

eClover: Darke County 4-H News

September 8, 2017

Dear Friend in 4-H,

Fall is here and that means cooler weather, fall sports, changing leaves, and end of the year celebrations. Don't forget to celebrate your club's successes as the year winds down.

There is a lot of new information in this edition of the eClover, so please read it carefully!

Here's what's happening:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Volunteer Fingerprint Screening:** Letters will go out on Monday 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.
4. **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>
5. **Jr. Fair Poultry Winners:** The Daily Advocate is in need of pictures of Jr. Fair Poultry Department winners for an upcoming publication. If you have pictures of poultry winners that you wouldn't mind being published, please email them to williams.418@osu.edu and I will forward them to the appropriate reporter. Thank you for your help!
6. **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.



7. **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!
8. **End of the Year Packets:** Packets will be available for pick-up after Thursday, September 7. Packets include membership certificates, pins, volunteer reenrollment forms, 2018 enrollment surveys, leadership and achievement award forms, and more. Please pick these up at your earliest convenience.

9. **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.

10. **Texas Strong:** Our 4-H friends in Texas tell us that the best way to help is to donate. If your club would like to assist Texas 4-H, visit <https://texas4hfoundation.org/give/>
11. **Southern US Strong:** Our 4-H friends in our southern states may need assistance as well, pending the outcome of Hurricane Irma and the other hurricanes currently approaching the US. We will share information regarding the need for help, if/when it becomes available.
12. The Erie County 4-H Committee will be sponsoring a **4-H Day during HalloWeekends at Cedar Point** in Sandusky, Ohio on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Any 'friend of 4-H' (so basically anyone) can take advantage of this deal simply by buying tickets at the 4-H groups sales booth the day of the event. Cost is \$42 person, including admission to Dinosaurs Alive! You will save \$27 off of the gate price. Contact our office for a copy of the informational flyer.

13. **Ohio 4-H Health Hero Applications** are due October 1, 2017. Any teen in grades 9-12 interested in becoming a state-level 4-H Health Hero is invited to apply. The 4-H Health Heroes program provides youth with the opportunity to represent 4-H and promote healthy living in their communities. Teens who serve as Health Heroes will gain valuable leadership experience, be able to teach a variety of health-related topics to people of all ages, and have a chance to travel to Washington D.C. for the National Youth Summit on Healthy Living (if selected). Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by October 6th. A required training will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Additional information, requirements to serve, and the application can be found on this website: <https://ohio4h.org/healthheroes> Darke County's Molly Hunt serves on this statewide team.

14. **National 4-H Service Project - WW1 Memorial:** The National Junior Master Gardener 4-H program has partnered with the WW1 Memorial Commission on a national service project for 4-H youth to be involved with building the WW1 Memorial. The Junior Master Gardener program is proud to promote because it ties to gardening! Groups can make a donation of \$64.99 and receive 60 poppy seed packets from the WW1 Memorial Commission. They can then sell the seeds to support their program. The recommended selling price is \$2 per seed packet which would generate \$120. Basically the first dollar goes to fund the National WW1 memorial and the second dollar stays local for the 4-H club, school group, etc. to support their activities/programs. We are promoting through all of our JMG groups and state partners, but this is open for any and all 4-H groups. It is a great opportunity for youth to learn more about WW1, while also being a part of a national service project. Groups can start now, but the big push is between Sept. 5 and October 20th. Representatives from 4 winning groups will be invited to experience an expense paid trip to the groundbreaking of the National WW1 Memorial in Washington DC in November. Many resources, learning experiences and details on how to participate in the poppy project can be found at the website: <http://jmgkids.us/poppy/>

15. **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>

16. **Ohio Cheviot Breeders Association Starter Flock Award:** seeking applicants for the Jim Cluff Memorial Starter Flock Award. The contest winner will receive the following: a one-year membership in the OCBA, one bred ewe the first year, one ram the second year and in the third year the youth will donate a lamb to continue the award. The application deadline is September 30th. For an application and contest rules please contact Bob Hunter at (614)483-3202 or at rpkjhunter@msn.com

17. **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/>

18. **Early Bird Reporter News:** Please remind your reporters to send your club's reports to the Early Bird by the last business day of each month. Reports should be 150 words or less and emailed to Ryan Berry: editor@earlybirdpaper.com Our 4-H news page will be published the second Sunday of the month.
19. 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,

Rhonda Williams

Rhonda Williams
County Extension Director
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
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