



TIMELY TOPICS



July 2009

The newsletter of the University of California
Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program,
Santa Clara County

Mission: The University of California 4-H Youth
Development Program engages youth in reaching
their fullest potential while advancing the field of
youth development.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009-2010 State 4-H Ambassadors Announced –

Rachel Coe, El Sereno 4-H was selected as one of twenty outstanding 4-H youth to serve as 2009-2010 State 4-H Ambassadors. Congratulations Rachel!!

The 4-H State Ambassador is one of the highest service opportunities and recognition attainable in the 4-H YDP. Over the next 14 months, they will serve the 4-H YDP through both education and service and act as state 4-H representatives to various local, sectional and statewide programs and activities; including providing public presentations, workshops and leadership development opportunities. A major responsibility for the group will be the planning and implementation of the 4-H State Leadership Conference.

10 Reasons Why You Should Do a Record Book!

by Taylor-Leigh Walters, El Sereno 4-H Club

1. Record Books are a great way to look back and remember what you did during your 4-H year. Record Books are a window to the past that you will cherish even when you age out of 4-H. They are a great way of remembering that not-so-

long-ago-time when you went to 4-H Camp or gave your first project report.

2. When you are older and applying to colleges you can use your Record Book for a reference of all the wonderful achievements that you have done over the years! Record Books are useful that way because they contain the who, what, when, where, and why of all the events, awards, and conferences that you have gone to. Although the time for when you might be applying to college seems far away it's good to get a jumpstart now! For when you are applying for a summer job! When the employer is asking you for your credentials you can whip out your handy-dandy Record Book with all the information organized neatly in your PDR Form.
3. It may not seem like it, but Record Books are a great way of helping you to become more organized, responsible, and less of a procrastinator. I'm sure that the first year that you try and leave your Record Book to the last minute you will learn very quickly that it's much easier to get your Record Book done on time if you keep track of all your information at the start of the year instead of the end.
4. Record Books open up a world of 4-H possibilities!! Record Books help you with opening up opportunities in 4-H that you never even thought were possible. For example if you have ever dreamed of becoming the President of El Sereno 4-H

Club, you have to have completed your Record Book or you will not be eligible for the position. So if you still want to start living your dream of becoming President, do your Record Book!!!

5. If you do your Record Book you may get awards!! If your Record Book is well organized, original, and creative you just might be able to win Gold at County or even State Record Book judging!
6. Record Books teach you how to write well. In your 4-H Story you can write whatever you want to write about! You could even write your 4-H Story from your dog or cat's point of view! Be creative! This is your time to shine and tell everyone about all the wonderful things you have accomplished this year!
7. Record Books can also be a way of critiquing projects on what they did and didn't do well that year. If there was one project where none of the meetings seemed very interesting to you or you think that the project was the best project ever, write it down in your Project Report Forms! Project Leaders and their Junior or Teen Leaders *love* the constructive criticism!
8. The simple feeling of self-satisfaction and achievement. After working on your Record Book for the entire 4-H year there is nothing like turning it in and finally feeling that sense of pride and accomplishment.
9. 4H Record books encourage you to set goals and develop plans to meet those goals.
10. Record books are fun!

Community Service Canned Food Drive

By Cameron Walters, El Sereno Club

Taylor-Leigh Walters and I organized a canned food drive in May and April at El Sereno 4-H Club for the Second Harvest Food Bank. At the Food Bank they take the food and give it to the people that can't afford that much food. We donated 71 pounds of all kinds of canned food! When we went there, we saw big trucks full of food and the man there was nice to us. He said that every bit helps. Next year I'll host it again because every bit does help.

GREETINGS FOR MILITARY KIDS

*By Sylena Wise,
smwise@ucdavis.edu*

Is your club looking for a fun service project to help military children? Operation Military Kids (OMK) supports California's military youth by providing them with Hero Packs. One of the items we include in each pack is a letter of support and encouragement written by another California youth. If your club would like to write letters to military kids or learn more about how your club can get involved in the OMK hero pack project, please contact Sylena Wise.



OPERATION MILITARY KIDS IS A SUCCESS!

By Anthony Johnson

On Sunday, June 7 at Moffett Field, 4-H'ers from Santa Clara County 4-H volunteered to run activities at the Operation Military Kids Family Day. The main feature, a Petting Zoo directed by Evelyn McGerry, featured pygmy goats brought by Janice Bradley, cavies brought by members of Pleasant Acres 4-H Club, and mice, chickens, and a snake brought by Evelyn herself. Other activities were also a huge success. Jenel Vincze and Jason Bombardier organized the game "Chicken Scratch." Theresa Johnson hosted Seed Planting that involved planting flower seeds in a paper cup so each seed could be planted at the children's homes. Eric and Anthony Johnson made Animal Balloons for the kids, which included dogs, mice, giraffes, and also flowers and swords. The Family Day was a great community service and outreach opportunity for Santa Clara County 4-H and we look forward to having 4-H participate at the Operation Military Kids Christmas Party in December.



A big thank you to our youth members, who made all of our activities exciting for the children at the event: Jason Bomardier, Conner Hares, Collin McKevers, Rylie Weaver, Savannah Weaver, Kiely Rose Phillips, and Alex Shord.



I would also like to give a big thank you to our adult volunteers, who did an amazing job at helping to make the event a great success: Janice Bradley, Patti Hares, Eric Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Evelyn McGerry, Susan Weaver, Veronica Weaver, Shauna Phillips, and Jenel Vincze.

=====

4-H State Field Day - By Kyle Geringer

At 4-H State Field Day there was Fashion Revue and Presentation Day. At Fashion Revue the Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors talked for 30 minutes and then answered questions. There were 2 Juniors, 1 Intermediate and 1 Seniors from Santa Clara County. Everyone that entered got to model their outfit in front of an audience at State Field Day. For presentations, one had to either read a book or do a presentation and then answer questions. There were also a few Share the Fun presentations. They presented awards after Fashion Revue. They had a tug award contest against the different Sections of California. It came down to North Central and South Central. We gave it our best, but South Central won. I had a great time at my first State Field Day and can't wait to go again next year.

My Years in 4-H....

My 1st Year in 4-H - By Kyle Geringer

In public speaking I received 3 gold medals for County, Sectional and State Presentation Day. My book was "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs". I also took sewing and foods & nutrition. I like sewing because I like wearing stuff I made. I made an apron, two vests, a pair of pants and a blanket. In foods and nutrition we made omelets and also smoothies. Another project is Achery. Archery is fun because I get to shoot a bow and arrow. It's fun!!!! My last project I did was pumpkin carving. There I made my own design and carved out the top. I even cleaned out the entire pumpkin myself. Then I carved the face. I really like 4-H, it is a lot of fun!!!



I like 4-H and Clover By: Dustin Geringer

I like to be in Clovers. I like 4-H because I get to do archery. At Presentation day I got to read "Brown Bear, Brown Bear". It was fun!!! I like to go to the Clover meetings. At the 4-H meetings, I like to go to the back of the room with the Clovers. At the back of the room we get to make crafts and stuff. After we make the crafts we have to show it to everyone at the meeting. At my house we have a Foods and Nutrition meeting. Our last meeting we got to make smoothies. At our first meeting we made omelets, I did not like the omelets. I really like 4-H and it is really fun. The End...



What I Like about 4-H - By Ayano Grzymala

4-H is an amazing and fun activity much like Girl Scouts, except that in 4-H we have monthly meetings and we do different projects. Even though it is my 2nd year in 4-H, I am becoming very involved in events and meetings. I would soon hope to become a treasurer, secretary, or even vice president. However, in order to be able to these jobs; I must start off as someone who does a smaller job like Birthday Sunshine, which I am going to do next year.

My favorite project this year is the Cooking project because I always have fun making different types of food which I haven't even heard of. I always delight my family when I come home from the project because they always can't wait to taste the delicious food I bring home. I never thought 4-H could be this fun!

By Patty Kurdi, El Sereno Club - It started five years ago. I began by sitting at the back of the room of the El Sereno Club, watching everyone giving reports, thinking how this was going to be sooo easy. I thought, I can just drop my kids off at meetings, go out for an hour, come back and pick them up and my day would be over. Little did I know.

The first year was so exciting to watch and learn. I saw parents volunteering what little free time they had, just to offer kids great project opportunities. I saw these same parents guiding our youth in life-skills and decision making for their futures. I was hooked.

By the end of the first year, I just had to get in there and work with the kids. I had so many ideas for projects that I wanted to share and offer our members, so I started with Woodworking. I wanted to show the members that women knew how to work with wood and tools too. All our kids went on to show at the Santa Clara County Fair and many of them won gold for full size beautiful benches. My son actually won Best in Division. I was so proud.

The second year, I didn't just continue with projects, I took on a Club Leader Role. My project was the Leadership Project. I took the training to teach this project and knew I would love working with our Jr. and Teen Leaders. It was so exciting, not only to teach about Leadership skills for the past 3 years, but it was also exciting to learn from each and every one of my members.

My Club Leader role was just as exciting. I had some huge shoes to fill. Trudy Jones took me aside to share all she knew with me. I could not have done it without her. Luckily, my role was shared with 2 other club leaders.. My particular role was handling the enrollment. It is a time consuming role, but what better role to have when you want to get to know each and every one of our members. I also worked with new parents and loved every minute of it. There are times it felt like a part time job, but I feel so fortunate to have had this opportunity.

I spent this past year running a new project called, Globe Trotters. It's a simulation of travels around the world to foster respect for cultures and learn about diversity. Through this project, we have traveled to Lebanon, China, Poland, Canada, India and we will be traveling to Mexico in about one week. Fiesta, here we come!

I will be entering into my 6th year now, not as a club leader, but focusing on Globe Trotters. It has been my favorite project to teach, being our club, our community, our country, our world, is full of diversity. Even though I will no longer be one of El Sereno's Club Leaders, I will always be part of this club and part of 4H in general. I love this program. I hope one day to see my children

grow up and introduce this to their children. I only hope I'm around to be the grandma teaching a project. Thank you all in 4H for letting me be a part of your children!

=====

Beach Cleanup and BBQ
By Patty Kurdi, El Sereno Club

What a great day we had at Seabright Beach on June 20th, 2009. The entire county was invited by El Sereno's Leadership Team to attend a community service project called, Beach Clean Up & BBQ. Some of us got there by 9am, then by noon, the leaders arrived to organize the beach cleaners from Santa Clara County 4H. As the members started arriving by 1:00, we first allowed people to settle in with their families. Then, by 1:30, we made our announcement for the clean up, passed out gloves and trash bags and asked that everyone pick up at least 50 items. They would then return to the Leaders to receive their green Bandanas and cold water bottles. We continued the day with foods, volleyball, swimming, boogie and skim boarding, resting in the warm sun and having a social blast. By 4:30, the bonfire was lit and everyone gathered around to roast hotdogs and marshmallows. Everyone ate till they burst. As the evening got closer, some tired families started to head off for home. The first to arrive were the last to leave. The beach was clean for one more day, thanks to everyone who participated in this "record book credit" community service project, Beach Clean Up & BBQ. Thank you to everyone who participated!



4-H Involvement Makes a Difference!

From Sharon Junge, Acting Director CA 4-H

According to preliminary results from the CA 4-H Study for Positive Youth Development, youth who participated in 4-H at least twice per month:

- Showed greater confidence
- Reported higher grades
- Were 1.6 times more likely to plan to go to college
- Scored higher on civic identity and engagement measures
- Had a greater ability to express opinions on community issues

More likely to help neighbors and bond with adults and teachers

Serving as a 4-H Officer Pays Dividends

Annually, over 5,900 California 4-H youth participate in elected leadership roles, serving as club and council officers and providing project expertise and guidance to younger youth. Research shows that this early involvement in civic leadership is a proven potential for earning higher income in later life. 4-H youth who participate in these leadership activities have also been shown to participate at a greater level in other school and community leadership roles.

Events and Deadlines

4-H Stories from 4-H Record Books submitted to the State Office on or before **July 31, 2009** will be entered for a chance to win a \$25 certificate. Check out this link <http://www.ca4h.org/wrp/recordbook/> for more information on submission guidelines and to upload and submit your story on-line. Please contact the State 4-H Office, 530-754-8518 for questions.

Help Staff 4-H Booth at California State Fair

Once again The California 4-H Foundation is recruiting 4-H members and leaders to help staff the 4-H booth at the California State Fair (**August 21 - September 7**). This is a great opportunity for 4-H members and volunteers to share with the public their 4-H experiences, as well as, the wide range of projects and leadership opportunities that are available to youth through

participation in the California 4-H Youth Development Program. Small 4-H projects are welcome to accompany you (robots, rabbits, arts/crafts, service dogs, etc.) to give the public a "feel" for what types of projects are available. Examples of service projects also make for good stories to share with the public. Please feel free to bring photo albums or record books with you to show anyone who may be interested in learning even more about your 4-H project. Parking passes! and fair admission tickets will be provided to 4-H members and adults who sign up for a 2-hour shift. A maximum of 4 youth and 2 adults per shift will be allowed. Further, each shift must have an adult or older teen in the booth at all times. To sign-up, please visit <http://www.ca4h.org/wrp/statefair/>.

Youth ages 10-15 are invited to attend the **3rd Annual Kids Culinary Convention and Conference, September 19, 2009** in Sacramento, CA. Youth and parents may register starting Aug. 15. The conference is an opportunity for youth to experience and learn about food, from preparation, hands-on cooking to the benefits of healthy eating habits. Visit: <http://www.jrchefcentral.com> for more information.

\$\$\$\$

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Bob and Pat Dean, Memorial Legacy Fund

Applications Due: **September 15**

Available at: <http://www.ca4h/citizenship/funding>

4-H club support funding is available for members or volunteers. Funding is intended for activities that meet the following criteria:

1) enables youth to develop citizenship, leadership, or life skills; **2)** support the development of new and innovative 4-H projects benefitting 4-H members; **3)** increase public awareness of the 4-H Youth Development Program; **4)** expand the reach of the 4-H Youth Development Program (new youth, new audiences); **5)** provide continuing benefit to the applicant's local 4-H Club or project

Hey 4-Her's!!!

4-H camp is coming up and recreation is going to be CAMPTASTIC! The recreation team has planned some amazing activities and exciting surprises for camp this year and we need your help. So, bring your family spirit and competitive edge to compete for the title of "Camp Champions". You thought taco eating was fun? Wait until you see what we've got planned! Here's a sneak peek at a recreation challenge:

Riddle me this!

The first is needed to make quotes you see,
And it often sticks up when it's time for noon tea.

The second's biggest distinction is found
Bearing the symbol of love that is bound.

The third should be biggest but that can depend,
Never standing alone or it may offend.

The fourth is off used when making a selection
Or if you should need a gun for protection.

The fifth is the fattest and oddest by far,
And can sometimes be found in a wrestling war.

What are they?

Are you stumped? Guess you'll have to come to
camp to find out more!

-The Recreation Team-



4-H Calendar

7/04 Petting Zoo at Central Park,
Santa Clara, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Contact Homesteaders 4H
Or email: [gad-
enladymq@yahoo.com](mailto:gad-enladymq@yahoo.com)

7/08 4H Night at the San Jose Giants
Baseball, 7:00—9:30 pm
Contact Anthony Johnson
Email: gotojohson@sbcglobal.net

7/13-20 SCC 4H Summer Camp
Hidden Falls

7/17 SCC 4H Clover Camp
Hidden Falls

7/14 SSC 4-H Council Meeting
Berger Drive, 7:15 to 9:15 pm
Contact Murlin Lee

7/22 Fair Animal Exhibitors Orientation
7/22- Santa Clara County Youth Fair
8/2

For more information on upcoming 4-H
events at <http://www.ca4h.org/4hinfo/>

University of California
Cooperative Extension
4-H Youth Development Program
Santa Clara County
1553 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE CA
PERMIT NO 109



The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, Vietnam era veterans, or any other veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized) in any of its programs or activities. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550, (510) 987-0096.

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
1553 BERGER DRIVE
SAN JOSE, CA 95112**

(408) 282-3116

Fax: (408) 298-5160

http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth_Development

*Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday*

All meetings and events are open to
EVERYONE! Please come!

*TIMELY TOPICS is published monthly
through the cooperative efforts of the
University of California Cooperative Extension
and the County of Santa Clara.*



*Fe Moncloa, Editor
4-H Youth Development, Advisor and Acting
County
Director(408) 282-3107 fxmoncloa@ucdavis.edu*

*Valeh Pakdaman, Design and Layout
4-H Secretary, (408) 282-3116
cesantaclara@ucdavis.edu*

Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.