WINTER FAMILY GETAWAY

The whole family is invited for our 4-H adventure to Ida Grove on February 19. Get out of the house to roller-skate, bowl and eat dinner in Ida Grove. Roller skating will start at 1:00 pm at the Skate Palace in Ida Grove and end at 4:00. We will then travel to the bowling alley. After working up an appetite, we will have dinner—your choice of a burger, grilled chicken sandwich or chicken strips with fries. Drinks will be on your own. Monona County 4-H will be picking up part of the bill to give you the discounted price of $10 each for the full afternoon of activities. Be sure to plan on attending and invite some friends too! They do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to attend.

WANTED: CAMP COUNSELORS FOR CAMP WILD 2022

Monona County is seeking camp counselors for Camp Wild 2022. Camp will be held at Guthrie Grove Retreat Center near Guthrie Center, Iowa June 5-7, 2022. Counselors will arrive on June 4 to prepare for campers’ arrival. Applicants must be age 16 by June 5, 2022. Applications are due to the Monona County Extension Office by Friday, February 25, 2022. Applicants selected to serve will be notified by Friday, March 4. There is no cost for counselors to attend camp. Counselors are required to attend two camp orientation and training meetings. The dates will be Wednesday, April 6 from 8-9 pm (web-based training) and Wednesday, May 4 from 5:30-8 pm (face-to-face, location TBD). Counselors will need to be available for CAMP WILD Saturday, June 4 until Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at Guthrie Grove Retreat Center near Guthrie Center, Iowa.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.
**VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT ANNUAL 4-H BANQUET**

The annual volunteer and leader appreciation banquet was held on Sunday, January 16 at the Faith Lutheran Church in Onawa with around 40 attending. A baked potato, taco bar and homemade dessert dinner was served. Monona County Council members helped prepare, present, serve and clean-up. The 2021-2022 County Council members installed were: Hannah Allen, Ashley Rosener, Ashlyn Davis, and Colton Peppin. Others on the Council but weren’t able to attend are: Hali Schmidt, Lance Nichols, Ruby Phipps and Cadence Koenigs. 4-H Clover pins were given to: 5 year-Butch Bowman, Sandy Smith; 10 Years-Elaine Banks, Melissa Beermann; 20 years-Rhonda MacClure, Janet Mann, Brenda Wimmer; 35 years-Jill Hausman, Nancy McGrain. 4-H Leader of the Year-Megan Wimmer; 4-H Alumni- Brenda Miller; 4-H Honorary Member-Butch Bowman; 4-H Meritorious Service-Struble Agronomy. Featured entertainment for the evening included a presentation by Jaimie Murray, Een and Gabriel McKinley of Onawa Tae-Kwon-Do. Special thanks to all the local businesses for donating so many great door prizes.

**4-H COOKIE WORKSHOP, A SUCCESSFUL DAY**

Seven 4-H’ers came together on January 17, a day off from school, at Faith Lutheran Church in Onawa. They participated in a hands-on educational day about baking. Nancy McGrain, 4-H Youth Coordinator and Brenda Welch, Youth Specialist hosted the workshop. Youth were able to learn how to bake cookies, explore what the judge looks for and taste tested what they made. One important thing they learned was that you don’t just have to read the ingredients, you also have to read the directions. Those that came said they were ready to try to bake something else. No winter blues here, just good smelling cookies!

**FAMILY ICE-FISHING IN FEBRUARY**

Temperatures have fallen and we are getting closer to acceptable conditions for ice-fishing. We are working to set a date in February for the whole family to come try ice-fishing here in Monona County. We provide all equipment and will focus on ice and winter safety. You will get to use huts, fishing poles, lures and bait. Stay tuned for a date to be announced very soon! Call us to reserve your spots as space will be limited!

**CLOVER KIDS MEETING DATES MAPLETON & ONAWA**

Clover Kids 4-H meetings in Mapleton and Onawa continue to meet in February. Mapleton Clover Kids will meet the first Thursday of the month on February 3, from 3:30-4:30. Onawa Clover Kids #1 will meet the second Monday of the month, February 14, from 3:30-4:30 and Clover Kids #2 will meet the fourth Monday of the month, February 28, from 3:30-4:30 at school. 4-H gives youth the opportunity to learn in a cooperative, hands-on environment. Youth will gain life skills, make new friends and have a lot of fun growing through 4-H! Enrollment fees are only $15 for K-2nd grade, $10 for 3rd grade and include a Clover Kids t-shirt.

**4-H SWITCH PROGRAM BEGINS- MAPLE VALLEY 5TH GRADE**

The SWITCH (School Wellness Integration Targeting Child Health) program provides a systematic method to help schools develop strategies to plan, implement and operate school wellness programs on their own – with additional support provided through partnership with ISU Extension and Outreach, Iowa 4-H. The two 5th grade classrooms at Mapleton Elementary have started the SWITCH program. They are a part of the 32 elementary schools in Iowa participating. SWITCH is a 12 week program with Do, View and Chew activities that encourage youth to make better choices for physical activity, reducing screen time and choosing healthy snacks and meals.

**CONTACT US!**

**PHONE**

712-423-2175

**HOURS**

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
COUNTY SENIOR 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS DUE FEBRUARY 15
The Monona County 4-H Foundation Scholarship applications are due to the Monona County Extension Office on February 15, 2022. All high school seniors that have been enrolled and participated in 4-H for a total of four years, with two of these years including the Jr. and Sr. years in school can be eligible. The Monona County 4-H Foundation Scholarship application is available at the Extension Office or on the Monona County Extension website: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/monona/page/member-info

IOWA 4-H FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS
The process for the Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships application will close on March 1, 2022. Over 90 scholarship opportunities valued at over $100,000 will be awarded. Former and current 4-H members graduating from high school or currently attending college are eligible applicants. Information, helpful hints and applications for the 4-H Scholarships are now available online through the Iowa 4-H Foundation website. or follow the link - https://www.iowa4hfoundation.org/index.cfm?nodeID=31466&audienceID=1. Applications must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m., March 1, 2022, for consideration.

YQCA CERTIFICATION
All youth planning to exhibit at the Monona County Fair or other county, regional or state exhibitions must have completed their annual YQCA certification. The online class is $12 per person and will take about 1.5 hours to complete. We hope to host the in-person session in May/June, dependent on interest. The in-person session will be free of charge. If you prefer to take the in-person session, please let Melissa know at mbeerman@iastate.edu so we can decide if we need to do multiple in-person sessions and secure a large enough space.

Online Link: www.yqca.org
Login with your 4hOnline user name and password.

VOLUNTEER LUNCH AND LEARN
Iowa 4-H is offering a Volunteer Lunch & Learn series! The lunch & learn series consists of four brief 15–20 minute Zoom sessions that will dive into topics that you can apply into your role as an Iowa 4-H volunteer with your clubs or programs. The sessions will be held via Zoom at Noon the first Friday of each month, January through April 2022. As volunteers you are encouraged to join the lunch & learn sessions if it works in your schedule.

Below are the dates and topics for the next 3 sessions:
February 4th Noon-12:20: February Lunch & Learn Series: Learn from a 4-H volunteer on how incorporating yearly club themes and projects into their Club has been successful
March 4th Noon-12:20: March Lunch & Learn Series: Accommodations 101-Information & tips on making 4-H accessible for all.
April 1st Noon-12:20: April Lunch & Learn Series: Preparing Youth for the Fair
Information to join via Zoom: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: Please click this URL to start or join. https://iastate.zoom.us/j/97461926125?pwd=WXXU5bk5TzJyR2ZyMWIwbzdSekF1QT09 Join from dial-in phone line: Dial: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 974 6192 6125 Participant ID: Shown after joining the meeting
SOLDIER, IOWA AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB MEETING FEB 9

Judy Ehlers is starting an after-school LEGO club in Soldier. This will be targeted to younger youth. The next meeting is scheduled on February 9 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. A local resident is willing to pay for the 4-H enrollment fee for each member!

If you are in the Soldier area please contact us and let us know if your kids would be interested in participating. Interested volunteers should also contact the Extension Office.

This is a great opportunity in a small town! Please support it so more opportunities can thrive in our little towns.

MONONA COUNTY SHARPSHOOTERS CLUB WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

Are you interested in gaining skills at archery or air rifle? These skills are not just for hunting. You will learn step-by-step safety skills while building your self-confidence and bettering your skills at target shooting. The SESS club meets the first Sunday of each month at the Monona County Conservation Office from 1:00-2:30 p.m., however, they will not meet January, February and March. You could still enroll in SESS. Youth can use this as your primary club or can attend in addition to club meeting. Call the Extension Office or enroll online at v2.4honline.com.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB - PIGS ARRIVING IN FEBRUARY

New members interested in participating should enroll right away and let Melissa know. Pigs arrive February 17 with meetings starting in March. Participants in the Monona County swine or poultry project can re-enroll in “The Breakfast Club”. Broiler chickens arrive in May with those sessions beginning in late May/early June.

Members of the swine or livestock club do not have to be members in an additional club in order to be eligible for exhibiting at the fair.

Contact Melissa if you have any questions.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB

The 4-H Outdoor Adventure Club invites all 4th-12th grade youth to join. They will meet once a month in Onawa after school. Members will learn about hiking, fishing, paddling, conservation, outdoor survival, wildlife, environmental stewardship and more. The club is partnered with the Monona County Conservation Office and Iowa DNR. Enroll online or give Melissa a call with questions.

WINTER IS THE BEST TIME FOR FAIR PROJECTS

So far, this winter has been mild. But, the cold and snow will be coming. We all can get bored when being stuck inside on those days. Instead of scrolling social media on your device, get to work on some projects you are curious about. Whether it’s trying that new recipe, stitching an outfit for yourself or re-designing your bedroom. Give yourself plenty of time to work out the problems so you have an awesome project by the time fair happens.

Use the link below for some awesome project resources and call the Extension Office and your 4-H leaders for more guidance, anytime!

4-H Project Resources: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects-list
The States’ 4-H Exchange international program is now seeking Iowa families (do NOT have to be a 4-H family) to host 1 Japanese youth and 1 Japanese adult chaperone for 3.5 weeks this summer. This program is designed to focus on daily life in Iowa households. Host families do not need to plan special activities or sightseeing for their foreign delegates and will have the opportunity to participate in welcome orientations and departure events. Families who would like to host a youth should have a child in the home between the ages of 11-17. They are paired with a Japanese child of the same gender and of an age within 3+ years. Deadline to apply is May 1, 2022. Japanese youth delegates will be assigned to a host family by June 1, 2022.

Check out the website for application details. https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/iowa-4-h-international-programs?fbclid=IwAR2yxAAVqr4zWNXmLOcqMwKDCj886LDO_xEleHw30XKlkFgPJTESgoqw-nE.

THE CAREER PATHWAYS ACADEMY COMING SOON

The Career Pathways Academy will be a 12-month program designed to provide youth opportunities to develop college and career skills, leadership development skills, community connections, and pathways to academic, entrepreneurial, and vocational skills. Our goal is to reach 100 youth in our first year. The Career Pathways Academy will kick off this summer. More to come.

TEEN LEADERS NEEDED FOR NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL AG INNOVATORS EXPERIENCE

The AIE Unlock Ag Innovation Challenge is a fun escape-room-type challenge where youth look for clues to discover advances in agriculture when solving a challenge and moving to the next challenge. Iowa 4-H is looking for youth in grades 9-12 who have an interest in agriculture to facilitate the challenge with youth. This program provides teens with opportunities to develop leadership skills, increase their knowledge about agriculture, and increase ag literacy engagement in their communities. For more information contact Maya Hayslett. To apply, complete this form by March 4.

INTERNATIONAL PEN PAL PROGRAM OPENS SOON

States’ 4-H Exchange is offering an international Pen Pal program for youth ages 9-18, from February 1-April 25, 2022. This is a chance for our Iowa youth to interact with other youth from around the globe this winter/spring! Registration will open on Monday, January 10 and will close as soon as the first 60 youth from the United States have registered. It will fill FAST but we’d love to see some Iowa 4-H members snag a spot! The registration fee is $10.00 and interested youth can register online starting at 11:00am on January 10.

CAMERA CORPS

Are you interested in photography? It's not too late to get involved in Iowa 4-H Camera Corps! Camera Corps is a unique opportunity to practice your photography skills and receive public recognition and juror feedback on your work! Keep up to date on the Camera Corps program (https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/iowa-4-h-camera-corps). 4-H members can sign up via Jotform (https://form.jotform.com/202254790425958). This month’s challenge is Simple Shapes.