



4-H Clover Connection

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Give Thanks to Your Volunteers

Volunteering has become an essential part of American life, especially in the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program.

April 27 through May 3 marks the 30th annual National Volunteer Week, and this year's theme is "Celebrate Volunteers – The Spirit of America!," said Karla Knoepfli, 4-H volunteer and leadership development assistant state specialist. The purpose of this week is to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at the local, state and national levels.

"Volunteerism has no age barrier or boundary," Knoepfli said. "People, young and old, work side-by-side making a difference in their communities."

Knoepfli said people may volunteer for reasons such as companionship, service to a social need, out of necessity and even for political reasons.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that approximately 59 million Americans did volunteer work from September 2001 to September 2002.

"People volunteer to strengthen and improve the quality of life within their communities, school, workplace, civic group, house of worship and others," she said. "Through their efforts they help themselves and others to live happier, healthier and more productive lives."

Individual volunteering helps build self-esteem and passes on social values. Committing one's time, talents and resources

implies a significant pledge of personal responsibility, loyalty and service to an individual's community.

Knoepfli said whether a person serves in the role of volunteer or volunteer manager, volunteering can be a pleasant experience when the following points are kept in mind:

1. Practicing good communication while the task is being completed.
2. Recognizing the individual's talents, time and resources.
3. Placing the individual in the best position for the organization.
4. Empowering people the opportunity to do the job that was delegated.
5. Respecting and appreciating the time and work completed by another.
6. Being genuinely thankful and appreciative for an opportunity to serve or to be served.

Knoepfli said it is important to remember and give thanks to those volunteers, not only during National Volunteer Week, but on a regular basis.

"Take time to thank those who make a difference in your life through their service as a volunteer," Knoepfli said. "A simple and sincere acknowledgement of their efforts goes a long way to fueling their enthusiasm and passion for serving others."

For information on volunteering for the 4-H program, contact the State 4-H office at (405) 744-8885 or contact your county Cooperative Extension office.

Check out the *Advanced Planner* inside this newsletter to mark meeting dates and events for the rest of 2003!!!

WE ARE ROLE MODELS

(W.A.R.M.)



Character Education News for Parents

By: Todd Branson

**Life is not so short -
but that there is
always
time for courtesy.**



If we could see through the eyes of children --

The two **children** and an **adult** are walking together along the sidewalk. The adult notices two soft drink cups left on the sidewalk. She stops, bends down, and picks up the cups saying, "I do not know about people who can not put there trash in the trash can" as she puts the cups in a nearby trash can.

The **family** is watching the news on television. A picture of the President comes on the screen. One adult says to another, "I that guy, Bush. He is like all the other politicians – no darn good. That's why I never vote. The whole country can go to heck for all I care." The children look at each other with puzzled faces, "In 4-H we learned that it is our duty as good citizens to study the candidates and to vote. We can even be candidates and campaign managers."

How would this look?

Cindy the Citizen Crab

Meet Cindy. She likes to be a citizen. Everyday she tries to:

- Cooperate
- Obey rules
- Respect people in charge
- Not to litter



Character Critters 2: Learning to be a good citizen at home activity

In the story Cindy the Crab Cleans up the Park. Cindy and her friends make a sign to post at the park. In your daily interactions in your town you will find many signs posting various rules. For example, stop signs and stoplights are signs that post rules about stopping at intersections. Take your child to the center of your town or a shopping center and go on a hunt for rules. Find five different signs that state a rule or law and talk to your child about what they mean. Signs with pictures or symbols will be best because your child can use the picture to figure out what the sign means. You might want to have your child draw a picture of the sign below beside your list of the different signs or paste a photograph there. Make some signs to remind the family of your rules at home.

We went on a rule walk and found these signs!

Rule #1:

Rule #2:

Rule #3:

We made these signs to help us remember the rules at home.

Rule #4:

Rule #5:

Child's Name _____

Please return this completed activity sheet to your child's school. Thank you.

Letter from the Educator:

Dear Caddo Co. 4-H Family,

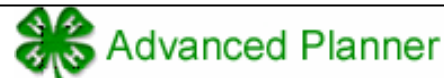
Summer time's a commin'! There are only a few weeks left of school for many of you and the calendars couldn't be any busier! I am truly amazed with the way everyone manages their time with 4-H meetings, camps, judging contests, baseball, golf, school (almost forgot that one), and many of the other programs hitting our schedules. The spring has been a wild one around here as well with a different event for 300-500 4-H'ers a week! If you catch the Anadarko Daily News, you will see we have also started a 4-H News Column updating everyone on all our programs, games, events, and upcoming feats. The newest of all is our radio show! This show will begin airing Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in May. Turn your dial to 103.5 FM and tune in to 4-H! To the right of this letter I switched the regular "News & Views" to the Advanced Planner for this one time only. I am hoping that with this advanced planning mechanism we can be even more organized than the past.

Finally, I want to thank our Teen Leaders for their behavior and energetic questioning this month at our meeting with our County Commissioner, Craig Gibson. He has a tough job and many thanks for letting us into his office and a peak into his everyday job. I know I learned a lot about managing a county. If you are age 13 and older and you ARE NOT receiving information about these Teen Leader Meetings, please call our office to get your name on the list. We want you there!!!

Have a great end to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Todd Branson
Extension Educator, 4-H & Youth Development



- Foundation, Advisory, and other Board Meetings will be held during the first week of each month. These meetings are not monthly, but this week has been blocked and further scheduling will be managed within.
- Volunteer Leader Meetings will start back in August and will be scheduled monthly on the **second Wednesday** of the month. The reason for more meetings is to keep in constant contact and to hopefully eliminate some postage costs acquired for shipping contest rules.
- Teen Leader Meetings start in August and will go monthly on the **third Wednesday** of the month unless our meeting location changes dates on us.
- **Volunteer Leader Interviews have been scheduled for August 5-15.** Call and schedule a time to chat with me about your club and how our 4-H program is going. This should be treated as a fun and relaxing visit about what you have been doing to make a difference in our youth's lives!

April – May 2003

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Samuel Curl, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Time</u>
April 25	State Scholarship RecordBooks DUE	4:30 pm
April 25-26	Discovery Unlimited	--
May 17	ManeTamers Horse Show	--
May 28-30	ROUND UP	--
June 4	Day Camp	TBA Fairgrounds
June 6-7	SW Dist Horse Show	--
June 10-12	Mini-Society 4-H Camp	TBA Fairgrounds
June 17-19	Tri County Camp	--

Please Read:
Other events may arise and scheduling may alter. For the most accurate information, please refer to: <http://countyext.okstate.edu/caddo/youth>