



April 2007

4-H Clover Connection

Texas County

Ode to the Volunteer

When it comes to recruiting volunteers, attitude is critical. And one thing that makes the Oklahoma 4-H Program the success that it is... is its quality of volunteer leaders.

An official of the National Information Center on Volunteerism, Inc., has been quoted as saying "Recruiting volunteers is not like finding water in the desert; it's more like controlling Niagara Falls."

Recruiters must have a positive attitude, a belief others have the time, talents or resources to share and most importantly, be willing to educate and delegate to the volunteer, said Karla Knoepfli, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service volunteer and leadership development specialist.

"The following 'testimonial' was written by an anonymous 4-H volunteer in response to the questions, 'Why be a 4-H leader?'" Knoepfli said.

"The stock answers of love of children, watching them grow and develop, interest in project areas and satisfaction in performing responsible community work, while all valid, are not enough to account for the amount of time, energy and devotion some 4-H volunteers lavish upon the organization. Clearly, there must be a more personal motivation behind this flurry of activity.

First and foremost, 4-H provides an adult with a sense of independence and identity. In an age where mass media seem to be attempting to program the general public into one collective mind, 4-H provides opportunity to think, plan and act for ones self.

The sense of independence and identity derived from 4-H work permeates every aspect of the average daily routine. As a 4-H volunteer, I have access to more educational advantages from the state university than I can ever use.

The fellowship with children and adults is beyond

compare. With fellow volunteers of like mind and spirit, we can set, attain and celebrate our goals. Secure in independence and identity, I am still part of a team that spans my community, city, county, state and nation. I have a group purpose to work for a sense of belonging to do something good and positive, something that can raise me beyond myself.

I gain a sense of self-respect and self-confidence when I see my club members grow, expand and achieve through my efforts. When the group works and succeeds in some educational effort, I feel a sense of pride in our accomplishments.

As a 4-H volunteer I gain identity, independence, fellowship, education and a sense of purpose and belonging, pride, self-respect and self-confidence and quite often, a good case of mental and physical exhaustion. It gives me the opportunity to be awake and alive, alert to life around me, constantly searching for ways to lead, to teach, to live and to be."

As a 4-H club leader, volunteer or parent, would you want to deprive someone the opportunity to serve as a 4-H leader?

"Too often, we approach the task of recruiting with a negative attitude, with the feeling that most people already have too much to do and don't want to be bothered with another request for assistance," Knoepfli said. "Instead, we need to take the approach that providing assistance and leadership to 4-H not only benefits youth, but also has tremendous rewards and advantages for the adults. The volunteers we have in the counties across the state are such an integral part of how the 4-H program operates. They provide a wealth of knowledge and are such strong and positive role models for the youth of Oklahoma. We truly are very fortunate to those individuals who give so freely of their time and talents."



2007 State 4-H Round-Up

4-H Round-Up is May 23-25, 2007. 4-H'ers age 13 thru 19 are encouraged to attend. Round-Up is a great way for 4-H'ers from around the state to get together and have fun.

Workshops, competitive events, dances, inspirational speakers are just part of the program. Cost is \$95.00 which will be reimbursed to you by the Texas County Federation. T-shirts are also available to purchase, if you would like one. \$8.00 for the small sizes and \$9.00 for XXL and XXXL. The deadline to fill out registration forms and pay registration fee is Friday, April 20th. For further information call the Extension office, also check out the web at

<http://clover.okstate.edu/fourh/events/roundup.htm>

Keep collecting the pop-tabs!

Job Readiness

The Job Readiness Contest is an excellent way to prepare for job interviews in a competitive atmosphere. A packet of information for the contest is available at the OSU Extension office. The contest is scheduled for April 16th, 2007 at the Texas County Extension Service conference room. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the deadline date for entering is April 13th.

Job readiness is an individual event that recognizes members who satisfactorily complete a job application form, participate in an interview, and communicate personal understanding of and ability to perform specific job requirements. Event categories are:

1. Intermediate: 13-14 years of age
2. Senior: 15 and above years of age

Job Categories:

1. Retail sales
2. Services
3. Home-based type businesses
4. Office-work
5. Healthcare

6. Other

Criteria for Evaluation:

- Information folder
- Application form
- Interview conducted
- Follow-up letter

Dress Revue & Impressive Dress

Saturday, April 14, 2007

Hardesty School Auditorium

1:30 p.m.

REMINDER!!!--Garments that have to be judged must be in the Extension office on or before April 12th.

County Elections

4-H'ers that are 13 or older are eligible to be nominated for a county 4-H Federation office. Written nominations are required and must be turned in by April 18th. The nominations for the office of President must be designated on the nomination form. This is a great opportunity to develop leadership, meet new people and have fun. The election will be held at the May 2nd Federation meeting. Each club is encouraged to bring 3 voting delegates to the meeting. For further information and a nomination form contact the Extension office.

A-Family A-Fair

Everyone is invited to come to the A-Family A-Fair on Saturday, April 28th at the Texas County Activity Center in Guymon and be involved in family fun. Concession stand helpers, along with participants in the booths are needed. County officers are asked to contact Arleen. The event is held from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to the winners and participants in the 2007 4-H Talks Contest. All of the participants did an excellent job.

Jr. Division:

*Champion ~ Katie Lindsay
Reserve Champion ~ Rachel Helms
3rd Place ~ Joe Lindsay*

Cloverbuds:

*Maggie Bellew
Mollie Bellew*

Karie Smith, Guymon Vo-Ag Instructor served as the judge for the evenings event. Thank You, Karie!

QUAD COUNTY CAMP



WHEN: (Tentative date) July 5, 6 & 7

WHERE: CAMP GIBSON, HARDESTY

Be watching for up-coming newsletters for more concrete details. Also, be making plans to attend this fun summer event and be with other 4-H members in the county.

Dates To Remember



April 14: Dress Revue & Impressive Dress Contest-Hardesty at 1:30 p m

April 16: Job Readiness-OSU Extension at 6:30 p m

April 28: A-Family A-Fair at the Texas County Activity Center, 10 am-4 pm

May 2: 4-H Federation mtg/ Officer Elections at the Extension Service in Guymon

May 8: Guymon Cloverbuds & Hardesty Cloverbuds

May 23-25: 4-H Round-Up at Stillwater

May 30-31 & June 1: Tractor & Equipment Safety Course at the Extension office, 5 pm-8 pm

June 2: NW District Horse Show at Woodward Rodeo Arena



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