

December 2014 San Mateo/SF County 4-H Highlights Newsletter

Special Message from Shannon Horrillo Associate Director of 4-H Program & Policy:

Susan Garcia has been selected as the California nominee for the 2015 4-H Salute to Excellence Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer. Susan has been a 4-H adult volunteer for over 25 years. She started as a project leader and continued in this role for 18 years. Taking on the role as Community Club Leader for Belmont 4-H, Susan focused on recruitment and improving membership diversity. She increased club membership to over 100 members and implemented a new fundraising and community outreach event. She also represented her club on the County 4-H Council and took on a variety of leadership positions serving in each of the major officer roles. As a member of the County 4-H Ag Steering Committee she developed and implemented project proficiencies, helped make events successful, and assisted in leader training. Susan went on to be a Representative to the North Section 4-H Leaders' Council and volunteer at Sectional Presentation Day and State Leadership Conference. Susan has been extremely successful at securing funds in support of the 4-H Youth Development Program in San Mateo County. She was instrumental in securing continued county funding through conducting a publicity and awareness campaign and contacting and coaching youth and adults to speak at the County Board of Supervisors meeting about the value of 4-H. Her contributions to the community extend beyond 4-H. For over 20 years Susan has been a member of the Livestock Advisory Group and the primary adult advisor for the San Mateo County Junior Fair Board that carries out special events for youth at Fair and organizes and conducts the Fair Youth Awards. She has also volunteered to support food banks and health organizations. "She is a wonderful project leader, embodying our program goals, for she has the ability to work with youth in a way that encourages hands-on learning, problem-solving, and critical thinking" – Marilyn Johns, Emeritus Director and Advisor

Thank you Susan for the impact you have had on the 4-H Youth Development Program in San Mateo County and its participants.

Best regards,
Shannon Horrillo

Announcements:

Ag Credit Loans for Youth

Interested in raising an animal but short on funds? Good news! The American AgCredit organization offers interest free loans to youth. [Information and application](#)

Message from Matt Cranford, San Mateo County Event Center, Fair and Festival Manager

Dear 4-H Community: I am looking into possibly buying a new loading ramp to use for loading the animals on the trucks at the conclusion of fair. So, I have a few questions for you.

1. Do you know of anyone selling a ramp locally?

2. Do you know of anyone who has one that we could actually borrow and use instead of purchasing? This would be the preferred option since the ramp is only used 1 day a year. They end up breaking down with the weather than with use from us at the fair. I would even consider renting it for cheap if that was an option. The timeline of this would be to pick up/get it delivered June 9-13 and return/deliver it back June 17/18.

Please email me if you have any information on a ramp - Matt Cranford (mcranford@smeventcenter.com)

Outreach Opportunity – Redwood City Hometown Holiday Parade – December 6, 2014

Canada club invites all 4-H members from across the county to walk with them in the Hometown Holiday parade. Please email Heidi Sjolund to RSVP (thesjolunds@earthlink.net). Participants should meet at 4:00pm near the corner of Arguello and Bradford streets (close to the rail road tracks about 1 block NW of the intersection of Broadway and Arguello) to walk in the parade. Don't forget to wear your 4-H gear! Canada will also have a booth for talking about 4-H for anyone interested in helping promote 4-H to the Peninsula community.

New! Save the Date! Countywide 4-H event! April 18, 2015

Our countywide food, handcrafts, and sewing competitions are becoming one! Are you in a food, handcraft, or sewing project? Then you should enter your projects! More information on registration and activities coming soon.

- We need help planning the event! The next planning meeting is December 15, 7:00pm at Fox School! Email Katrina Hull (Katrina.hull.94@gmail.com) for more info.

Java Coding Project Begins in January

Are you interested in computers and programming? All Star Kris Sjolund will be leading a java programming project starting in January! Please contact thesjolunds@sbcglobal.net for more information.

County Adult Volunteer Opportunities

There are several ways to get involved at the county level! If you are interested in any of the below opportunities, please email Jessica at (jguild@ucanr.edu) to see how you can get involved.

Camp Chaperones – the volunteer youth staff is looking for registered 4-H volunteers to chaperone at 4-H camp this summer. Volunteers need to have first aid training – this will be provided if you are not currently First Aid/CPR certified. Camp will be from July 11-17, 2015.

Urgent: Adult Peer Reviewers needed - Each year, every 4-H account undergoes an important peer review. This is a vital audit that helps protect our youth and adult treasurers and advisors. We need two more volunteers for the audit of our county council accounts. Please email Jessica jguild@ucanr.edu to volunteer for this opportunity.

Science, Engineering, and Technology Volunteer Program Coordinator - Do you love science, teaching, and doing fun projects with youth? You're our person! We need a passionate individual to lead our county-wide S.E.T. initiatives. Trainings are readily available and there will be lots of support from the county and state offices for you.

Thrive Leadership Master Trainers – Have you heard of Thrive? Do you love it? Even if you haven't, if you love teaching young people skills in leadership development, then this is the perfect opportunity for you. Thrive is a cutting edge research-based positive youth development program focused on mentoring youth through practical leadership and life skill development. Help young people gain the skills they need to be competent, caring, involved citizens.

Quarterly Newsletter Coordinator – Do you miss reading articles and viewing photos from all the 4-H happenings around the county? Do you have graphic design and organizational skills? Awesome! We want you! Our goal is to create a quarterly newsletter packed with photos and reports about all that our 4-H members have been up to in the past season.

One-time event resource volunteers – Want to help but you don't have much time? That's ok! We always need support at our county events. Let us know and we will plug you in to coordinate food, registration tables, or even balloon buyer! Many hands make light work, as my grandma used to say :)

[November State Office Updates](#)

[Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:](#)

- **December 6, 2014** – Redwood City Hometown Holidays Parade
- **December 8, 2014** - Membership Task Force Meeting 7:00pm Sharp Library
- **December 15, 2014** - Life Skills and Hobbies Meeting - 7:00pm at Fox School
- **January 1-4, 2015** – Stanislaus County Snow Camp
- **January 12, 2015** - Life Skills and Hobbies Meeting - 7:00pm at Fox School
- **January 23-25, 2015** – NC Section Creating A Leader (CAL) Conference
- **January 26, 2015** – County Council meeting at Fox School 7:00-8:30pm
- **February 7, 2015** – County Presentation Day
- **March 23, 2015** – County Council Meeting in HALF MOON BAY
- **March 28, 2015** – NC Section Presentation Day
- **April 18, 2015** – Fashion Revue, Favorite Foods, Craft Expo County Event
- **April 26, 2015** – County Animal Challenge
- **May 18, 2015** - County Council meeting at Fox School 7:00-8:30pm
- **May 30, 2015** – State Field Day