



Iowa

4-H volunteer

Northwest Area 4-H Update

belonging...generosity...independence...mastery



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Leadership Is Focal Point

Leadership will be the focal point of the 4-H program in northwest Iowa in 2005. The five Youth Field Specialists have outlined several key programs that will help develop leadership skills for area youth.

A youth version of ISU Extension's "Developing Dynamic Leaders," the program will benefit students with potential for community leadership. Topics in the leadership training series range from assessing your leadership style to stress management.

Another program to be implemented in 2005 is the 4-H Leadership Institute. Each county in the Northwest Area will select two participants from grades 6 to 8 to attend the program. Participants will learn the characteristics of leadership and skills such as how to communicate with others and how to deal with difficult people. They also will learn about opportunities available to them as a member of the Iowa 4-H program.

Area 4-H volunteers will continue to receive leadership trainings coordinated and presented by staff throughout the area. Volunteers keep Iowa 4-H growing and can expect needed resources and training opportunities so that they can continue to give their best to kids.

Watch for more information about these exciting new programs! Each promises to help train our young people to be the leaders of northwest Iowa in the future.

Get These Great New Leadership Resources

Looking for resources to teach leadership to your 4-H'ers? Do you need resources for that 4-H'er who has leadership potential just waiting to be tapped? The latest 4-H leadership publication, *Step Up To Leadership*, is available to all 4-H members and leaders. You can order the curriculum directly from www.n4hccs.org or contact your local Extension Office to order the materials. Optional materials include two mentor guides, a workbook, a journal, a portfolio, or the set of five books. The cost per book varies from \$3 to \$5 (about \$22 for all five books). These are great materials; we encourage you to use them!



Area Council Delivers Clothing, Toys to Children

Northwest Iowa 4-H members traveled to Sioux City during their Christmas vacation to deliver a collection of winter clothing and stuffed animals to the Boys and Girls Home. The 4-H members were members of the Area 4-H Council who coordinated the community service project.

Marcy Hahn, principal of the Sioux City facility, in addressing the 4-H'ers, said, "This is such an incredible thing you have done for the children who live here at the Boys and Girls Home. These children usually come to us with nothing. These clothes and animals will really help them." Nearly 100 bags full of winter clothing and stuffed animals were donated for the project. 4-H members collected the items in their own

counties and communities beginning last fall and the project culminated with the big delivery at the Boys and Girls Home shortly after Christmas.

"The young people who are members of this Area 4-H Council are some of the best young people you'll come across in the state," Jennifer Tabke, co-advisor of the Council, said. "We should be very proud to have such exemplary, generous teens in our communities."

The Area 4-H Council is a group of 51 young people who are 4-H members in their own communities. Council members hail from 14 counties in the northwest corner of Iowa and are in grades 9 to 12. Youth apply for membership and are selected in September of each year. The Area 4-H Council takes on a community service project in addition to being 4-H Ambassadors for their county and club. Haley Cook of Ames also serves as co-advisor of the Area Council.

Think of what 4-H member you could encourage to participate on Area Council; application forms are available in June from your CYC.

CWF Offered in 2006

The next Northwest Iowa trip to Washington D.C. for Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) will be summer 2006 (dates to be finalized by fall 2005). Start encouraging the older 4-H members in your club who are eligible. Sometimes it's that extra nudge from a caring adult that will get 4-H'ers to try a new opportunity like this.



Schedule a Leader Consultation

4-H volunteers in Emmet County can receive individual assistance in coordinating their 4-H clubs. Emmet County Youth Coordinator Marcy Sander and Youth Field Specialist Lisa Berkland have been meeting individually with 4-H club leaders to provide special assistance. Leaders don't all have the same needs, so this helps to give volunteers the exact information they seek or need. Club leaders visit with the Extension staff about what's working in the club, areas that can be improved, and resources to help the club function better. If you'd like an individual consultation, or if you'd like your CYC or Youth Specialist to visit your club, schedule a date directly with them.

Chaperones Needed

Three days of not cooking, cleaning, or making a bed await the lucky adults who chaperone youth at the 2005 Iowa 4-H Conference set for June 28-30 in Ames. Inspiring speakers, workshops, and entertainment make up the program. Chaperones stay in dorms on campus along with the 1,000 high school youth who attend. Contact your county Extension Office for information.

No more Area 4-H Website

There's no longer a Northwest Area 4-H website. Starting in January 2005, each county has its own Web page, which includes 4-H information. Record book templates and other forms are still available from the State 4-H website, but if you're looking for something specific and can't find it . . . please ask us!

Have an Idea?

If you have news you'd like to submit, contact Jennifer Tabke in the Plymouth County Extension Office at (712) 546-7835 or tabke@iastate.edu.

Volunteers Wanted!

A core group of volunteers is needed to plan a Northwest Iowa 4-H Volunteer Retreat. Contact Kathy Tabke of Merville at (712) 873-3807, lktabke@netins.net.

Treats Increase Attendance

4-H leaders Sandy and Ron Kropf of Graettinger looked to increase attendance at their club meetings this year with treats. At the beginning of the year, each member received a special 4-H folder that must be brought to each meeting. In return for bringing the 4-H folder to each meeting, the member receives a special treat. Those who forget to bring their folder do not receive a treat.

Meet Your Youth Field Specialists



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Counties included in the Northwest Area:

Buena Vista	Calhoun	Carroll	Cherokee
Clay	Crawford	Dickinson	Emmet
Ida	Kossuth	Lyon	Monona
O'Brien	Osceola	Palo Alto	Plymouth
Pocahontas	Sac	Sioux	Woodbury

ISU Extension 4-H Youth Development Field Specialists can assist you with volunteer development and youth development education. Feel free to contact your field specialist for assistance with your 4-H club or other youth development. They're very willing to brainstorm some solutions to your problem, or provide resources to help you be the best volunteer you can be. Field specialists serve two to six counties and collaborate with county 4-H staff in working with local 4-H clubs, schools, and youth in out-of-school programs.

. . . and justice for all

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