



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2007

Contact: Lisa Bouillion 217-333-0910

4-H Promotes Youth Leadership in Science, Engineering & Technology

Youth can participate in a range of hands-on activities with robotics, podcasting and geographical information systems (GIS) at the 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) display in the Mezzanine Level of the Exposition Building at the 2007 Illinois State Fair.

Too many young Americans lack the science, engineering and technology career skills necessary to succeed – and meet our country’s needs – in the future. Responding to this critical challenge, 4-H has set a mission mandate to reach 1 million new youth in 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) programs by 2013. These programs provide experiential learning opportunities; modeled on principles of positive youth development and connected to the latest research from land-grant universities across the country.

The 4-H SET display at State Fair will showcase curriculum developed at the national level as well as innovative programs developed within University of Illinois Extension 4-H. Learn how 4-H is helping youth develop scientific inquiry and technology literacy skills in projects exploring topics such as robotics, alternate energy sources, virtual learning environments, educational game design, geocaching, community mapping, ecology, biotechnology and forensics.

Hands-on activities with robotics, podcasting, community mapping and wind energy will be offered at the 4-H SET display August 10-12th and 17-19th between 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. For more information about 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology contact Dr. Lisa M. Bouillion at lisabou@uiuc.edu, 217-333-0911.

4-H is the largest out-of-school educational program for youth in the United States. 4-H seeks to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, forming attitudes, and developing life skills that will enable them to become caring, competent, and contributing members of society. In Illinois 292,302 youth participate in 4-H and the other youth programs of University of Illinois Extension. More than 25,500 youth and adult volunteers assist in the programming. For more information about 4-H in Illinois, visit: <http://www.4-H.uiuc.edu>.

###

Editor’s Note: State Fair Junior Department Press Releases can be downloaded from (updated daily): <http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/fairmedia.html>