

MINNESOTA 4-H CLOVER UPDATE

Urban Youth Development Office - serving Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

February 2012

 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



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A Message from Dorothy

Recently, 4-H program coordinators were asked to provide feedback to the state 4-H Program and the 4-H Foundation on last year's statewide 4-H dollar drive. We have listened to their input and concerns and as a result, the state 4-H program office and the 4-H Foundation want to take time over the course of the next year to determine what is necessary to be successful in statewide fundraising efforts in the future. We want to plan an effort for the future that will meet the goals and needs of our 4-H members and their families, county and regional staff, and the state program and 4-H Foundation. In order to give us time to plan, a statewide dollar drive will not take place in 2012.



*Dorothy McCargo Freeman
State 4-H Program Leader*

We are very grateful to all of those who have participated in statewide fundraisers over the course of the last four years. Your enthusiasm and willingness to try something new, in partnership with the Foundation and state office, is inspiring. We thank you for understanding our goals and being an "early adopter". We have learned a lot over the course of the statewide fundraising efforts. Now, we want to take that knowledge, along with the great feedback we got, and think about next steps. We will keep you informed of our progress along the way.

*Dorothy McCargo Freeman
State 4-H Program Leader*

*Cara Miller, Executive Director
Minnesota 4-H Foundation*

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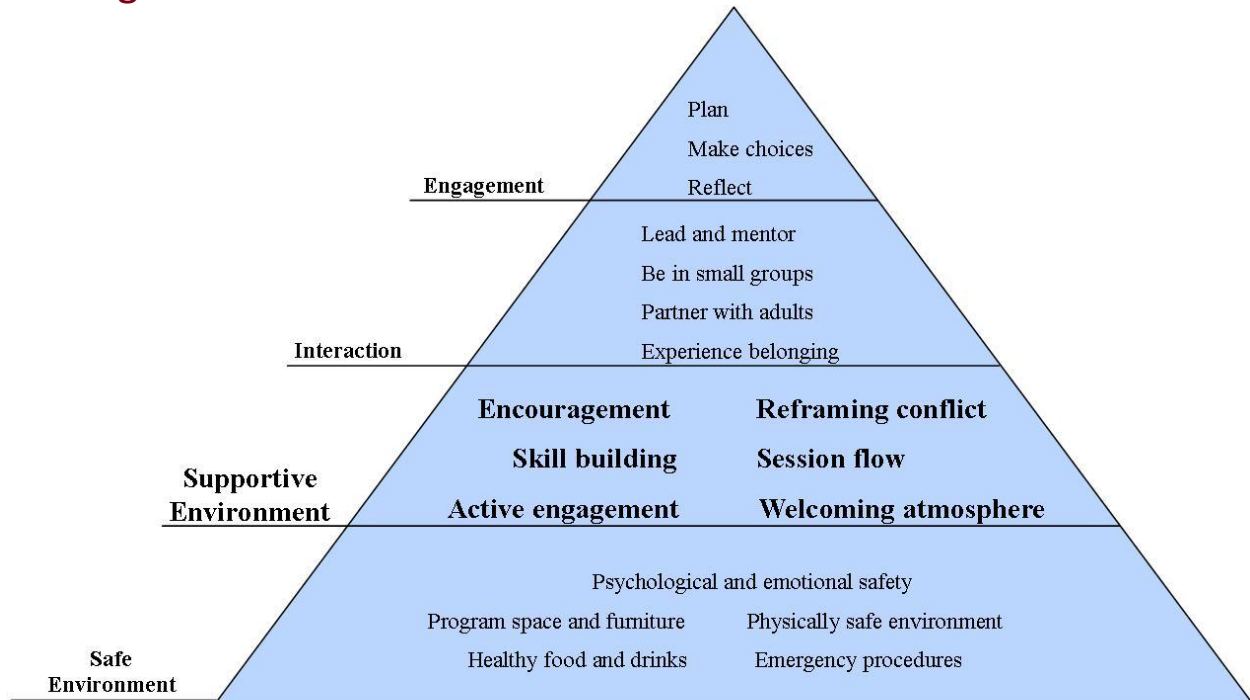
Emily Rence, Youth & Family Coordinator

Jessica Russo, Director

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Making 4-H Clubs Better



High quality youth programs are related to having a positive impact on the development of young people. Quality is one of the most important issues in youth programs, and 4-H clubs and activities have a great responsibility for experiences they provide.

The Pyramid of Youth Program Quality has four parts. In a **supportive environment** youth are actively engaged, the atmosphere is welcoming, and youth build skills. Are there encouraging questions and comments being used during skill building activities such as “tell me about how you put that together” or “where did you get your idea?” Does the session or activity have a feeling of positive energy—handling conflict as it arises and youth being engaged with both the program and the group? 4-H clubs can improve the quality of the experience for youth by focusing on just one or two areas! Please look over the pyramid and refer to it before, during and after your 4-H club meets in this New Year.

*Ellie McCann, Extension Educator in 4-H Youth Development
 Moorhead Regional Extension Office*

Intern Spotlight

Daniel Garrison

Dan is in his last year at the University of Minnesota student studying Political Science and German. He brings a wealth of experience as a youth worker, mentor, tutor, and volunteer in many school and community settings. This includes his experience as an AmeriCorps Vista last summer with Project for Pride in Living and CommonBond Communities, as well as completing student teaching observations at Roseville Area High School last fall. In January, Dan began leading the Fun with Fitness 4-H club at Jackson School in St. Paul and also started a new 4-H science and gardening club at Highland Middle School through a partnership with the University’s Bell Museum and science teachers at the school. We are excited to have Dan join our team!

Upcoming Events

Opportunity to Engage in Learning of National 4-H Conference Participants

National 4-H Conference is the premier national 4-H leadership conference. Youth delegates engage in personal development experiences, present youth voice on important youth issues to federal agency partners, and are inspired to create positive social change back home. This year, plans are to enhance the conference experience using social media by inviting the 4-H community to join in the learning experience!

During the conference, teams of youth delegates will research a youth issue and develop a presentation on their findings/discussions to be shared with a federal agency's key decision makers. For the first time, the Conference planning team is inviting the 4-H community to share comments and thoughts about these topics for the youth to consider in their research and preparations. Each week starting Wed., January 25, the planners will post a new issue topic on Facebook for feedback and comments. Comments will be collected through March 21st on any of the posted topics.

The issue topics for the 2012 National 4-H Conference are:

- Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention
- Youth Suicide Prevention
- Healthy Eating and Living
- Equal Education Opportunities for Under Represented Groups (Rural and Inner City)
- Integration of Veterans and Military Family Member into the Local Community
- Using Science and Technology to improve your Local Community
- How to make education relevant for future Career Readiness
- Creating the NEXT AMERICAN SCIENTIST!

In addition, family, friends, 4-H volunteers and educators can follow the exciting activities during National 4-H Conference on Facebook and Twitter, as delegates will be sharing their experiences throughout the week. If you wish to engage in this experience, our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-4-H-Conference/141176419311842>, and our twitter handle is: Natl4HConf.

Ambassador Planning Committee 2012

The next Ambassador Planning Committee (APC) meeting is:

- **February 5, 2012, 3-5pm**
- **Mpls. Central Library**

For those of you new to the APC, it is a youth leadership group that meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 3-5 to plan events (i.e. Urban 4-H Showcase/Share the Fun) and steer Urban 4-H in a direction that represents the needs of our clubs. The group has youth representatives from various clubs throughout the Twin Cities.

Contact Joyce for more information at stran369@umn.edu to RSVP or for questions.

Urban 4-H Winter Youth Leadership Retreat at Bay Lake Camp



Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in an exciting overnight leadership retreat with teens from across Hennepin and Ramsey counties up at:

- **Bay Lake Camp**
- **Feb 11-12, 2012**

Registrations were due February 1st, but if you are still interested please contact Kathryn Sharpe at shar0056@umn.edu or 612.624.7562 for information and availability.

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Hennepin County Hoofbeats 4-H Club's Tack Sale

Join the Hoofbeats for their 17th Annual Tack Sale, including a bake sale and silent action!

- **Saturday, February 11, 2012, 10 am -3 pm**
- **Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church (14077 Monarch Lane, Rogers, MN 55374)**

This fundraiser allows Hoofbeats to earn 15% commission on all tack items sold. Items are accepted Friday February 10, 5-8 pm or Saturday, February 11 at 7:30-9:30 am. Contact Tish at dantish@q.com or (763) 550-1180 for more information

Minnesota 4-H Adult Volunteer Association Forum

The Minnesota 4-H Adult Volunteer Association invites you to the 2011 Forum:

- **February 17-18**
- **Willmar, MN**

With 48 workshops to choose from, “make and take” times, fellowship in the hospitality room, and fun evening programs, everyone will have a good time. Registration materials are available at: www.m4-hava.org. Registrations are preferred ahead of time, but you can sign up the day of the event.

Teaching 4-H Science: A Toolkit for Leaders

All MN 4-H staff, volunteers and youth leaders are invited to join us for: Teaching 4-H Science. This essential training will engage staff, club leaders and youth leaders of all levels. Bring your open mind and creativity to this hands-on workshop to sharpen your science teaching skills. Join us for a fun and interactive presentation from PBS SciGirls, Dragonfly TV and 4-H Science Committee.

- **February 25, 2012, 10 am-2:30 pm (registration at 9:30 am)**
- **UROC, 2001 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis**



Science can be intimidating if you are not an expert. Youth want and need more science activities in 4-H to enhance their science education and curiosity about the subject. TPT Public Television's SciGirls and Minnesota 4-H Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Committee will share their tips, techniques and curricula during this hands-on training. Contact Jessica at jern0015@umn.edu with questions and urbanyd@umn.edu by **Feb 17** to register.

February Hennepin Federation Meeting – You'll Be “Green”!

What a fantastic January Federation meeting! Special thanks to the Champlin Champs and the LaGrange family for organizing such a fun mad science activity! Don't miss the February Federation meeting where the Victory Robins 4-H club will be leading gardening activities! You'll be "green" as we learn how to make paper pots for starting your own seedlings! Bring an old metal pan or foil pan (pie plate, square, or rectangle) to easily transport your pots home.

- **Monday, February 27 at 6:30 PM**
- **Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 12235 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth.**

Please contact Amy Niemann at taniemann@prodigy.net or Jackie Merry, Federation President, at jackiemerry@gmail.com with questions.

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Hennepin County Fair Planning Committee

“Many hands make light work” and we need volunteers to help make 4-H at the Hennepin County Fair great! Please sign up for a subcommittee and join us for the first Hennepin County Fair Planning Committee on

- **Monday, February 27 at 6:00 PM**
- **Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 12235 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth**

Hennepin County Fair subcommittees will begin work for the 2012 year. For more information, call Lisa Flynn at 952-927-6014.

Metro Art Force

Metro Art Force is new and improved with water tissue painting, linoleum art tile, plaster cloth relief, hand puppets, acrylic painting, with video-making and improv acting added this year.

- **Saturday, March 10**
- **Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 12235 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth, MN**

Please plan to join us! Registration information with more details will be distributed via email soon.

Hennepin County Fair Project Workshop

Please save the date for the Hennepin County Fair Project Workshop.

- **Monday, March 26 at 5:45 pm**
- **Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 12235 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth.**

This event is great for first time and experienced county fair presenters (and parents). You'll learn how to navigate the County Fair premium book and get your project registered, work on a brainstorming sheet to think of cool county fair project ideas, hear from a judge about how to earn a purple ribbon, and learn what makes a good project display! Call Lisa Flynn (952) 927-6014 with questions.

Ramsey County Leader's Council Meeting

Mark your calendar for the next Ramsey County 4-H Leader's Council meeting to plan the county fair! Please also contact Erica at gates015@umn.edu, 612.624.7603 soon if you are interested in being on the county fair planning team.

- **Monday, March 26, 7-8:30pm**

Urban 4-H Showcase (Share the Fun and Project Fair)

The Urban 4-H Showcase event is taking place:

- **Saturday, April 28, 2012, 1-5pm**
- **Brooklyn Center Junior/Senior High School (<http://www.brookcntr.k12.mn.us/bchs/>)**

The event will feature:

- Musical performances and skits from Hennepin and Ramsey County youth
- Project fair for illustrated presentations, video projects or just a test-run of your County Fair project

Watch your inbox in mid-February for registration materials and guidelines for the 2012 Urban Showcase event!

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Communication Arts Contest

Many of you have enjoyed participating in the Communication Arts Contest sponsored by Dakota County. Unfortunately, the event will not be offered this year. Alternatively, consider showcasing your speech, spoken word, illustrated presentation, or 4-H promotion poster at the 4-H Project Fair at the Urban 4-H Showcase.

Mark your Calendars for YELLO!

Minnesota 4-H is inviting youth grades 6-12+ to YELLO, our annual youth leadership conference. All activities are developed and facilitated by your MN 4-H State Ambassador Team. This conference is a wonderful opportunity for youth to learn new skills and make new friends. YELLO is held:

- **June 11-14**
- **MN State Fairgrounds in the 4-H building.**

YELLO has always been an intensive experience for youth, focused on developing new skills and reflecting on what we learn so we can bring home knowledge to our communities. This year promises to offer MN youth this and so much more! Stay tuned for more details at: www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/yello.html

Mark your Calendars for Ramsey County Arts-In

Sign up now for this year's Ramsey County Arts-In. Youth in grades 7 & up spend four days creating and rehearsing a 30-minute musical production that they then perform nightly at the Ramsey County Fair. Registration information will be online soon!

- **June 18-21 (with optional overnights on the 18th and 21th)**
- **Practices and performances held at the Ramsey County Extension Office**
- **Cost: \$115**

Mark your Calendars for Bay Lake 4-H Camp

Youth in grades 4-8 are invited to an island adventure at Bay Lake 4-H Camp, a five day overnight camp in Deerwood, MN. This year there will be two different opportunities to attend.

- **Week 1: July 23-27**
- **Week 2: August 6-10**

Registrations will be coming soon and if you are already enrolled online, you can choose Bay Lake Camp as a group you want to be a part of! Visit <http://z.umn.edu/summercamp> for more information.

Program and Information Updates

Camp Counselor Applications and Interviews

Join the team of Urban 4-H camp counselors! Youth in grades 9-13 during the 2011-2012 school year are eligible to be a camp counselor for Urban 4-H residential camp at Bay Lake this summer. We will have two weeks of camp this year, July 23-27 and August 6-10, so there are spots for many youth leaders to gain valuable experience. If you are interested, check out the information on our website www.fourh.umn.edu/urban and **submit your application by February 10. Interviews will be on February 13 or February 16.** Contact Julie, the Camp Director, at 651.325.5041 or Erica at gates015@umn.edu for more information.

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Ramsey County Leader's Council Dues

Chartered clubs may have different enrollment dues they collect. As a county, we also ask for Ramsey County enrollment dues in the amount of \$6 per member (although no one is turned away for the inability to pay). When collecting enrollment dues, please make one check out to your club that includes the County dues of \$6 per member. Please have your club youth treasurer write one check to the Ramsey County 4-H Leaders Council and send this to the Urban 4-H Office.

Hennepin County Dues to Hennepin County 4-H Federation

When paying your club dues, please also include the \$15 per member, capped at \$45 per family, dues to the Hennepin County 4-H Federation. Club treasurers; please write one check to the Hennepin County 4-H Federation. The Hennepin County Federation dues are due by February 15. These dues help fund important programs we know and love like County Fair, youth leadership, Arts Alive, recognition, project workshops, and more!

2012 Hennepin County Fair Theme!

Help make Hennepin County 4-H awesome at the 2012 County Fair by submitting a catchy, fun theme! The theme will be used for the 2012 Hennepin County 4-H state fair t-shirts and tent decorations at the County Fair! All Hennepin County 4-H youth are asked to submit an idea to Lisa Flynn at propmom@msn.com or (612) 978-2815 by February 20. The theme will be selected at the February 27 Federation meeting by all youth in attendance.

Hennepin County Federation Incentives – Westside 4-H in the lead, with Country Kids in a close 2nd, and Champlin Champs in 3rd!

There is still time to get your 4-H Club in the running for the Hennepin County 4-H Federation Incentives! Including the past four months of attendance, Westside 4-H is in the lead with an average of 9 members attending each meeting, Country Kids in second with 6 members attending each meeting, and Champlin Champs in third with 6 members attending each meeting. BUT, your club could very easily take over the lead! The club which sends the **most members on a consistent basis** will win \$100 for their club. The club that sends the second most members will win \$50 for their club. The third club will win \$25. In addition, if two youth from each club attend each Federation meeting, the April meeting will a fun pizza party!

Animal ID Deadline – May 15!

Animal Identification paperwork will be available on-line at www.fourh.umn.edu/urban by the end of March. All animals that you work with in your 4-H projects must be selected and identified by the dates indicated on the state 4-H Animal Show Requirements form, for almost everyone, that date is **May 15**. This is a state-wide non-negotiable deadline. Your animal id forms must be post marked or received no later than May 15.

Project Add Deadline – May 15!

Thank you all for re-enrolling in 4-H! We sincerely appreciate your patience in the on-line re-enrollment process! Members can add any projects or make project changes via 4h4me.com up until the **May 15**, the project add deadline in order to be eligible for State Fair trips. New families are welcome to join 4-H any time during the year.

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Thank you to Coolibar, Deanna and Mark Engstrom

A huge thank you to Coolibar and all the wonderful Coolibar personnel, including Deanna Bayley, a graduated 4-H member, for the cool behind the scenes tour! Coolibar is a local company that offers sun protective clothing and 4-H members got a chance to experience the design area, touch the fabrics, see the machines that calculate UVA rays, and tour the shipping area. Plus Deanna talked about how her 4-H experiences impacted her career choice. Thank you for such a great tour!

Need a Summer Job?

Are you looking for work experience in the youth development field?

Once again, there will be county-based 4-H summer intern positions throughout the State of Minnesota. The positions will be posted two different ways. Many will be advertised and hired through University of Minnesota Extension; however, some will be advertised and hired by local counties. Each internship will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about University of Minnesota Extension and explore job opportunities in 4-H Youth Development. Most positions will be for 10 or 11 weeks, with flexible starting dates.

Candidates must have a high school diploma and at least two years of undergraduate study is preferred. University of Minnesota Extension hired candidates must apply online through the University of Minnesota job site. The application materials will include a standard application, resume, cover letter, list of three references, and a college transcript. The summer intern positions will be posted by mid-January and the application deadline is **February 24**.

The hiring process will be coordinated through Extension Human Resources at 612-624-4773 or brow1806@umn.edu. For more information, please contact Nancy Hegland at 651-480-7709 or nhegland@umn.edu.

2012 Project Bowls

It is that time of year again when project bowl teams will begin practicing for the regional contests held in March. There are opportunities for teams to form in dairy, dog, general livestock, horse, poultry, rabbit and wildlife. Two team contests are held – Junior (grades 3-8) and Senior (9-12+). Check out the 4-H Project Bowl website at: <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/project-bowl/index.html> for more information. If you would like to coach, help coach, or participate on any of these teams, please call your Extension Office. Regional Bowl dates and locations are:

- **March 3 – Foley**
- **March 10 – Hastings**
- **March 17 – Grand Rapids & Redwood Falls**
- **March 24 – snow date**
- **April 21 – State Bowl (Foley)**

2012 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification

Certification in all disciplines will be offered including three advanced trainings. Please visit: <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/shooting-sports-certification.html> for more information. The next training will be held **April 14-15, 2012** at the Long Lake Conservation Center near Aitkin, MN. Registration deadline is **April 1st**.

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Club Happenings

Hennepin County Federation

At the January Federation meeting we played some fun mixer games and did Mad Science experiments using balloons and potatoes. Thank you Champlin Champs for leading January's activities. Everybody should come next month on Feb. 27th when the Victory Robbins club leads us in some more fun activities.

- Rob Jewell, Federation Reporter



Westside 4-H Club

To wrap up Westside 4-H's holiday celebrations, our club hosted a holiday party at a local senior home. Everyone had great time. At our January meeting, we had a sanding activity and some of our Cloverbuds showed off their woodshop projects.

- Ellie Haugen, Westside 4-H Reporter

Resources

Operation: Comfort

Are you looking for a meaningful service project to do at a 4-H club meeting or with another group? The Minnesota Operation: Military Kids (OMK) Program would like to invite you to make Operation: Comfort Pillows. Once completed, these fleece tie pillows will be given to Minnesota Military Kids who have a loved one deployed overseas as a way to show support and comfort from the community.

A lesson plan with directions for making the pillows can be found on the OMK website at: www.operationmilitarykids.org, then click on "State Information", "Minnesota", "News" then "Program."

4-H Project Resources

Are you looking for project resources? Urban 4-H has a great list of curricula resources and websites for urban youth programs! Please visit www.mn4h.com/urban to download curricula and website lists. Visit the MN 4-H website at www.mn4h.com to view specific project resources, including evaluation sheets, links to National Curricula, and other related resources. Each project area is listed with materials to support project learning. You can also obtain National 4-H Curriculum catalogs by visiting <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>.

Stop by the Urban 4-H office in St. Paul or the Hennepin County 4-H office in Eden Prairie to check out the 4-H curriculum books or make copies of project lessons. If you have checked out curriculum books and are finished, please be sure to return them.

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Calendar

February

- Food Revue - 4
- Ambassador Planning Committee – 5
- Teen Leadership Retreat – 11-12
- Camp Counselor Interviews – 13 & 16
- Urban 4-H Showcase/Share the Fun Registrations Distributed - 15
- MN 4-H Adult Volunteer Association Forum - 17-18
- Teaching 4-H Science: A Toolkit for Leaders – 25
- Hennepin County Federation Meeting - 27
- Hennepin County Fair Planning Committee - 27

March

- Ambassador Planning Committee – 4
- Metro Art Force - 10
- Hennepin County Fair Workshop – 26
- Ramsey County Leaders Council Mtg - 26

