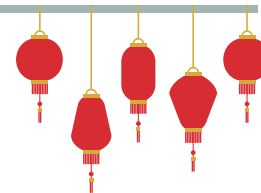


The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



4-H MEMBER, ABBI, GETS ADVICE ON A CROSSSTITCHING ORNAMENT FROM VOLUNTEER, JILL, AT A RECENT STITCH AND STACK PROJECT DAY

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Intercultural Relationship Building

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

As you may or may not know, our Youth Leadership Project chooses a service theme for clubs to focus on each year. The youth come up with challenges around that theme, and winning clubs get first choice at food stand shifts during fair! We've been doing this for the past four years, starting with #trashtag (a trash clean-up effort), physical disability advocacy, intergenerational relationship building, and now this year, intercultural relationship building.

The impact that these programs have had throughout the years has been incredible. When our youth leaders chose disability advocacy, little did they know that their program would have a domino effect statewide. UW-Madison Division of Extension would be so inspired, that they have written and offered thousands of dollars of grants to help improve accessibility for 4-Hers with various needs. An ASL Camp and a special camp for autistic 4-Hers would be started, and the state team is offering curriculum and training opportunities--all because our Vernon County youth had a shared vision to help change how people perceive disability.

This year's theme is intercultural relationship building, and already I'm hearing incredible stories of country presentations, and clubs reaching out to local



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groups of people to build connections. The Hillsboro Hotshots are working to meet with a local Nicaraguan restaurant and help their newly arrived servers learn English. The Davis Diggers did a deep dive into gnomes and Scandinavian culture. Here in the county office, we are working on a large program for February. We're so excited to celebrate the unique cultures that come together to form the community that is Vernon County.

Later on in the newsletter, you will see two announcements--first the awards banquet theme this year is international. 4-H is in many countries worldwide, and our hosting clubs have chosen to integrate a service opportunity during the program for an orphanage in Colombia.

Secondly, you will see an announcement for Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year is celebrated by most East Asian countries in February. I have teamed together with a committee to bring in a professional Chinese Dancer, unique foods, crafts, and lived perspectives. This will be one of the larger programs that I have done, and I am so excited to be part of it!

Don't miss these great opportunities to learn about others, hear people's unique stories, and also serve others.

Photo Happenings



THE RETREAT RAMBLERS AND LIBRARY LENDERS HAVE COMBINED INTO A NEW CLUB, CALLED THE VIROQUATEERS! THEY'RE MEETING AT THE NOBLE RIND IN DOWNTOWN VIROQUA--WE'RE SO EXCITED FOR THIS NEW CLUB!



MANY CLUBS GOT TOGETHER TO DECORATE THE BUTT HOUSE FOR CHRISTMAS. HERE ARE TWO PHOTOS FROM THE LIBERTY POLE BOOSTERS



THE DAVIS DIGGERS DISPLAYING THEIR GNOME PROJECTS

Updates: What you need to know

Arts Fest Entries Due Soon: What is Arts Fest? It's an opportunity for 4-Hers to come together and celebrate the arts, music, and performance. Arts Fest consists of judging youths' abilities and is broken up into two distinct entries: fair and fest. The Vernon County Fair in September hosts many competitions but it does not host demonstrations, vocals, piano, and instrumental. Those are done during Arts Fest, along with 'fun' or 'fest' entries: Cloverbuds, artwork, photography, and forensics speaking. This can make the application process a little confusing, so please read the directions carefully when registering. Entries are due back by Friday, January 12th. Arts Fest will be held on March 2nd at the Viroqua Church of Christ.

Rules and Instructions are found on our website:



Registration is via Google form and due December 12th!



Summer Camp is Scheduled

Summer Camp at Upham Woods (WI Dells) is slated for July 31-August 2. We are in DEEP need of adult volunteers, especially men. If you counseled or chaperoned with us last year, please let me know if you plan to again this year. We need as many adults and high schoolers as possible!

Attendance Policy If your family is interested in exhibiting their projects at the Vernon County Fair, which is hosted by the Vernon County Agricultural Society, your youth must attend 50% of your club's meetings. Your youth can make up two missed meetings in order to reach their quota by participating in other 4-H programming. Ask your club leader or the Extension Office for a copy of the attendance policy in its entirety.

Youth Leadership Challenges Updates: This year's theme is intergenerational relationship building. Your club has been tasked with 3 challenges: community partners/outreach, intergenerational relationship building, and our annual February Food Drive. At the end of this newsletter, is your tracking sheet for the food drive.

Clubs will need to identify a food pantry or shelter (homeless, pregnancy, halfway house) that they would like to donate to. It can be in the county or outside the county—whatever works best for your club members. **Please contact them ahead of time to make arrangements, and to find out what they need and what they can handle (freezer space, etc.)**

There are so many possible things that a pantry/shelter may need—if it is not on the sheet, write it on the back and follow the system of 3 points per individual item or 10 points for packs of multiples. Throughout the month of February members should work to collect items and complete their point sheets. Point sheets should then be turned in to leaders to do a final tally and then submit the club's total to Extension Office by 4:30, March 4th. The club is responsible for getting items and cash to the pantry/shelter. Clubs can also work shifts or do volunteer projects at the pantry/shelter in order to earn additional points. 50 pts per youth per shift. Once all points are in, the winners will be put in order and the 13 pts on down will be applied.

We've specifically chosen the month of February, because after the holiday season, giving/donating, decreases abruptly, but need does not. We are excited to work to fill that gap through this challenge.

County, State & Nationwide Happenings

2023 Annual Awards Banquet: Please mark your calendar for our annual awards banquet. This year it will be held at the Retreat Sportsman's Club on Sunday, 21st at 4:30 PM. This year's theme matches our youth challenge theme: international! Did you know that 4-H is in over 80 countries? We will have a taco bar, Cloverbud Graduation, and more!

This year, we are doing an international service project during the banquet by collecting donations. We've connected with Jeanene Thicke, with Children's Vision in Bogota, Colombia to ask her what Vernon County 4-H families could provide their program with. They run an orphanage for abandoned children in the heart of the capital.

Jeanene writes:

Thank you very much for your help. If the children could donate a **new pair of shoes** that are their size that would be great. That helps us keep all sizes covered and we have a LOT of feet. Also the same with a **toy**, if they could give something that is their age appropriate, our kids would be thrilled. We don't live in the digital world so **sports items, games, and building toys** are all welcome here. Nothing violent, please. The other thing we always need is **bath towels**. Normal...not huge or heavy. Our laundry is a lot.

Here are some photos of the children preparing for the holidays.



To register to attend the banquet:
<https://forms.gle/mG5vNFhMAD1bB4kZ6>



If you cannot attend the banquet, but would like to donate, please drop off items to our office before the banquet--so by Friday, January 19th.



County, State & Nationwide Happenings, Ctd.



Sunday, February 18th
Location: TBA

LUNAR

NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION

Join us for a night of culture, learning, food, and dance.

Tentative Schedule/Subject to Change:
3:30: Dragon Dance Performed by Pleasant Ridge Waldorf 7th Graders, Directed by Shihhan Chou
4:00-4:45: Table Tour--Interact at different stations to learn stories and how Lunar New Year is celebrated in several different countries. Each table may contain food, crafts, snacks, etc.
5:00-6:00: Blue Willow Dance: Professional Chinese Dance and China Country Presentation

Hosted by Vernon County 4-H

With special thanks for the planning committee/businesses/schools: Thuy Tong, Yanni Liang, Laci Sheldon (McIntosh Memorial Library), Shihhan Chou, TT Nails, Great Wall Chinese Restaurant, Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School, Dept of East Asian Studies at UW-Madison

Trip Scholarship Policy Reviewed/Updated: Each fall, trip eligible youth receive an email containing information about all of the trips, camps, and exchange experiences that 4-H offers its members. In addition, they also receive a form to fill out that will grant them a 50% scholarship from the Leader/Parent Federation to attend.

There has been an increasing disconnect however, because the opportunities open up for registration at different times during the year. Youth may not know in the fall if they will go on a trip the following summer, for example. **Therefore, the Federation has voted to make the funding form available and open all year. If your youth signs up for a trip on 4HOnline, they should fill out the form at the same time and submit immediately to the Vernon County 4-H office.** The form will be permanently posted on the 4-H website under the "Current 4-H Program, Trips, and Opportunities" tab.

Registration for these events officially takes place on 4HOnline--if you're having difficulties finding them, reach out to our office to help.

The following trips are currently open for registration but will be closing soon: Citizenship Washington Focus and Space Camp.

Applications are also open on 4HOnline for other opportunities like the Statewide Drama Company and State Art Team. Again, log into your 4HOnline account and click the 'Events' tab on the left side.

MONROE, LA CROSSE, RICHLAND AND VERNON COUNTY 4-H PRESENT:

FUR, FIN, FEATHER: TEACHING SHOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, BARNEY CENTER,
SPARTA, WI

WHAT: FULL ALL BREED/TYPE RABBIT SHOW, RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP, RABBIT BREED JUDGING, FULL ALL BREED/TYPE POULTRY SHOW, POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP, SMALL PET AND CAT SHOW, PHOTOGRAPHY AND POSTER CONTEST

WHO: CLOVERBUD THROUGH GRADE 13 (SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO CLOVERBUDS)

THE TEACHING SHOW IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH NEW AND EXPERIENCED RABBIT/POULTRY PROJECT MEMBERS TO EXPERIENCE A SHOW, WORK WITH AND RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM JUDGES, AND LEARN. THE SMALL PET SHOW ALLOWS MEMBERS TO EXHIBIT AND SHARE THEIR SMALL PETS AND CATS WITH OTHERS.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE IN 4-H TO ATTEND THE SHOW.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE SHOW AND SHOW BILL WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC SOON. WE WILL HAVE A FULL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER, CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE, AND POSSIBLY A SUPPLY VENDOR

4HOnline:



Funding Form:



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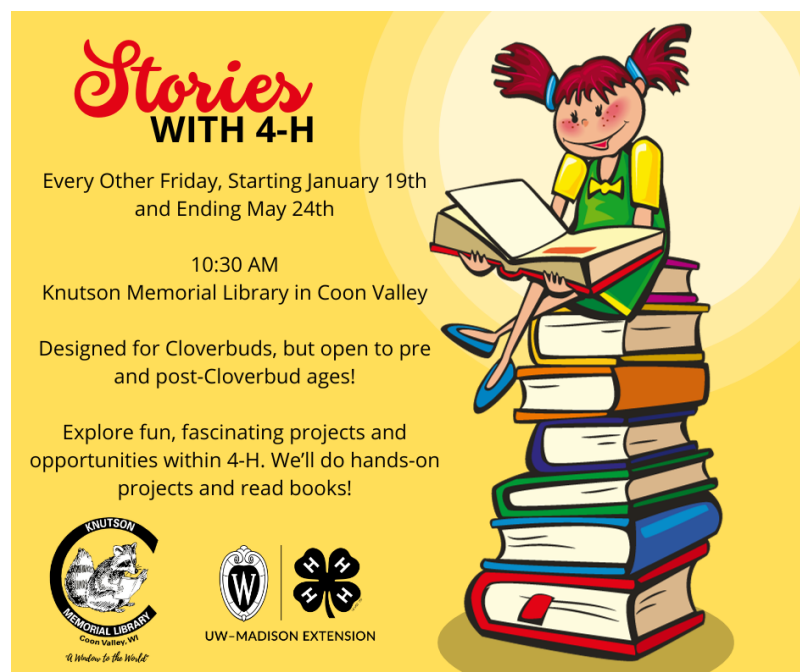
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Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so 10 days before the program activity so that proper arrangements can be made.