



## National 4-H Centennial Website

Check out the National 4-H Centennial web site - log on to it at [www.4hcentennial.org](http://www.4hcentennial.org). This site dedicated to all of those individuals who have participated in 4-H over the years and will help us all celebrate the 100th anniversary of 4-H in 2002.

### *What Can You Find There?*

**Surveys:** There are many different surveys that you can vote on. The biggest survey is the decade survey. Each month they will feature a decade in the history of 4-H. You can vote for the top 10 most important 4-H events of each decade. They began the surveys in November 2000 with the first decade (1902-1912) and will continue until they reach the 10th decade (1993-2002), so make sure you vote for your favorites each month. The site generally accepts votes only during the first 15 days of each month. You can also check out what the vote favorites were from previous decades.

**Calendar:** If you are having a centennial event, please make sure that you post it on the calendar. This way 4-Hers from all over the country can celebrate with you!

**Discussion Board:** If you would like to talk about different events or post questions, you can visit the discussion board. This could be a very helpful tool in planning your local club and county events.

**Newsletter:** Sign up and subscribe to the National 4-H Centennial Newsletter. This e-mail newsletter will keep you more up to date on what's happening nationally.

## Illinois Centennial Committees

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The Illinois State Centennial Committee is comprised of 4-H members, adult volunteers and Extension staff. This group has come together to plan celebrations for the 100 year anniversary of 4-H.

The committee is focusing on the following four areas: Illinois Centennial newsletter, special events, Centennial display, and alumni identification. The *Centennial newsletter* will provide updates on national and state activities. It will also provide suggestions for celebrating the 100th anniversary in your club and county. (See other articles for more information).

The *Special Events* committee will provide input on celebrating the anniversary to planning committees for state events, such as Legislative Connection, State Fair, National 4-H week, and Leadership Convention. It is our hope to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at county and state activities throughout 2002.

A *Centennial display* is being planned to highlight Illinois 4-H history through photos and more. This is a work in progress so watch for more information in future issues. The *Alumni Identification* committee hopes to invite past members and their families to celebrate the 100th anniversary alongside current 4-H members. The committee plans to prepare a list of famous Illinois 4-H'ers. Are you a 4-H alumnus? Make sure to check out the national website to register! (See the article on the National Centennial website.)

The 4-H Centennial lists ideas for the upcoming 4-H Centennial. Send ideas and comments to: Illinois 4-H Centennial, Deb Stocker, 302 E. John, Suite 1901, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 333-0910.  
<http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/events/centennial.html>

## Celebration Ideas for Your Club & County

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The Illinois Centennial Committee has spent some time gathering ideas that may help you in preparing for the 2002 celebrations. When planning your events, we recommend you involve many volunteers including club members, leaders, families, and 4-H alumni. Starting with this issue, we will include ideas that may be used on the local or county level; some may be adaptable for both.

Ask clubs to research and write a history of their club, including photographs. Encourage intergenerational activities, including interviewing 4-H alumni. Contact your local historical society and offer to set up a display for them. Anytime you are planning an event, make it a reunion and invite the public to celebrate with you! Be sure to include former 4-H staff in your reunions. If you have “famous” or prominent alumni, use them whenever possible!

Starting this year, make appearances in parades or at local festivals to promote the upcoming celebration. If you have a local or county WEB site, be sure to post the histories that you have researched, and keep everyone posted on the activities that you are pursuing! Get the local media involved as much as possible.

At your county fair, you may want to recreate some of the old contests - pie baking, preservation, etc. Special programs might include the following: oldest living “former” or current volunteer; oldest living 4-H alumnus; a 4-H alumni showmanship class in livestock; club recognition for clubs that are over 25 or 50 years old; recognition of families with 3-4 generations who have been in 4-H; 4-H alumni or former leaders who traveled the furthest to celebrate with you; sponsor a 4-H trivia contest. Make your evening special by including dancing (include music/dances from over the years) and sing some of the songs from the 4-H songbook.

## Establishing a County Centennial Committee

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Local Extension staff should not expect to plan for the 4-H Centennial without help from others – in fact, we strongly encourage staff to get others involved in the process. Some ideas for staff members in coordinating a Centennial Committee . . .

- Incorporate Centennial celebrations into current events. You don’t have to plan a new event!
- Ask current volunteers, 4-H alumni, 4-H teens, and even retired Extension staff members to serve on a county Centennial committee.
- Ask your local Extension council and 4-H committees for recommendations for committee members.
- It is not just the Extension staff member’s job to plan for the Centennial. Others should be involved in the planning and implementation of those plans!
- We also understand if a county decides NOT to celebrate, but we hope that you will still promote our state and national Centennial Celebration projects.

Here is a suggested timeline for establishing your Centennial Committee:

March-Apr. ‘01	Obtain volunteers and recommendations for volunteers to serve on the county Centennial committee.
May-Aug.	Planning meeting(s)
July-Aug.	Promote activities to 4-H club leaders for beginning of 4-H year. Start to promote 2002 Centennial at 2001 4-H Shows and County Fairs.
Sept.-Dec.	Promote Centennial activities for clubs at leader’s meetings, 4-H Achievement programs, fall events. Encourage clubs to start club histories, etc.
Jan. 2002	Start celebrating our 4-H Centennial year!

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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. Dennis R. Campion, Director, University of Illinois Extension. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. The 4-H Name and Emblem is Protected Under 18 U.S.C. 707. University of Illinois • U.S. Department of Agriculture • Local Extension Councils Cooperating

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