

Mondays with Mercedes: Darke County 4-H News

January 9, 2024



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! During this time, I hope you are thinking about what you are thankful for and spending time with family. Enjoy time cozied up next to the fireplace! It's officially time to start thinking more about what New Year resolutions you may have as a 4-H member or 4-H Volunteer! What are these resolutions?

Hello everyone! As your new county 4-H Educator, I wanted to send out newsletters to keep you in the know about what is happening in Darke County 4-H! I appreciate the warm welcome and the patience as I am learning the county and your program! I am looking forward to meeting you all. If you have any questions the best way to reach me is using the phone number and email listed below. Contact Mercedes at (937)569-5005 or woodson.76@osu.edu

News You Can Use – 4-H:

1. ***Darke County 4-H Camp:*** Darke County 4-H Camp will be held June 9-13, 2024, at Indian Hills 4-H camp. Please save the date and know spots are limited. More information to follow. If youth are still interested in becoming counselors, have them contact Mercedes immediately.
2. ***Enrollment:*** 4-H Enrollments began November 1! They are due prior to April 1. Please get these in ASAP. Remember advisors must also complete this process! Volunteers that have completed a background check should complete this as soon as possible. This will allow OSU-HR to connect your results to your 4-HOnline account. New Volunteer applications must be submitted by February 1. Please enroll at: 4honline.com
3. ***Ohio 4-H Conference*** is the largest gathering of 4-H volunteers and teens in the country. It will be held Saturday, March 9 in Columbus at the Convention Center. All 4-H volunteers and teens age 14 and over are invited to participate. Visit the website for the registration booklet and registration forms. Registration forms should be submitted to

our office by February 5 so we can register you for the conference.
<https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>.

4. **State and National Camp Opportunities:**

Applications will be sent out soon for the following camps. Potential Scholarship opportunities available! Please complete the Achievement Record to apply.

Leadership Camp: June 1-5, 2024 “The Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp is the premiere leadership development opportunity available to Ohio 4-H members. The focus of the five-day leadership experience is the development of concrete peer leadership skills that will enable participants to have an immediate impact in their home 4-H club, county, community, or school. The camp is active and engaged—there’s very little sitting and listening, and much opportunity for group interaction”
<https://youtu.be/pLDNQ0JLdIE>

Sea Camp: July 19-23, 2024 “The mission of Ohio 4-H Sea Camp is to offer teenage youth an introduction to the Great Lakes through hands-on experiences in a variety of aquatic-based programs. Sea Camp will enable participants to experience Lake Erie-based activities and culture such as aquatic science, water recreation, and fishing. The program is a supervised, educational environment fostered by Ohio 4-H and The Ohio State University.”

Citizenship Washington Focus: TBD “Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is National 4-H Council’s premier leadership and civic engagement experience for high school students. State delegates will experience Washington D.C. like never before by using the nation’s capital as their classroom, connecting with young leaders from across the country and gaining the skills to become effective change agents.”
(all camp descriptions are taken from ohio4h.org)

5. **Ohio 4-H Achievement Record:** Achievement records are now posted. This is for both county and state opportunities (including the camps above). Applications are due on January 19 to the extension office and can be found under Ohio 4-H Achievement Record at: <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/forms-and-resources>
6. **Applications** for the Sharon Fourman 4-H Volunteer of the Year Award, Cheryl Leugers Memorial Community Service Award, and Darke County Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award are available on the website. <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/forms-and-resources> All applications are due January 19.
7. **Organizational Advisors:** Please have all of your end of year club information into Mercedes **No LATER than January 19!** (includes Honor Club Form, Officer Books, Premier Member, Leadership Nominations, Achievement Award Nominations, Sharon Fourman 4-H Volunteer of the Year, Cheryl Leugers Memorial Community Service Award, and Darke County Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award) Reminder- Secretary & Treasurer books are mandatory; reporter is required if applying for Honor Club; Historian



is optional. Sample scoresheets can be found here- <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/forms-and-resources#4-H%20Clubs>

Financial Statements are due by January 31! <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/forms-and-resources>

Achievement Award Nominations (limit of 3 per club) –
<https://go.osu.edu/2024darkecountyachievement>

Leadership Award Nominations (limit of 3 per club)-
<https://go.osu.edu/2024darkecountyleadership>

8. ***Schedule:*** Please expect an official schedule within the next few weeks for 2024. The volunteer update dates are;

January 25- 9:30 am

January 31- 9:30am & 2:00pm

February 7- 7:00pm

February 14- 9:30 am & 2:00pm

February 15- 7:00pm

March 11- 7:00pm

New Volunteer Orientation

January 30- 7:00pm

February 21- 9:30am & 2:00pm

***Dates and location are subject to change. Please register by emailing Mercedes.
Returning volunteers are required to attend an update.***

Upcoming Jr. Fair Meetings and Deadlines:

January 19- Officer Books, Honor Club Forms, County Medal Forms due

