

Mondays with Mercedes: Darke County 4-H News

December 18, 2023



I hope everyone had a wonderful thanksgiving and are ready for the 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 fire place!

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.
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! Please enroll at: 4honline.com
3. ***Volunteering Opportunity:*** On December 20 from 6-9 pm, Darke County 4-H has the opportunity to volunteer at Harter Park during their Christmas Light presentation. Darke County 4-H will receive a portion of the donations raised that night. We are in search of volunteers! **We would love some youth volunteers!** Please email Mercedes to sign up!

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 10 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. **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, & volunteer awards) Financial Statements are due by January 31!
7. **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.

Upcoming Jr. Fair Meetings and Deadlines:
December 20- Darke County 4-H at Harter Park

