



Illinois *Leader*

Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

August-September 2007

New Curriculum and Resources for Fall 2007



There are exciting 4-H project changes for 2007-08. We have added several new projects and updated some of our long-standing projects. Following is a summary of the project changes:

- *Floriculture, Levels A-D*—Members will learn about growing and caring for plants, production science, floral design and careers.
- *4-H Cooking 101*—Replaces *Let's Start Cooking*, *You Learn to Bake*, and *Tricks for Treats I & II*. In this introduction to cooking project, members will learn the basics of food preparation and nutrition. This is the first of four new cooking projects.
- *Forestry, Levels 1-3*—Members learn about trees, forests, forest ecology and the need for trees.
- *Geospatial 1 & 2*—Are only available on CD. Members will explore the world of geospatial science, geospatial technology, geographic education, GIS, and GPS.
- *Photography, Levels 1-4*—In Level 1 members learn the basics of equipment, lighting, composition and photography skills. Each level builds on that foundation. Youth can use a film or digital camera.
- *Exploring the World of Plants and Soils, Levels 1-3*—Members will learn about gardening, plants, soil, and the natural world through experimentation and exploration.
- *Robotics, Levels I & II*—Members must purchase a LEGO© Mindstorms kit, Robotics project manual and Robotics and You CD to complete this project. Robotics is an ideal way to learn about science, math, engineering, and technology.
- *Tractor, Levels A-D*—Members learn about engine operation, hydraulic systems, electrical systems, and safe operation of the tractor.

North Central Region Volunteer Forum



Last call for the **2007 North Central Region Volunteer Forum** to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on **October 12-14!** The regular registration deadline is **September 1** with a cost of \$235 if processed on-line (early bird deadline is August 1 for \$210). The forum provides educational workshops, off-site educational tours, and opportunities for networking with other 4-H volunteers from the Midwest. Registration materials are available on the web at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/ncvlf/index.cfm>. Volunteers are expected to return and share what they have learned with other 4-H leaders.

Salute to Excellence 2008



Salute to Excellence is a 4-H volunteer recognition program sponsored by National 4-H Council through funding from Monsanto. Nominations for the 2008 award program will be due to the Illinois State 4-H Office in the late fall. Application forms will be available October 1. Contact your local Extension office if you would like to nominate a current 4-H volunteer for one of the two categories – **Volunteer of the Year** (less than 10 years of service) or **Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer** (10 or more years of service).

Revised 4-H Award Application Forms

Club leaders will want to be sure that they and their members have the newly revised 4-H award applications for the coming year. These are ONLY available via the 4-H web site. This included the *Illinois 4-H Award Application* and the *Illinois 4-H Club/Group Report* (due August 2008). Both are available from the Recognition for Excellence page at www.4-h.uiuc.edu/opps/recognition.html.

Valued Volunteer Orientation Program Available Statewide



The **4-H Valued Volunteer Orientation and Training Programs** are available statewide this fall. New or inexperienced volunteers are encouraged to enroll in this six-part orientation program through their local Extension office. 4-H leaders will be asked to complete six-one hour sessions by attending face-to-face meetings, telephone conference calls, and/or by going on-line for self-study sessions during the 4-H year. The **orientation** topics include: volunteer roles in 4-H, club organization, club program planning, positive youth development, communications within the 4-H club, and experiential learning. The training topics include ages and stages of development, behavior management, fiscal policies, making meetings fun, parental involvement, parliamentary procedure, public presentations, risk management, and working with officers and committees. The objective of the program is to help newer leaders develop skills to initiate or strengthen their own local club programs and activities. Special recognition will be given to those who complete the modules at the end of the year. More than 50 volunteers who participated in the orientation program during the 2006-07 4-H year will be recognized at the 2007 Illinois State Fair during the Clover Celebration.

4-H Explore! Projects



For 2007-08, Illinois 4-H will offer a new type of project – **4-H Explore!** These projects will allow youth to work with an adult or older youth who has expertise in a topic that is not offered as a 4-H project. Youth may form a special interest group with other youth who want to explore the same topic. It's important that youth stay connected to others as they work on the Explore! projects rather than working alone. Youth will explore the topic with the help of a community expert because it is important that youth get factual, accurate information. Youth may also explore the topic on-line, remembering to follow Internet safety practices. Illinois Explore! projects will be introduced through a new 4-H web site in 2008 allowing youth to share and exchange ideas on new projects, give direction on how to explore a topic, and have access to the web-based state Explore! projects.

Collegiate 4-H Club Opportunities in Illinois



Just because you are heading off to college, don't think that your involvement with the Illinois 4-H program has to end. When you arrive at your new college campus, be sure to check to see if **Collegiate 4-H** is one of the recognized student organizations. Currently, active Collegiate 4-H clubs exist at the University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign campus and Illinois State University.

As Collegiate 4-H members, college students experience a unique sense of identity on campus, are involved in group projects, social activities and community outreach. The Collegiate 4-H program also contributes to the on-going personal development of confidence and leadership skills. Collegiate 4-H is open to all college students who wish to be part of the 4-H tradition. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Pat McGlaughlin, at the State 4-H Office, 217-333-0910.

The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to:
Illinois Leader, Sheri Seibold, 302 E. John, Suite 1901, Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 333-0910

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