Contact Lee Ann Johnson, **johnson.82@osu.edu**, 740-732-2381 or Vicki Schwartz, **schwartz.4@osu.edu** and Travis West, **west.222@osu.edu**, co-camp directors.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The 2013 Achievement Awards and Scholarships Banquet will be held June 5th, 2013. This year close to 30 scholarships will be awarded to 4-H youth in recognition for their leadership, community service and personal development.  In addition, approximately two dozen 4-H State Achievement Award winners will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to represent Ohio at the National 4-H Congress. Please join us in celebration of their accomplishments!

**4-H Clubs and Certificates of Liability/Insurance**

Facilities are now being asked by their insurance companies to secure a “certificate of liability” or a “certificate of insurance” from the groups they allow to use their facilities.   So the advisor’s first call is to the county professional to ask for a Certificate of Liability.

The short answer is that we do not have a Certificate of Insurance or Liability for contractual agreements between 4-H clubs and other facilities (churches, community buildings, schools, etc.)  The university will only provide those for agreements that are made between our offices (OSU) and other agencies, and not for those clubs that we may have in the county program.

How do you respond?   Our 4-H volunteers are covered with liability insurance as OSU Extension purchases liability coverage for the volunteers, with the county providing half of the cost and the Extension Director providing the other half.  This liability coverage is applied to them when they are acting as  4-H volunteers, within the scope of their duties. A fact sheet posted on the OSU Extension Business Office webpage provide an explanation about that Volunteer Liability Insurance.  [**http://osuebusiness.osu.edu/documents/CIMAinsuranceexplanation2012-2013.pdf**](http://osuebusiness.osu.edu/documents/CIMAinsuranceexplanation2012-2013.pdf)    If you would need a receipt that your county has paid their portion of these costs, you could ask Cindy Buxton in the Business Office to provide that proof of the 2012/2013 CIMA Volunteer Liability insurance.

Secondly, encourage the club to purchase the annual accident insurance from American Income Life.  It’s $1 per year per person (members and advisors), and that coverage may be something the  facilty will also be glad to know about. Information can be found at  **<http://www.americanincomelife.com/who-we-serve/4-h-insurance>**.  Once at that webpage, on the Right hand bar, there is a link to “Annual Insurance”. That’s the coverage recommended for 4-H clubs because it covers them at all their functions…meetings, parties, picnics, field trips. If purchased annually for club members, and volunteers, then know that It does not cover those who are not listed who may also attend club events.  For example, if the club would take a field trip and maybe some parents and siblings attend also, the club advisor would need to purchase the Activity insurance coverage for those folks not already included in the club’s annual coverage.

So instead of a Certificate of Liability/Insurance, because the advisors are official 4-H volunteers, it’s suggested that the 4-H professional prepare a letter to the facility. It can be brief and basic, such as  “To whom it may concern” letter, stating that this club is a legitimate 4-H club of OSUE and that the advisors, (List them)  are in fact approved, authorized 4-H volunteers in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County.

Hopefully, verification that the club is a legitimate club, under the leadership of authorized 4-H volunteers covered by liability insurance by OSUE, and that the club has purchased accident insurance will be adequate.

**Operation: Military Kids**

OMK does so much more than Camp Kelleys’ Island summer camp! We do camps and programs year round, all over the state, almost every week/weekend that are always looking for adult and teen volunteers.  Check out our new [**OMK website**](http://www.ohio4h.org/operation-military-kids)  or contact **Kate Feldhues**  for ways you and your youth can get involved in directly serving our military population or in becoming advocates for their unique struggles.  OMK’s application process for teen Camp Counselors and CIT’s for our camps March-November has just opened.  Consider encouraging one of your teens to get involved in a different type of camping counseling beyond your county camp!

**Connect2Compete and 4-H**

4-H National Headquarters has been working with the FCC on the implementation of the Connect2Compete initiative. This is a five year program to help low income families get low cost computers and discounted broadband to enhance education and employment. National HQ hosted a webinar about this last November: [**http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/p680wxrku3a/**](http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/p680wxrku3a/) .  Learn more about Connect2Compete at [**http://www.connect2compete.org/**](http://www.connect2compete.org/).

 4-H is the only partner with outreach into rural communities. The campaign is hoping that 4-H can assist in several ways: (1) Help provide campaign information to eligible families; (2) Identify local sites with computers that could be used for training families: library, college or university, extension office; and (3) Identify Tech savvy 4-H youth and adults who could lead or help train families on basic computer and Internet use . The campaign has been in pilot phase and will soon begin to ramp-up. National 4-H HQ would like to get a sense of what interest there may be in 4-H/Extension, particularly with computer and internet training.

Please let Tom Archer know if anyone is interested in participating in this program in 2013 or 2014. If you are interested, estimate how many youth and adults might be involved in leading or assisting with local training opportunities for Connect2Compete families during the year you have indicated. Please respond by Feb. 20.

**Ohio State Launches Ohio Scholarship Challenge**

The Ohio State University has begun a new fund-raising campaign to support students from all 88 Ohio counties. The “Ohio Scholarship Challenge” seeks to raise $100 million in general undergraduate scholarship funds for Ohio State students at all campuses. This Challenge is also part of the university’s larger effort to raise $500 million in private funds for student financial aid and scholarships. The Ohio Scholarship Challenge honorary co-chairs are Ohio State head football Coach Urban Meyer and men’s basketball Coach Thad Matta.

The Challenge will create a full-tuition endowed scholarship in each county and raise current use scholarship dollars. Unlike many other scholarships, those funded by the Challenge are transferrable between majors and portable between campuses. This enables a recipient to keep the scholarship regardless of major or campus attended. Scholarships are also renewable for up to four years as long as the student remains in good standing at Ohio State.

Through the Challenge, the university seeks individuals, organizations and groups to donate and/or raise undergraduate scholarship funds for students from their area. Gifts may be given as current-use or endowed scholarships. As an incentive through the But for Ohio State campaign, the university will match the new endowment payout for four years for donors who accept the Challenge.  Donors can determine the scholarship name, designate a scholarship to benefit students based on need or merit or both, and designate a scholarship to benefit a geographic area (e.g. high school, county, city, or region).

Anyone can make a tax-deductible contribution in any amount by visiting [**www.giveto.osu.edu/challenge**](http://www.giveto.osu.edu/challenge)**.**

More information is also available via the Ohio State Office of Academic Affairs development team at 614-247-6600. Jodi Bopp is the senior director of philanthropy, **bopp.12@osu.edu**. You can also contact Erin Holmes Wingfield, director of development for the Ohio State University Foundation, OSU Extension – 4-H youth development, in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, **holmes-wingfield.1@osu.edu**.

**2013 Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest**

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is looking for students in first through sixth grades, including specialized instruction classes, to participate in its annual poster contest. The purpose of the severe weather awareness poster contest is to have Ohio’s youth demonstrate through illustrations of actions they can take before, during and after severe weather events to protect themselves and others.

The prizes are big and the day’s event is fun. All regional winners and their parents will receive four entry passes for the day at the Ohio State Fair. All regional-winning students will receive a host of prizes, certificates and awards. State-level winners will receive additional prizes, and the overall state winner will receive even more prizes, along with a personalized trophy. The overall winner’s school will be loaned a “traveling trophy” to display during the school year.

An ideal time for students to participate in the poster contest is during Ohio’s Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, which is March 3-9. This year, the safety campaign coincides with FEMA’s and NOAA’s National Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

For complete rules and forms to participate in the poster contest, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website at: [**www.weathersafety.ohio.gov**](http://list.em.ohio.gov/t/221859/176430/1/0/)**.** Go to Just for Kids and click on 2013 Poster Contest Rules.

**4-H Video Project: Voices of 4-H History Webinar -- Feb. 22**

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Cooperative Extension Service in 2014, the 4-H History Preservation Team has launched the Voices of 4-H History Project! Our goal is to collect 100 stories from 4-H past members, volunteers, staff, and supporters to share as a part of the anniversary celebration. A webinar will be held on Friday, February 22 from 3 - 4 p.m. EST to explain the project and share the experiences of states that are piloting the project.

To join the webinar, follow these simple instructions:

Adobe Connect
[**https://connect.moo.umd.edu/md4h**](https://connect.moo.umd.edu/md4h)
Enter as a guest
Call in number
1-866-295-5950
Participant Passcode: 68099#

If you have any questions about the Voices of 4-H History Project, please visit the website -[**http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/Voices/**](http://4-hhistorypreservation.com/Voices/)**.**