

Dear Friend in 4-H,

Today was the first of many 4-H deadlines for 2017. Thank you to those who turned in their items in a timely manner.

1. **Annual Volunteer Training:** all Darke County 4-H volunteers are required to attend one of the scheduled update meetings in order to maintain their volunteer status for 2017. Refer to the web site: <http://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-volunteerclub-update> for the days/times. You must pre-register to attend so that in the event of inclement weather, I know who to contact. Also, if no one signs up for a particular session, then I'm not there. Please do not assume that you can just "show-up". Included in the update is the mandatory Policy 1.50 training.
2. **Darke County 4-H Open House** will be held Monday, February 13, 6:30pm-8:00pm at All Seasons Place, Greenville. The following clubs have indicated that they will participate: Pets 'N' Partners, Fun bunch, DC Rabbit Raisers, Canine Capers, Genesis, Shooting Sports, DC Beef, DC Holstein, Greenville Rangers, Blue Angels and Versailles Busy Beavers. If your club is not on this list but would like to participate, please let me know as soon as possible. Publicity for this event will have begun.
3. **Holmes County Sheep Clinic:** Saturday, March 11. See the flyer for details.
4. **Premier Member Award:** 4-H members now have the opportunity to achieve Premier 4-H Member status by completing an application form. More information about this opportunity will be discussed in the club/volunteer updates. Forms will be made available at the update meetings, as well.
5. **4-H Member Guidebook:** A new guidebook has been developed for 4-H members and their families. Information and copies of the guidebook will be available during the update meetings.
6. **Food, Fashion and Arts Board:** applications are currently being accepted for this new opportunity. Information and applications will be available during the update meetings.
7. **Clover Confidence: BFFs (Building Fearless Females):** a program designed for females in grades 5 to 8. See the flyer for details. You do not have to be a 4-H member to attend.
8. **e990 postcards:** as of last year, 4-H clubs no longer need to file their own e990 postcards. I will do that for you. This helps me to know immediately which clubs have not been accepted and I can work to get the situation resolved. What I need from you in order to file is your Annual Financial Summary. This document is due to me by January 31. I use the information on that document to file your postcard with the IRS. Your effort to submit your financial statement in a timely manner is greatly appreciated!
9. **Project #507 Robotics:** If you have a 4-H member interested in this project, but they do not have the funds to purchase the robot, remember that we have two kits available for loan from

our office. See the attached rental use application for details. Completed applications must be submitted to our office by March 15.

10. **Trash Bash** is scheduled for April 22-23, 2017. Forms are now available and are due to Darke County Solid Waste Office by March 10. <http://co.darke.oh.us/solidwaste/Website%20-%20Solid%20Waste/2017TRASH%20BASH%20PACKET.pdf>
11. **Trash Bash T-Shirt Contest** is open to all youth in grades 7-12. Channel your creativity and submit your design. Chamber gift certificates will be given to the top three designs and the winner has their design imprinted on the Trash Bash t-shirts. See the attached flyer for details.
12. **Clover and Canvas Fundraiser:** Saturday, February 11. See the flyer for details.
13. **Hands Across the Darke** is collecting plastic caps in order to have benches made for public use. See the attached flyer for the type of caps that we are collecting. Your donations may be dropped off at the Extension Office during normal business hours, or other times by special request.
14. **Ohio 4-H Conference:** Registration is now available for the Ohio 4-H Conference to be held Saturday, March 11, at the Columbus Convention Center. This conference offers many amazing educational sessions, as well as the opportunity to network with 4-H volunteers and members from across the state. The Darke County 4-H Committee will pay your registration fee. They ask for a \$35.00 deposit which will be returned to you once you attend the conference. If you register and do not attend, you forfeit your \$35.00. Hard copies of the registration are available from our office or you may visit the web site: <http://www.ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>

**4-H Volunteer Applications** are now available. Anyone interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer in 2017 must complete the volunteer application process. See the web site for details. <http://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2017-4-h-volunteer-application-information> Completed applications must be submitted to our office by February 17 in order to allow enough time to complete the application process by April 1, 2017.