



Illinois *Leader*

Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

December 2006 – January 2007

Public Presentation: Plan, Prepare, Practice, and Present Speak



One of the greatest fears identified by many people is that of speaking in front of others. Over the years, teachers have often mentioned that students who are 4-H members have a head start on developing communications skills. This does not happen by chance; rather 4-H leaders must provide guidance and support as members present project talks or demonstrations at their club meeting. Illinois 4-H offers the following publications to assist leaders in providing support to members: *Public Presentations*, *4-H Foods Demonstration Guide*, and the new Communications project series which includes a helper's guide. Leaders may also download *Communications Guides* from the web at:

www.4-h.uiuc.edu/staff/fieldstaff.html#project. These include *Demonstrations*, *Formal Speech*, *Illustrated Speech*, *Extempore Speaking*, *Oral Interpretations*, *Original Works*, and *Master of Ceremonies*. Score cards are included for the various Public Presentation categories.

4-H members have numerous opportunities to participate in public presentation contests at the county and state level. Public Presentation and Food Demonstration Contests are held in many counties and at the state fair. Earlier in the year, as a part of the judging contests on the U of I campus, there is a Horticulture Public Presentations Contest (June), a Horse Formal Speech Contest, and a Horse Team Demonstration/Illustrated Talk Contest (April). Contact your local Extension office for details on these specific contests.

Get Up and Move! Research Project



Thanks to the 18 Illinois 4-H clubs volunteering to participate in a research project to measure the impact of **Get Up & Move!** Each participating club will complete six months of GUM activities, record their minutes of physical activity, and turn in a final report of activity. Any club may enroll in **Get Up & Move!** The objective of GUM is to encourage youth, families, and communities to increase their daily physical activity and to adopt healthy eating practices. Materials can be found on the web at: www.4-h.uiuc.edu/opps/move.

Spring 4-H Volunteer Forums



Hold the dates for the upcoming 4-H volunteer forums. Leaders will be energized by learning sessions related to club management, organizational support, and youth leadership. Promotion materials will be available in early January and registration will be available on-line and by mail. Dates for the 4-H volunteer forums by date and location include:

March 10 – Southern Region – location TBA

March 17 – West Central Region – Springfield – Extension Center

March 24 – East Central Region – Champaign – Parkland College

April 14 – Northeast Region – Sycamore – Center for Agriculture

April 28 – Northwest Region – Kewanee – Black Hawk East

4-H Leadership Convention Returns to U of I Campus!

After 11 years, the **Illinois 4-H Leadership Convention** will be returning to the University of Illinois campus with a new focus! Mark your calendars now for Thursday – Saturday, **June 28-30, 2007**. The committee is hard at work and program details will be available later this spring.

Valued Volunteer Orientation Program



More than 150 volunteers from across the state are participating in the **VALUED Volunteer Orientation Program** this year. Participants engage in six one-hour sessions on the volunteer role in 4-H, club organization, program planning, positive youth development, communications, and experiential learning. The modules will be taught via the web, telephone conferencing, self study packets, and face-to-face meetings. Recognition will be given to those that complete all six modules. Volunteers will have the opportunity to complete several of the sessions at the spring 4-H volunteer forums. Volunteers from last year's pilot effort who were not able to complete all six modules may finish their modules this year. Contact your local Extension office for details.

Another group of volunteers are participating in the **VALUED Volunteer Training Pilot** this year, where they will engage in learning about more in-depth topics such as behavior management, fiscal policies, and risk management. They may choose three topics from six elective sessions including youth development, family involvement, making meetings fun, parliamentary procedure, public presentations, and working with officers and committees.

Community Improvement and Health Improvement Grant Opportunities

Put "pledge their hands to larger service" into action this year by making the third "H" a priority. The Illinois 4-H Foundation is again supporting 4-H club outreach by funding community-related service projects supported through a donation from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., and Country Insurance and Financial Services. Areas of focus include community improvement projects OR health and safety related projects. Grant monies ranging from \$50 to \$250 per club are available. Applications are available from the Extension office or at www.4-h.uiuc.edu/events/grants/html. Applications are due **January 5, 2007**.

4-H Fair Share Program



Illinois received its first check from the 4-H Fair Share Program with National 4-H Council and National 4-H Supply. When 4-H volunteers and Extension staff order merchandise online at www.4-Hmall.org, Illinois receives a 10% commission on the value of the merchandise ordered. This money will be used to support the **4-H Recognition for Excellence** program. Thanks to all who placed orders on-line and please continue to support this program!

JLC Pizzeria – Better Skills Better Leaders!



Help your members focus on their leadership skills and have some great fun at the same time by attending the Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference (JLC) for 7th and 8th graders! JLC is scheduled for **February 24-25, 2007** at the Decatur Conference Center & Hotel.

Youth will build their leadership "pizza"; focus on involving others; build relationships with adult and youth partners; study the Illinois methamphetamine issue; and learn new healthy lifestyle programs that can be taken back to your club and community. Members will network, socialize, and learn new skills.

The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to:
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www.4-H.uiuc.edu

Information and registration materials are available at your local Extension office or at: <http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/events/annual013jlc.html>. Members will be able to register on-line, paying either by check or credit card. Registrations are **due January 22**. Attendance is limited to the first 125 youth. Adult chaperones are also being recruited. Chaperones should complete the new 4-H Overnight Chaperone Orientation on-line at: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/4hchaperone/index.html>.

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