Hello Leaders!

Thank you for the hard work and care you put into this program to benefit our youth! You are appreciated!

We are pleased to be able to offer you a greater number of resources this year, including this leader-specific resource. You should read this along with the new bi-monthly Mercer County 4-H Newsletter.

Included are some community service opportunities and upcoming events for you to discuss with your clubs when you see fit. In the future, this document will also serve as a volunteer forum. For any questions, suggestions, or event registration, contact Kate at: keverett@njaes.rutgers.edu or call the 4-H office at 609.989.6833.

Community Service

Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH)

A new university initiative has begun in acknowledgement of the worsening food crisis among our state’s unemployed and impoverished. The program aims to address the pressing issues of food security through research, education, outreach and volunteerism.

RAH has already begun a year-long food drive and fundraiser in attempts to revive food banks state-wide. For more information, or to find out how you and your club can help, visit: www.rah.rutgers.edu.

There are also a number of local food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens. If you need help locating viable locations for your club to carry out a community service project, contact the 4-H office.

National Opportunities

National 4-H Congress & Citizenship Washington Focus

Please remind your eligible teens about taking advantage of these upcoming opportunities and the deadlines associated with them.

Registration forms are due to the 4-H office by: CWF: February 27 and Congress: April 10.

The CWF trip is in early July, while Congress occurs in late November. Both are fantastic opportunities for teens to travel, meet other 4-H members from across the nation, and learn teamwork, leadership and citizenship skills. For more information, please refer to these 4-H websites: www.national4hcongress & www.4hcwf.org.

Fundraising

NJ State 4-H Association 50-50 Sale

You know about the national opportunities for teens in 4-H, but you may not know the associated costs of sending a number of youth to a multi-day national conference.

The NJ State 4-H Association helps subsidize the costs of these trips so that all selected youth are able to attend. To continue this practice, the Association is holding a 50/50 fundraising raffle.

Please help our county sell 100 tickets at only $1.00 a ticket! Youth may not participate in these sales, so we are asking our volunteer leaders and staff to help out. The goal isn’t too lofty, so let’s get this done! The sales deadline is in early June. If you would like to help sell tickets, please contact the 4-H office.

Upcoming Events

South Jersey Teen Conference

Friday-Sunday, March 13-15

SJTC is an annual event which hosts all interested teens, in 8th grade and above, from the 10 southern counties in New Jersey. There is always a theme; this year’s is ‘S.E.T. Your Mind to 4-H’, playing off of the acronym for science, engineering and technology, which has become a large component of the 4-H program. Speakers and fun events are planned around the chosen theme. Youth are also allowed time to socialize.
Unfortunately, registration for this event is now closed. If any of your club members are interested and eligible, remember this event for next year!

**NJ Junior Breeder Symposium**  
**Saturday, March 21**

The event will be held at Rutgers University, Cook Campus and cover a wide range of topics pertaining to large and small animals.

The fees are: $12.00 for all sessions and lunch, $7.50 for all sessions without lunch, or $5.00 for the afternoon rabbit session only. For registration forms contact the office. They are due by March 10.

**Horses 2009. Knowledge is Power**  
**Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29**

Rutgers University is hosting a horse seminar at Busch campus. Well-known speakers will present. For more information, visit: esc.rutgers.edu/Horses2009.

**Nat’l 4-H Calendar Photo Contest**  
**Submissions due March 31**

4-H members may submit photos taken in the last five years. See eligibility and submission guidelines at: 4-hmall/calendar/photocontest2011.asp.

**Presentation Workshop**  
**Friday, April 3, 7:30-9:00pm**

The workshop will be held in the conference room in the 4-H Office. If your club members are unfamiliar or uncomfortable giving a presentation, suggest that they attend, or even better, bring the whole club!

Refreshments will be served, a video will be watched, and the atmosphere will be informal. Leaders and parents may also attend; the more supported youth feel, the more confident they will be during their own presentation. Please RSVP to Kate as soon as possible. See you there!

**4-H Science-sational Day**  
**Saturday, April 4, 9:00-2:00pm**

This is a great event offered to youth in grades 1-6. Hands-on workshops include an Antarctic Adventure and Alka Seltzer Rocketry, just to name a few. The cost is $20.00, with an option of an additional $6.00 boxed lunch.

The event is held annually at the Ted Blum 4-H Center in Bridgewater, NJ. Registration forms are available online at: somerset.njaes.rutgers.edu. Register by March 24.

**Horse Judging and Hippology**  
**Saturday & Sunday, April 4 & 5**

These events are held in Sussex County. Judging is located at the Sussex County Fairgrounds on Saturday. The Hippology event is located at Lindley G. Cook Camp (same location as NJ State 4-H Summer Camp) on Sunday. Visit: http://sussex4h.org for more information.

**Monmouth County 4-H First Annual Arts Show Invitational**

**Saturday, April 18, 8:30-4:30pm**

This event is has many divisions open to all 4-H members. Project areas include visual and performing arts, photography and creative writing. For more information contact the Monmouth County Office: Williams@aesop.rutgers.edu.

**County Public Presentations**  
**Friday, April 24 & May 1, 7:30-9:00pm**

Please remind your club members to register for one of these nights and to practice! Although presenting at the county level is not yet a requirement to showcase projects at the fair, it may be in the future. All members are minimally required to present at the club level.

Urge your youth to face their fears now. If they work hard, it’ll show and their confidence will build! Remind them that they can have fun with their topic! Please register with Kate for one of the available nights by April 10. Presentations are held at the 4-H office.

**Rutgers Day**  
**Saturday, April 25**

Formerly ‘Ag Field Day,’ Rutgers Day is held annually. The day’s activities include: free performances, demonstrations and hands-on activities. The event coincides with the NJ Folk Festival and the NJ State Dog Show, also held at Rutgers. Refer to www.rutgers.edu for more information.

**Monmouth Cty. Small Animal Show**  
**Saturday, May 2**

This show has open divisions. It is located in the Taylor Pavilion in Belmar. If you are interested and need registration forms, contact the 4-H office. Registration forms are due by April 17.