

eClover: Darke County 4-H News

September 29, 2017

Dear Friend in 4-H,

Here's what's happening:

1. **End of the Year Packets:** Packets are available for pick up at your convenience. Packets include membership certificates, pins, volunteer reenrollment forms, 2018 enrollment surveys, leadership and achievement award forms, and more
2. **Van Wert County Square Dance:** The Van Wert County 4-H Program is hosting its first ever square dance on Saturday, October 28th from 6:30pm-9:30pm. The event is to be held at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds in the Jr. Fair Building located at 1055 S Washington St, Van Wert, OH 45891. Cost is \$5.00 (8 years and under FREE!) with proceeds going to benefit the Van Wert County 4-H Endowment Fund. Calling that night will be done by John Wargowsky, and we are planning a family-friendly night of fun, lessons (for the new ones), and some snacks.
3. **New 4-H Volunteer Applications:** Available from our office or via the web <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2018-4-h-volunteer-application> Applications must be submitted by 4:30pm, March 1, 2018.
4. **4-H Camp Counselor Applications:** Available from our office or on the web site <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2018-darke-county-4-h-camp-counselor-application> See the application for details. Completed applications are due to the office by 4:30pm on Friday, November 17. 4-H Camp will be held at Indian Hills, June 18-21, 2018.
5. **County Medal Forms:** Available from our office or on the web site: <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/darke-county-4-h-county-medal-application> All 4-H members enrolled in projects are invited to apply in order to be recognized for outstanding project work. Recipients will be recognized during our Spring Kick-Off in March. Completed forms are due to the Extension Office by 4:30pm on Friday, January 19, 2018.
6. **Volunteer Fingerprint Screening:** Letters have gone out to those 4-H volunteers who are scheduled to be rescreened (fingerprinted) in 2018. If you receive this letter, you have until December 31, 2017 to complete your screening. Failure to complete your fingerprinting by that date will result in the rescinding of your volunteer status for 2018. Follow the directions in the letter. To be reimbursed, bring the reimbursement form, along with your receipt to our office.
7. **Hands Across the Darke:** They are working on a community service activity involving active military and need your help. If you or someone in your club has a family member (especially a former 4-H member) currently on active duty, please send me their name and address. Hands would like to send military care packages during the upcoming holiday season. <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/community-service-club-teens>



8. **CARTEENS help needed:** All 4-H youth who currently have either a permit or driver's license are encouraged to apply to help with the CARTEENS program. CARTEENS is held the second Saturday of each month and is for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. Older youth are needed to help with the program, such as reading informational documents and helping with activities. If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact Diane Barga at our office (937.548.5215) or barga.8@osu.edu.
9. **Carving New Ideas:** November 3-5, 2017, 4-H Camp Ohio. Open to 8th-12th grade 4-H members, a camping opportunity for older youth, concentrating on the principles of critical thinking and program facilitation. The focus of the camp will be healthy living, striving to make winning strides in each of the health focuses of the camp. <http://go.osu.edu/CNI17>
10. **Cattlemen's Camp:** The Ohio Cattlemen's Association and Weaver Leather are joining together to offer Cattlemen's Camp on October 14-15, 2017. Cattlemen's Camp is open to all beef youth. Family participation is encouraged. Breakout sessions will be related to cattle care, showmanship, and leadership. For additional information or to register: <https://www.ohiocattle.org/Youth/cattlemens-camp>
11. **Darke County United Way:** Did you know? If you donate to the United Way, you may designate the Darke County 4-H Program to be the recipient of your donation. Simply write "Darke County 4-H" on the pledge designation line. Funds from the United Way are used to offset the cost of 4-H camp to our youth. Thank you for your support!
12. **New in 2018: The 4-H age-grade policy will change in Calendar Year 2018.**
THE CURRENT 4-H AGE-GRADE POLICY IS: Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade. Cloverbud eligibility begins when a child is enrolled in kindergarten and is five years old as of January 1 of the current year. Cloverbud participation ends when a child is eligible for competitive events, 4-H projects, and other older youth activities, which is age eight and in the third grade as of January 1 of the current year. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year they turn 19. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

THE NEW 4-H AGE-GRADE POLICY IS: Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he or she turns 19. Joining Ohio 4 H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

Basically the change is that 9 year olds are eligible for project membership. Questions? Don't be afraid to ask.

13. **Premier Member Award:** Remind your 4-H club members to complete the application to be a Premier 4-H Member. Applications are due January 19, 2018. Recipients will be recognized during our spring kick-off in March. <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/premier-4-h-member-award>

14. **Darke County 4-H Cloverbud Rocks!** is gaining momentum! On Tuesday during the fair, Hands Across the Darke made rocks and paint available to fair goers. We now have several painted rocks ready to distribute across the county. If your club would like to get involved and needs rocks, contact our office. I have three boxes of rocks that I will share. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/278793642533944/>

15. For those of you who shop on Amazon, the Darke County 4-H Committee is now part of the AmazonSmile charitable donation list. Here is our unique identifier: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844> Even though it comes up as The Ohio State University, you will be supporting the Darke County 4-H Committee. Feel free to share this with family and friends who shop on Amazon.

Enjoy your weekend!

Best Wishes,
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