

DODGE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

127 E Oak, Dodge Co Administration Bldg.
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039
Phone: (920) 386-3790



FEBRUARY 2007

Dear General Leaders:

We all know 4-H is great! But do you know why?

Depending on whom you ask, you might get a variety of answers. They might include that it is fun, I meet new people, I got to go on trips, I showed at the fair and got a blue ribbon, or I help make decisions in my club. But there is even more.

Research by Cathann Kress, director of Youth development at National 4-H Headquarters indicates that through 4-H young people experience all four essential elements that lead to positive youth development. These four elements include **belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.**

Belonging is experience through

- A positive relationship with a caring adult (i.e. a club or project leader who really knows and communicated with the young people they work with)
- Being included (members know each others name, include everyone in decisions and clearly communicate to all)
- A safe environment (physically and emotionally)

Mastery is learned by

- building knowledge, skills and attitudes and then demonstrating their use (this might be specific project skills or life skills such as teamwork, independence, goal setting, etc.)
- being engaged in the learning process, using self-reflection and being self-motivated

Independence is developed by

- seeing oneself in the future, having hope and optimism for the future
- self-determination and believing that you have an impact over life's events

Generosity is experienced through

- practicing service to others

As we plan club, project and county activities for the year, consider the essential elements that need to be incorporated for young people in order to have a 4-H experience that includes fun and friends. In addition these activities need to include the youth development that will bring life enhancing positive growth to young people. These elements need to be intentionally included in our planning; they do not just happen because we have an activity. What better gift to give to a 4-H member than for them to experience the essential elements of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity which will make a difference for their lifetime!

Thanks to Denise Retzlaff, Fond du Lac County

Yours in 4-H,

Sally Schoenike
Dodge County Youth Development Agent

Deb Wiebelhaus
4-H Program Assistant

LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Is your club represented at the Dodge County 4-H Leaders Association Meetings? Mark **February 20** at 7:30 pm Administration Bldg. AUDITORIUM, Juneau

CLUB YEARLY PLAN

When your club officers & leaders complete your yearly club plan, **be sure to send a copy to the 4-H office.**



4-H NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

need to be into the office by the 10th of each month. Be sure to get secretary information to us by this date. The newsletter goes to printing on the 15th. You may email the secretary minutes to Deb at dwiebelhaus@co.dodge.wi.us

FAMILY LEARNING DAYS

Scheduled for February 24 at Horicon High. The second Family Learning Day will be March 24 at Dodgeland High. *Do encourage families to attend.* **NOTE:** the CHANGE IN LOCATION. Sessions take the place of several project meetings and save time. **Explain to new families the need to get selections back to the 4-H office as soon as possible to get the class selections they want!**

YOUTH PROTECTION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Orientation workshops will be held for all newly enrolled 4-H adult volunteers. Workshops will be held at 4-H FAMILY LEARNING DAY, February 24 at Horicon HS and **March 24** at Dodgeland HS.

CLUB DONATIONS NEEDED

As you plan your year, keep in mind that the 4-H Leader's Association needs your help with donations for the following:

Silent Auction Item for the Dodge County Fair – All clubs are encouraged to donate an item for this fund-raiser. The Silent Auction has gone over well the past years, and plans are to continue it. When you know what your club will be doing, let Karen Schmidt 920-928-2234 know. We already have a donation of a Christmas Basket and a Collection of Rubber Stamped Cards for auction items. Thanks to the Silent Auction Committee for their work with this successful endeavor.

Bingo Prizes for the Family Picnic and Leader Recognition – This will be held in July. All clubs are encouraged to donate three bingo prizes (value of around \$1.00 or so). These can be brought to the office anytime.

Fish Pond – Our successful fish pond fund-raiser will continue at the 2007 Dodge County Fair. Clubs are asked to donate “larger items” for special prizes. The value of these items can be \$3 - \$5. Some clubs have donated lots of small “fish” instead. Whatever your club wants to do is fine. We have already received “fish” and some larger prizes from clubs and individuals. Items can be dropped off anytime at the UW-Extension Office or by Iris Steffen (474-4051). Questions on the Fish Pond can go to Iris or to Janet Zander at 623-9013. Thanks to Janet and Iris for all their work with the Fish Pond.

SPEAKING CONTEST

February 27, 6:30 pm, Auditorium, Juneau

Please encourage youth and families to attend. Mini-Drama may be entered in addition to the regular Speaking Contest categories. Mini Drama groups may be eligible for State Fair to represent Dodge County. If you have questions regarding this contest, call Sally at 386-3790.

CULTURAL AND COMMUNICATION ARTS FESTIVAL

March 24 Family Learning Day, Dodgeland

Encourage all families/members to participate. **Take time to explain WHAT this ACTIVITY is at a club meeting.** The Newsletter has details!

OLDER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Older Youth Work Group continues to place activities for member 7th grade & older. Please encourage participation. Information is in the newsletter.

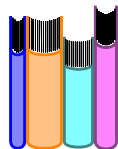
DAIRY PROMOTION FUND

If your club wishes to receive Dairy Promotion Funds from the Dairy Promotion Committee and WWA, a representative must attend the Dairy Promotion Session at Family Learning Day. It is offered in February and March. Forms will be passed out at the session.

FAIR FOOD SCHEDULE

We will try to have the schedule out in the March newsletter as we have had people call in for time slots already. The schedule doesn't change much from year to year. Keep in mind each club is expected to take SEVERAL shifts.

READING WITH CELEBRITIES



**March 3, Hustisford Library,
10 AM – 2 PM**

Author Carol March McLernon will be there. This is a special opportunity for families. Refreshments are served.

CLUB MUSIC & DRAMA FESTIVAL

Sunday, April, 22, Beaver Dam High School

NOTE the change. This will be BOTH Music and Drama. Your club can decide to do one or both! **Deadline is March 23**

. Alert your club members to what this event is, when and where it will be held this year. (*Evaluation Form used is attached*)



CLOVERBUD/EXPLORING COUNTY WORKSHOPS

Janet Zander will again be conducting county workshops for Cloverbuds & Explorers. ENCOURAGE member to attend.

NEW FAMILIES

Let's try to make new families feel welcome to your club and please take extra time with them so they know what is going on.

Club Music and Drama Festival Registration

Sunday, April 22, 2007
Beaver Dam High School

My club is doing _____ MUSIC and/or _____ DRAMA

CLUB: _____

TITLE: _____

Director(s) _____

Approximate Time of Performance: _____ *Minutes*

LIST MEMBERS: