



Montana 4-H Calendar

The 2008-2009 Montana 4-H calendar of events and deadlines is attached to this newsletter. As you will see there are many dates that are to-be-announced. For complete program information, including dates, please visit our website, www.montana4h.org.

We are also working on a more inclusive and interactive calendar for the Montana 4-H website. This online calendar will include the capability to post statewide and regional events and activities sponsored by counties and regions. There will be further information regarding this calendar, including a process for posting items on the calendar.

There will also be a printed "Event & Opportunities Guide" coming out in the next week or so. Please look for it in your Thursday packet. The Guide is abbreviated this year due to the magnitude of information we are able to post on the new website. There will be no applications or forms in the printed copies. All of these documents will be available for download from the Montana 4-H website, www.montana4h.org.





Attention 4-H Community –

We are proud to announce that the 2008 National 4-H Week promotional kit is now available for download and customization for use in your communities. Visit www.4-HBrandNetwork.org to access templates for bookmarks, flyers, certificates and much more! This year's theme, "Keeping it Green", shows how 4-H is bridging old ideas with new to teach youth environmental stewardship and connecting youth to science-related issues. The green theme also showcases 4-H pride and is a direct connection to our well know brand emblem.

This year's National 4-H Week also includes the first annual 4-H National Youth Science Day on October 8, 2008. A promotional kit along with details on the 4-H National Science Experiment will be added to www.4-HBrandNetwork.org next week for you to use in your communities. The 4-H National Science Experiment, created to help youth learn more about science while having fun, features concepts about water conservation using hydrogel polymers. Additional interactive activities will be available online during National 4-H Week with the launch of the new www.4-H.org - 4-H's new online internet platform.

Stay tuned to Clover Corner News and www.4-HBrandNetwork.org throughout the month of September to get involved in 4-H National Youth Science Day and National 4-H Week.

If you have any National 4-H Week promotional kit questions, please direct them to me at (301) 961-2913 or jgoldsmith@fourhcouncil.edu. Any National Youth Science Day or experiment questions, direct them to Allyson McMahan at (301) 961-2915 or amcmahan@fourhcouncil.edu at National 4-H Council.

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Foundation Tidbits

Staff Development Grants

Remember applications for Staff Development Grants are due October 1st. Love to have an application from each one of you to support training events or conferences!

Contact Us:

Jill Martz	994-3099
Brett Schomer	994-1721
Cody Stone	994-3503
Stephanie Davison	994-3502
Todd Kesner	994-6816
Shanna Romero	994-3501
Martha Klaumann	994-5911

<http://www.montana4h.org>
210 Taylor Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717-3580



State Leadership Forum

The Montana 4-H Foundation has lots going on at State Leadership Forum:

- Two workshops for county reps to better understand their roles with the Foundation
- People Partner grant workshop
- Reception to honor new Hall of Fame inductees
Saturday, Sep 27th at 5:15 pm
- Recognizing the Hall of Fame inductees at the banquet
- Silent auction Saturday evening

We hope you and your leaders can join us for at least some of the activities. It will be a great opportunity to get to know our new Executive Director, Sandra Germann.

Foundation 40th Anniversary

Forty years of supporting the best of youth programs!! Executive Director Sandra Germann and the Foundation Board are coordinating plans for a statewide celebration for the 40th anniversary of the Montana 4-H Foundation. Encourage your 4-Hers to be thinking what they would like to do to celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!

The 4-H Center is thrilled to announce the addition of Carol Benesh as the Curriculum and Outreach Specialist. Her experience and expertise will allow her to make an instant positive impact on the 4-H program.

Carol has worked in Extension in three states; Washington, Idaho and Nevada serving as a FCS and 4-H Agent, Specialist and Program Leader. She has experience in the county and as a specialist in the following: 4-H Curriculum, After-school programming, military, technology and many other grant programs. Carol has been in Extension for 18+ years and loves working with 4-H staff, volunteers and youth! She says she is excited to be in Montana to learn and serve your needs in the county 4-H Programs. She looks forward to meeting each of you at Annual Conference! Please feel free to give Carol a call or send an email (carol.benesh@montana.edu) to say Hello!

4-H Curriculum and Outreach Specialist
4-H Youth Development Center
P.O. Box 173580
Taylor Hall
Bozeman, -MT -59717-3580
PH: 406-994-3423
Fax: 406 994-5417

We Need You - 4-H Center and Foundation Survey

The 4-H Center and Foundation will soon be holding a staff retreat to discuss how to best serve the professional staff, leaders and youth involved with Montanan 4-H. Last week you received the "Survey Monkey" link from your Regional Department Head inviting your participation in the survey. Please make every effort to give us your feedback so that we can strategize for the future and assist you in the positive youth development work that you do.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions and look forward to hearing from you.





International Update

Thanks to counties and 4-H host families for contributing to another successful year!

Outbound opportunities for 2009:

SUMMER: Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Norway. 4-H youth may apply as well as adult leaders interested in chaperoning.

IFYE: former 4-H members, ages 19-30 may apply

Japan Internship Program: Go to Japan for a year and work with one of two Japanese youth organizations as a paid intern. Host families provide room and board throughout the year. This is a highly competitive program and only 2-4 interns are chosen annually from a national pool of applicants. **Application deadline is December 1, 2008.**



Healthy Living

Health Rocks!

12 sites have been trained to implement the Health Rocks! curriculum beginning this fall. Training is available as necessary to other interested parties. Contact Stephanie Davison for more information.

CWF – June 7-13, 2009
Montana delegates depart a day early on June 6. Mark your calendars!

Citizenship

Girls For A Change (GFAC) Conference – February 28, 2009

Save the date for this unique opportunity for girls to talk to other Montana girls and have fun together during a day-long conference in Bozeman.





Dear Colleagues,

We have finalized the details of the experiment that we will be distributing to support activities on and around 4-H National Youth Science Day.

The 4-H National Science Experiment:

This year's experiment design has been a joint effort of Bob Horton and his colleagues at The Ohio State University along with our national spokesperson/partner, Steve Spangler Science. The experiment investigates the nature of hydrogels/superabsorbent polymers and their connection to water conservation and agricultural science. It will be a fun, hands-on activity for 4-H and non-4-H youth to interact with science outside of the classroom. A press release describing the experiment and promoting Steve Spangler's involvement is attached; it will be distributed to media contacts next week.

Experiment details and documentation—which will include both a fun, quick demonstration of hydrogels and a more extensive exploration/discussion guide—will be emailed out to the system and uploaded online the week of September 8th. Those attending the Galaxy Conference will be able to learn more about 4-H National Youth Science Day and the National Science Experiment in the exhibit area.

Timing of Participation

As many of you know, this year's 4-H National Youth Science Day is October 8th. That date was chosen to coincide with National 4-H Week—with the intent that each Wednesday of National 4-H Week would be 4-H NYSD going forward. For many, October 8th, 2008 is also a religious holiday—the start of Yom Kippur. While we will be encouraging participation on the 8th (especially with media), we anticipate that many 4-H members and leaders along with other youth organizations, parents, and schools may choose to participate in the National Science Experiment in the days and weeks immediately before or after October 8th—in order to maximize participation and be realistic about the demands on time. We will encourage all participants to document their experiences on 4-H.org.

Thanks for your attention and your participation in 4-H NYSD! Remember to encourage your LGU communications office to get on board and showcase the experiment in an event on campus or in your state capitol. Questions can be directed to Andy Ferrin (301-961-2972) or Allyson McMahan (301-972-2915) at National 4-H Council.

The programs of the MSU Extension Service are available to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Douglas L. Steele, Vice Provost and Director, Extension Service, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717.