FEBRUARY 2021
The Important Stuff!
“For more than 100 years, 4-H has been the nation’s leading youth organization to welcome young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving youth voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.” This is the message from National 4-H regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion in 4-H.
As we witnessed Kamala Harris taking her historic oath of office on January 20th, we can be proud that we are all a part of making the best better in Black Hawk County. We encourage you to explore what this message means to the 4-H’ers in your clubs and families. Give them a space to use their voices and listen to what they have to say. For learning opportunities that may help spark a conversation, take a look at page 4. We hope that everyone is staying healthy this winter season! As a reminder to the 4-H community, Iowa State Extension and Outreach has a face covering mandate in place until at least March 31st. Face coverings are required when people are indoors regardless of social distancing capability. This applies to in-person club meetings, programs, and events. Thank you for supporting this Iowa 4-H guidance. Please contact Diane Wolfe at 319.234.6811 with questions. Stay well!

The Good Stuff!
Black Hawk County 4-H was happy to be able to offer an in person On Their Own & Ok workshop for several 4-H’ers on January 16th. It was a great group! They learned about tips, tools, and strategies to care for themselves and/or siblings after school when home alone for a limited time.

February 6th: Shooting Sports, 9:00-11:30am (all)
February 15th: Deadline to register for Virtual Iowa Legislative Insider
February 17th: Virtual Iowa Legislative Insider, 8:30-10:45am
February 20th: 4-H Animal Tracking & Snowshoeing at Hartman Reserve, 11am
March 6th: Shooting Sports, 9:00-11:30am (all)

Ongoing: 4-H’ers for 4-H Campaign, Count Your Clovers
Let’s Talk About February!
It is the shortest month of the year, but that does not mean there is a shortage of things to do! 4-H’ers that are in 8th-12th grade can get a special look into the Iowa legislative process by taking a virtual trip to the Iowa capitol on February 17th. Black Hawk County 4-H has a fun animal tracking and snowshoeing event planned for 4-H’ers of all ages at Hartman Reserve on the 20th. Take a look at the Winter To-Do List later in this newsletter for some other outdoor activity ideas! February is also Black History Month. There are many opportunities for your 4-H’ers to learn about the challenges, perseverance, and valuable contributions of Black Americans throughout this nation’s history. Please see the Black History Month Resources feature for more information. Do not forget that this is a good time for 4-H members to start thinking about ideas for fair projects! Need help getting started? Take a look right here. If you have questions about anything else, such as meetings, enrollment or other activities, feel free to reach out to your leaders or 4-H staff. Watch your email, the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage or Facebook page for the latest news and updates!

Here are the announcements, events and timely reminders for February and the months to come!

Enrollment Reminder! If your 4-H’ers are not enrolled in 4HOnline, it is time to take action! Enrollment in 4-H is required for youth to be covered by insurance as they attend meetings and activities. Did you know that there is no cost for Clover Kids (K-3rd grade)? Families with 3 or more youth members only pay $45.00! There are several ways to pay 4-H enrollment fees in 2021. You can pay the annual fee by credit card when you register your youth for the 4-H program online. If you choose not to use your credit card, you can write a check to Black Hawk County Extension and Outreach and send it by mail to the address on page 6. The last option is to pay your leader. If you have questions, feel free to contact the Extension and Outreach office at 319.234.6811.

4-H At the Capitol! Take a virtual tour of the Iowa capitol and find out what happens there as part of the Iowa Legislative Insider event! Visit here for more information and to register.

Count Your Clovers! The 2021 4-Hers for 4-H campaign kicked off on January 31st. The funds raised by 4-H clubs across the state support financial aid for 4-H’ers, State 4-H Conference, county mini-grants, and other projects as voted upon by the State 4-H Council. This year’s goal is $31,000. The campaign runs through June 1, 2021. See this page for more information!

We have answers to your questions!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
Ready for Some Fun in the Snow?

4-H Snowshoeing & Animal Tracking

Saturday, February 20th
11:00 am to Noon
Cost: $5 each, includes Snowshoes. Masks required
4-Hers may bring a friend, Parents Welcome!

Held at:
Hartman Reserve Nature Center
657 Reserve Dr; Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Please call 319-234-6811 if you are attending.

No experience required.
Learn to identify animal tracks and learn to snowshoe.

2021 Omelet Breakfast Update. The 2021 Black Hawk County 4-H Omelet Breakfast, scheduled for April, will not take place this year due to ongoing COVID-19 precautions.

Alternate 4-H fundraising opportunities for 2021 are under review at this time. Let’s keep our fingers crossed for a great Omelet Breakfast event in 2022! Please note that any purchased Omelet Breakfast tickets that are still in the possession of clubs or individuals will not be honored for the event in 2022. If a ticket holder would like a refund on a purchased ticket, the ticket must be presented along with the refund request at the Extension office by June 1st. After this date, the tickets will be considered a much appreciated donation to the Black Hawk County 4-H program! Please contact Diane Wolfe at wolfejd@iastate.edu with questions.

Time to Get Creative! Cedar Valley Makers is inviting Cedar Valley youth to participate in their virtual Cedar Valley Maker Fest! This is a fun and creative opportunity for individual 4-H youth or clubs. Would you or your club like to learn more about the Cedar Valley Makers and/or the Makerspace? Maybe host a guest speaker at your next meeting (virtual or in person)? The Cedar Valley Makers have great resources, tools and equipment to inspire creativity and learning! Contact Sarah Tanis at stanis@iastate.edu to get connected!

Calling All Young Makers

Cedar Valley Maker Fest
Virtual
Youth Competition
The Cedar Valley Maker Fest is a virtual showcase of projects made by our community. Youth, ages 9-18 have the opportunity to participate in a friendly competition by submitting a short video about something they made. Contest videos are due on March 20, 2021. Happy Making!

Learn more and register!
cedarvalleymakers.org/makerfest

Searching for Something?
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
Science Is Awesome! Iowa 4-H Youth Development’s State Science + Technology Fair of Iowa (SSTFI) is taking place virtually in March and it is open to all students in Iowa in 6th-12th grade. Over $50,000 in scholarship prizes will be awarded! The Senior High school deadline is February 22nd and the Junior High school deadline is March 2nd. To learn more about registration and topic areas, visit the SSTFI page! (Adults, please see the same page if you are interested in being volunteers or judges for this virtual science-based event!)

Fair on the Radar! 4-H and FFA members must have their YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) certification if they wish to show at the Black Hawk County Fair or Iowa State Fair. Certification is required for beef, bottle calves, dairy cattle, dairy and meat goats, sheep, swine, all rabbits, and poultry. Horses, llamas and pets do not require certification. Online YQCA training is available and due by June 1st each year. The cost is $12, paid online. Log into http://yqca.org/ to get started!

Winter To Do List! The snow is here! Why not enjoy it by heading outside? The Cedar Falls Tourism Bureau has lots of ideas for you in their Winter Fun blog post. Have you tried snow crafts? Water Rocks! has a list of them here. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach encourages families to stay active through the winter! If it gets too cold out there, indoor activities are going to be the thing. Check out the ones on the Spend Smart. Eat Smart. blog. These keep families moving with games like animal charades and playing catch...with a catch. Youth can check out what is going on at their local public libraries. In Cedar Falls, there are virtual pet shows this month! Youth can pick up free Kids in the Kitchen activity kits at the Dunkerton and Hudson Public Libraries and do them at home. This month’s theme is ‘Bean in a Bottle.” The Waterloo Public Library is doing Black History Month Storytime with to-go craft kits on Saturdays in February. Registration required!

Black History Month Resources. How do we start a conversation about the importance of Black History Month, or reflect on race and equity as a family or as a club? It can begin with historical and research-based facts, and listening closely to personal perspectives. The African American Museum of Iowa offers History Adventures Online for youth, covering topics such as the Underground Railroad, African American pilots and inventors, and Black art. The Iowa Pathways series on Iowa PBS has Historical African-Americans in Iowa, 1838-2005 and many other resources to explore. For perspectives from Black Iowans, navigate to Iowa Week 2020: Listening To Black Voices from Iowa Public Radio. National 4-H features an interview with Manola Erby, who reflects on her 4-H experience, educational opportunities, and the impact of 1890 universities. Please take the time to read Black History Month: Serving the Underserved.

Answers at your fingertips!
Visit the Black Hawk County 4-H webpage, find us on Facebook, or call 319.234.6811!
4-H Staff Spotlight
We are giving the Leader Spotlight another month off to find out a little more about one of our Black Hawk County 4-H staff members, Sarah Tanis. She started her work in Black Hawk County as a 4-H AmeriCorps member in late 2019 and was hired in 2020 to serve as our Youth Nutrition & 4-H Outreach Coordinator. Sarah is also a co-advisor for the 4-H County Council. She took a break from her busy schedule to share her 4-H history and experience, and some fun facts, with us!

How long have you been involved with 4-H?
I was a 4-H member in Wisconsin for nine years. After high school, I volunteered for 4-H, became a certified 4-H judge, and was a Summer 4-H Intern in college. Before coming to Iowa, I was the 4-H Coordinator for two Wisconsin counties.

Have any other members of your family been in 4-H?
My mom grew up on a dairy farm and was involved in 4-H throughout her youth. My sister was also a 4-H'er like me.

What do you like most about your job and working with youth?
As a 4-H Outreach Coordinator, I love connecting with awesome community partners to support youth and youth programming. Since I am not from Iowa, it has been a fun way for me to get to know about this community and see it from a youth perspective. Working with youth is fun, entertaining, and I never really know what will happen! The learning capacity of youth is just amazing to me. I love seeing them grow their leadership skills as they progress through the program. I especially enjoy watching them develop into very good citizens.

Let’s hear some fun facts about you! What surprises do you have for us?
I have gotten a hole-in-one in golf! Crafting is something I enjoy and I have recently started leathercrafting again. I have three dogs and love watching hockey. Playing board games is one of my favorite hobbies. Mystic Veil is currently at the top of my list!

CONTACT US!

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