



# Clinton County Leader Links

Iowa State University  
University Extension



Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2009

## Hot Tip of the Month



January in Iowa ---What lovely weather!! Let's celebrate it!

For your pre-meeting activity this month, give members white play-doh, and have them make a symbol of something they enjoy doing in the winter. Then, as a roll call, have them tell everyone about their creation!

Remind everyone that the goal isn't to make a masterpiece, but to use play-doh to convey an idea.

**For an education or recreation activity, have each table group of members make a collage about themselves. They can cut pictures and/or words out of magazines and/or newspapers that represent the group. Then, as a group, they should stand up and share their collage with the rest of the club.**

**This is a great way to get youth talking! And it helps them get to know one another! And there's less pressure because they are in a group! This could also work as a pre-meeting activity.**

This month's hot tip brought to you by Brenda Spurgeon, YFS serving Appanoose, Davis, Monroe and Wapello Counties, and Angela Tratchel, Monroe County CYC.

## Iowa Promise Youth Grant

Applications are now available for youth groups for the 2008 Iowa's Promise Youth Grants to be used for community improvement projects. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, in partnership with Iowa State University Extension 4-H Youth Development, again is offering grants up to \$250.00 to qualifying groups. Grant descriptions and guidelines can be found at [www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/iowapromise.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/iowapromise.html) and this information will also be made available on the County Website. Applications are due February 1, 2008 to the Extension 4-H Youth Building in Ames.



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Play Dough

Interested in making play dough as a club activity? Below is a easy recipe.

1 1/2 cups flour

1/2 cup salt

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1/4 cup water

Food coloring is optional

Mix all ingredients together. Knead the dough until it is smooth. Add more water if the dough is too dry and more flour if the dough is too wet. Store dough in an airtight container and keep it in the refrigerator between uses. Do NOT store in a plastic bag because it will become too wet.



State 4-H Volunteer Retreat

The State 4-H Volunteer Retreat planning committee is busy putting together another fantastic retreat for 2009. The theme is *Growing Green* and the dates are Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7. This year's retreat will be located on the DMACC campus in Ankeny. Friday evening is a networking/fellowship gathering with hands on activities. Workshops and networking fill the day on Saturday, February 7. A wide variety of workshop session will meet the needs of both new and experienced volunteers, staff and 4-H members.

The retreat is open to all intermediate and senior 4-H members, 4-H volunteers, staff and parents. The early bird registration cost for Saturday is \$25. That cost includes lunch and snacks. The early bird registration date is January 15. Let's have a group from Clinton County take advantage of this great opportunity! Check out the 4-H web site <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/volretreat.htm> for more information.