

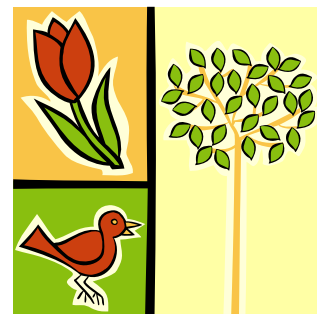


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Spring 2008

The spring newsletter is full of valuable information about 4-H happenings and upcoming programs, so please read it carefully! Look for:

- Information on the new IRS electronic filing requirements for 4-H clubs
- 4-H animal science program information including 4-H Horse Fitting and Showmanship clinics, the new Veterinary Science camp for 4-H members, 4-H Rabbit Quiz Bowl and more!
- Teen opportunities including college scholarships offered through 4-H
- How to access 4-H club matching grants and promotional grants from the MA 4-H Foundation
- News about 4-H Military partnerships and how you can assist youth in military families
- The Tufts study on Positive Youth Development and how MA 4-H teens are needed to participate
- And much, much more!



Important news!!! Save the date of November 1, 2008 for the Massachusetts 4-H Volunteer Forum which will be held at the Royal Plaza in Marlborough. Ken Culp, 4-H Volunteerism Specialist in Kentucky will be our featured speaker and trainer. We hope that all 4-H volunteers (including teens) will plan to join us for this tremendous opportunity. Details and registration information will be available on the 4-H website early this summer – watch for it!

The deadline for teens ages 14 to 18 to apply for National 4-H Congress is May 30th. Teens, if you are not sure about whether you want to apply or not read what Heather Chmura, one of the 2007 MA delegates to National 4-H Congress and member of the Boots 'n Saddles 4-H Club has to say about her experience: "Let me tell you that this was the trip of my life. Not only did the whole delegation have a blast but we met so many wonderful people from different states. This Congress allowed for more interaction with teens from across the country and now we have a better understanding of how 4-H affects others. The theme of Congress was, "Accept the Challenge"; it placed our focus on accepting the bigger challenges in life and becoming the best person you can be. Every speaker at that conference impacted each and every one of us about becoming the person we want to be. Miss America 2007 spelled out the word DREAMS: D for determination and drive; R for reaching for our goals even when there are obstacles; E for energy and enthusiasm; A for attitude is everything; M for making responsible decisions; and S for support system. I truly believe that this describes every 4-H'er in Massachusetts. As 4-H'ers we are determined to reach our goals not only in our clubs but within ourselves; we strive to reach these goals no matter what obstacles get in front of us; we bring enthusiasm to each and everything we do and always try and include others with us; we reach these goals by interacting with others with the most positive attitude; we try and make the best decisions for certain situations that have the best outcome not only for ourselves but for others; and we develop a strong support system from other 4-H'ers, our parents, advisors and others. Now, I would like to leave you with one of my favorite quotes from Congress: "Always look through the wind-shield and not the rearview mirror." Keep allowing us to look ahead on the great opportunities that lie ahead of us."