MEETING GUIDELINES UPDATE as of January 16, 2021

Has your club resumed in-person meetings? In-person meeting are acceptable as long as they are educational in basis. Please follow the state guidelines when planning your club meeting. These guidelines include:

- Hosting virtual meetings and events is preferred.
- If activities are critical/essential and are in-person, they must be education-focused.
- Group cannot be larger than 50 people, including adults, youth, presenters, etc.
- Face masks are required. This includes inside AND outside at all times. Program participants and parent/guardians ages five and older must wear a mask. Medical conditions or disability exceptions are permitted.
- Potlucks and buffets are not permitted – no sharing of snacks
- Do not share items among participants. For example: do not pass around a sign in sheet for enrollment. One person needs to track attendance of everyone who is present at the meeting (parents, guests, members, volunteers)

Please take a few minutes to review the complete guidelines: https://ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/Families/Ohio%204-H%20Planning%20Guide%20for%20In-person%20Meetings%20Events%201-16-21-FINAL.pdf

Failure to follow these guidelines could result in the termination of your volunteer status.

REMINDER: ALL 4-H Club volunteers must attend one of the virtual volunteer updates. To register: https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_096d0AaOniolPsF

News You Can Use:

1. **Ohio 4-H Awards Recognition**: The state recognition of volunteer awards which normally takes place during the Ohio 4-H Conference will be held virtually on March 11. To register for this event, go to go.osu.edu/Ohio4-HAwards

2. **Spring Kick-Off**: Due to current meeting guidelines, the Darke County 4-H Committee has decided on a virtual format for our annual Spring Recognition and Kick Off event. We will be collecting photos of the award winners and putting together a video. In order to be successful, award winners will be notified so they can submit a photo to be included in the
presentation. Award recipients will be contacted directly for their photo – more to come on this once officer books have been graded. The video will be released in mid to late March to allow enough time to collect photos and prepare. Release date will be announced as soon as it is available. Awards will be given to the clubs for distribution to the recipients.

3. **Project Books:** all 4-H project books may be purchased from our office. Please submit your orders in advance so that we have time to assemble your order prior to pick up. Orders can be emailed to Sherry at pearson.437@osu.edu.

4. **Darke County 4-H Alumni Award:** The Darke County 4-H Committee will be recognizing one outstanding Darke County 4-H Alumnus who has demonstrated distinctive achievement in their career or community service and who attributes part of their success to their participation in the Darke County 4-H Program. For complete information and access to the application, visit the website: [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/new-darke-county-4-h-alumni-award](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/new-darke-county-4-h-alumni-award)

5. **The 2021 Ohio 4-H Conference will be held virtually:** Saturday, February 20 (9am-11:35am and 1:00pm-3:35), Tuesday, February 20 (7pm-9pm), and Thursday, February 25 (7pm-9:00pm). This is a wonderful opportunity to refresh your 4-H volunteer skills from the comfort of your own home! Registration information is available online: [https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference](https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference) Registration deadline is February 12, 2021.

6. **New! Club News:** Do you have club news reports from your reporter that you would like to share? I am going to create a 4-H Club News page on my website and am willing to post the news reports that you typically send to the media. This will be a great opportunity to share what your club is doing, as well as obtain publication credit for your club reporter. Email any reporter stories to williams.418@osu.edu

   You can also email 4-H club news to emartin@aimmediamidwest.com Erik is the editor of Darke County Media (formerly the Greenville Daily Advocate and The Early Bird)

7. **Outdoor Writers of America Student Photo Contest and Youth Writing Awards:** Any outdoor-themed written or photographic work created during 2020 can be submitted between January 15, 2021, and March 1, 2021, at [owaa.org/contests/](https://owaa.org/contests/). Complete rules of the contests are also available at that site.

8. **Online enrollment:** the 4-H Online data base has been updated and looks quite different from what you used last year. I am covering this topic during the upcoming volunteer/club update meetings. Please note that we will not be using any paper enrollment forms this year. All members, including first-year, will be required to enroll themselves online. Please throw away any old enrollment forms that you have laying around and do not give them to potential first-year members for 2021. Those forms will not work with the new database as the information required is not in the same order or format.
Instructions for brand new and re-enrolling families, as well as re-enrolling volunteers is posted on the website: https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2021-4-h-enrollment-information

9. **Turkey Orders:** Cooper Farms is offering five (5) free turkey poults for each 4-H or FFA member interested in taking a turkey project in 2021. For additional information or to order your poults, visit http://go.osu.edu/2021turkeyorder. Order deadline is March 5, 2021.

10. **2021 Activity Fee:** the Darke County 4-H Committee has voted to waive the $5.00/member activity fee for 2021.

11. **National 4-H Beekeeping Essay Competition:** Write a short essay (750-1000 words) on "Threats to Bee Colonies and Methods to Defend Against the Threats." One winner from Ohio will be selected to advance to the national competition. Additional information can be found here: https://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays/2021-essays?fbclid=IwAR19OvbYL20LFpIlWJAa0Iph8EUV7IWyEpFMTI_D5lXzAHeEOUJd1OMXF900

   Submit your essay to williams.418@osu.edu before March 12. Darke County’s winning essay will then be forwarded to the State 4-H Office to compete for the honor of representing Ohio 4-H in the contest.

12. **New 4-H Volunteer Application:** anyone who wishes to apply to become a 4-H volunteer for 2021 must complete and submit a New 4-H Volunteer Application by February 15, 2021. Details available on the web: go.osu.edu/darke4hvolunteer21


14. **Club Meeting Toolkit:** Attention club advisors! Visit go.osu.edu/clubmeetingtoolkit for resources to assist you with making your club meetings more efficient.

15. **Club Officer Resources:** Several resources are available online for your club officers – from training videos to the actual officer books. Please share these resources with your club officers. https://ohio4h.org/officerresources

16. **4-H EZ: Recipe for 4-H Community Club Success:** Hey, 4-H Volunteers! Want to make your 4-H club work “EZ”? Check out the “4-H EZ for Community Clubs” Online Volunteer Training. This training includes videos, handouts, and resources designed just for you! http://bit.ly/4-HEZ
17. **Darke County United Way**: Did you know that you can designate your United Way pledge to be given to the Darke County 4-H program? Simply write “Darke County 4-H” on the designation line.

18. **Amazon Smile**: Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844) and Amazon donates to the Darke County 4-H Committee. (It comes up as The Ohio State University, but donations go to our 4-H program!)

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns. For now, the best way to reach me is via email: williams.418@osu.edu. You may also call our office 937-548-5215 or my direct line 937-569-5003.