

Dear 4-H Volunteers:

With autumn arriving and school back in session, we begin working on next year's program. Before we move past this 4-H year, I would like to thank each of you for your contributions. You are the reason for our success. Your tireless efforts are making a difference in young peoples' lives. I know that 2020 has been very challenging on many fronts, thank you for sticking with us! Let's finish up some details from this year and start on ideas for next year. The next Gazette will be sent later this fall. Until then

Sincerely,

Beth Miller

Elizabeth M. Miller
Extension Educator,
4-H Youth Development



cc 4-H Committee

Program Suggestions/Concerns

If you have concerns that need to be reviewed, please send them in writing to me by November 1st. The Jr. Fair Board is planning to hold their rules revision meeting on December 29, 9:00 a.m. at the fairgrounds. Anyone is welcome to come and express their concerns. As with all things, meeting format could change based on current circumstances.

Unpaid Book Bills

Clubs not having paid their book bills by September 15th will not be issued any more books until payment is received.

990-N Filing

I file your 990-N tax information annually.

Current Status of Clubs

A reminder that clubs can meet in person **but** virtual is still strongly preferred and there are limitations on numbers present, etc. All requirements regarding masks, distancing and cleaning must be followed. This is the same for fundraisers and community service. Clubs should **not** be doing in-person fundraisers or community service at this time. Any food related activities or fundraisers should only involve prepackaged minimally handled foods. ***As always, disregarding current guidelines is not acceptable and puts your volunteer status, your members and your club at risk.*** Club advisors can be removed and club charters revoked for violating these current practices. Remember as keepers of the clover, you need to respect, adhere to, and enforce rules, policies, and guidelines (*from Ohio 4-H Volunteer Standards of Behavior*).

Annual Club Financial & Inventory Reports

Clubs must submit a financial summary and club inventory annually. These forms are due to the Extension Office by January 31. Please be sure you are using the current forms. Your club inventory is to be submitted annually even if it did not change.

Looking toward 2021

As you begin to think about your club in 2021, please do not assume that the new year means going back to old ways. It is highly likely that current restrictions will follow us into the 2021 program year. We just don't know yet, but you should plan for restrictions rather than going back to your 2019 format. In addition to our continued challenges related to COVID, there is a new version of 4-H Online coming this fall. We will give you more details when available. Also there are changes coming regarding volunteer training requirements for all active volunteers. Again we will share this information when available.



V.I.P. NEWS

Older Youth Newsletter

All members, 13 and over, will receive a newsletter that explains leadership opportunities for teens. It will be sent in November. Encourage your teen leaders to become involved!

Outstanding 4-H 'er Award

Please encourage your outstanding leaders to apply for this honor. Applicants must complete the Outstanding 4-H'er application which includes an advisor recommendation. Applications are due by January 5.

Out of County Membership

New members crossing county lines must complete this application to be a member in Auglaize County. These applications are reviewed by the educators in both counties. This is a one time application. Membership in two counties is not acceptable. *Fair participation is not a reason to request membership in another county and will be denied.*

Club Flyers & Event Promotion

We are happy to help you promote your club activities and events to other clubs in the county through the club mailbox system. If you are promoting an activity, you are requested to bring us 30 copies of your event information to share in the club mailboxes. ***We no longer send out emails to other clubs for your club events/requests.***



Meeting Cancellations

When winter arrives, we may need to cancel meetings due to the weather. You can check for cancellations by listening to WCSM or by calling the office before 4:30 p.m. In addition, we will post cancellations on our website and Facebook page. We hope this is another way you can access the information from work or home after our office closes. Some meetings may be moved to a Zoom format! If that is the case, committee members will be notified.

Volunteer Rescreening Reminders

A reminder of the volunteer rescreening process:

- ◆ All current volunteers will need to have a BCI check done every 4 years.
- ◆ ***You will be notified by Ohio 4-H when it is your year to have your new background check completed. Upcoming rescreens will be notified by letter after the new version of 4-H Online is ready.***
- ◆ BCI reports from other organizations/employers may/may not be accepted, but must come directly from BCI. No copies of reports may be used.
- ◆ If the volunteer fails to complete the re-screen process, they will be terminated as a volunteer.
- ◆ All volunteers will be required to participate in child protection training and sign the Ohio Volunteer Standards of Behavior annually. We will share the online options as available.
- ◆ This process is mandated by The Ohio State University and is not optional. There will be no exceptions, exemptions or extensions given for compliance to any of these policies.
- ◆ Any volunteer having a break in service of more than 12 months must go through the new volunteer screening process to be reactivated as a volunteer. Years of previous service will be recognized.



V.I.P. NEWS

New Volunteers

All new volunteers need to be completely through the application, screening and orientation process by April 1, 2021. With the screening process, which includes a finger print background check, it is important that new volunteers start the process early. Volunteers not complete by this date will not receive service credit for 2021, nor will they receive a fair pass. Please encourage your new volunteers to follow through on getting their fingerprints done promptly when they are sent that information. New volunteers will be required to attend a new volunteer orientation. New volunteers can start the process now if they like!

Reminder: the entire process - application, screening, orientation, child protection training must be completed within 1 year of application date or applicant must start the process over completely.



Project Books and Sale Tax

Ohio Revised Code requires volunteers of our 4-H clubs to collect sales tax for the sale of 4-H publications to individual members. However, OSU Extension and Ohio 4-H recognizes that we do not want to burden our 4-H club volunteers in maintaining a vendor's license nor collecting, reporting and submitting sales tax for publications sold to their members. For this reason, our county will comply by having 4-H clubs purchase books with club dues revenues or fund-raised monies. Club dues must be the same for each member regardless of the number of project books or cost of project books received, then no tax is collected. Each club that purchases books this way is not obligated to pay tax but should have a Blanket Exemption Form filed in the OSU Extension office where books are purchased. If members are charged for any books individually, you must collect and report tax on those books. **Project book bills here at the office should be paid with a club check. If books are paid for from a personal account, tax will be charged.**

Sales Tax for Goods Sold or Purchased by 4-H Clubs

Ohio Revised Code also requires our 4-H clubs to collect sales tax for any goods sold for a fund raiser or promotion unless it is a food product. Clubs should give a t-shirt or other promotional item to the member because it comes with membership or is purchased with fund-raised monies. At no time should we sell or collect monies from a member specifically for the t-shirt or other promotional item.

Non-food items sold as a fund raiser require that the club maintain a vendor's license and collect, report and submit sales tax. (Exception is if items are only sold by the 4-H club for less than six days a year. For example, this would allow a 4-H Foundation committee to hold a silent or live auction at a fund-raising event without charging sales tax. However, it does not allow a club who conducts sales more than six days (individually or combined if multiple fund raisers are conducted annually) to avoid charging sales tax.

Clubs are exempt in paying sales tax when purchasing goods with club funds. Vendors should have you complete a Blanket Exemption Form for their records.



V.I.P. NEWS

Membership Requirements

Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he or she turns 19. Joining Ohio 4 H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

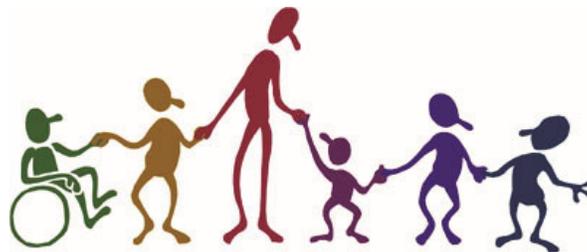
4-H Online Family Self Enrollment

We will continue with all 4-H members and volunteers doing self enrollment through 4-H Online. We will let you know when families may start to re-enroll using the new version of 4-H Online. We will let you know what the updates are when we see them!

2021 Fair Dates

The proposed county fair dates for 2021 are August 1-7. The Ohio State Fair will be held July 28 - August 8.

"Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous in the end."
~Robin Sharma



V.I.P. = Volunteers are Important People!