The Arkansas 4-H Outlook informs county Extension agents about 4-H and youth opportunities. The information is collected from county Extension agents, extension specialists and national publications. The newsletter is e-mailed to all extension employees, volunteers, and 4-H members. Agents are encouraged to share this information with volunteers and 4-H members without e-mail addresses. It is also posted on the extension web site at http://www.kidsarus.org/newsletters/Outlook/default.htm.

Happy Holidays!

As this year comes to an end and we approach 2013, we hope that you all relax and enjoy quality time with your family and friends. We wish everyone a holiday season and new year filled with peace, love, and joy. For fun family holiday events in Arkansas, follow the link http://littlerock.about.com/od/thingstodo/a/aachristmas.htm.

The Little Rock State Office Welcomes Shannon Mashburn!

Shannon was instantly drawn to a work position with the Arkansas 4-H when she became aware of the numerous opportunities that the organization offers for youth. She was surprised by the robotics and photography youth programs. She stated, “I was looking for something with meaning and stability.” Shannon, who has two sons ages 6 and 9, is excited to get her children involved with the 4-H ATV safety trainings and assist with projects that allow youth to develop skills that will benefit them in the long run (continued on page 2).

“Snowflakes melt alone, but together they can be traffic stoppers.” —Leonard Nimoy—
In her spare time, Shannon enjoys decorating novelty cakes and playing board games with her sons. When asked if she was excited about the holidays, she described how her family shows gratitude during the holiday season. For the past five years, each member of her immediate family filled piggy banks with money and delivered them to different homes on Christmas Eve. Shannon also mentioned that last year her family bought gifts for another household, delivered them to their doorstep, and hid behind a tree to see the family’s reaction to their presents. These actions show that Shannon is passionate about bettering the lives of the people in her community. She will be an asset to the 4-H organization.

**4-H NEWS**

Arkansas Teen Wins National 4-H Engineering Event

Zane P.’s knowledge of bicycles earned the Arkansan first place in the National 4-H Engineering Challenge Bicycle Event held at Purdue University.

The engineering challenge held Sept. 23-25, 2012, pitted state champions from around the country in a variety of areas. The bicycle challenge included a written test, five riding skills tests, parts identification and the “sabotaged bike recognition,” that required competitors to identify problems.

The three-day 4-H Engineering Challenge included competitions in robotics, aerospace, tractor, lawn-tractor, welding, bicycle, electricity, computer and small engines. The top honor was the result of “practice, practice, practice and study,” Zane P. said. Zane, who is a member of the Salem Superstars in Saline County, brought home prizes including a plaque and a ribbon.

Zane was also part of an engineering quiz bowl team that joined contestants from Arkansas, Delaware and Kentucky. Teams were paired in a direct elimination bracket, and contestants fielded questions posted by a panel.

The combined team finished second – by one question and in overtime. There were no official coaches, but Samy Sadaka, Extension engineer, Keith Gresham, Dallas County Extension staff chair, and J. J. Pitman, Arkansas 4-H Center program director (who is also Zane’s dad), played a role in the training.
4-H members put their heads, hearts and hands into statewide ‘One Day of Service’
Mary Hightower, Assistant Director- Communications & Marketing

Most kids see Saturday as a fun day, free from school and homework. For members of the Chambers 4-H Club in Crawford County, Saturday Oct. 9, may be a day they remember for a long time.

Instead of spending the day in front of the TV or computer, about a dozen members and leaders raked leaves, picked up branches, and removed debris to restore dignity to a cemetery. With those simple actions, the Chambers 4-H club members joined thousands of Arkansas 4-H’ers who put their heads, hearts and hands to work for their neighbors and communities during the first annual One Day of Service.

“This day will have a lasting impression on some of the members,” said Sheryll Gregory, Crawford County 4-H program assistant for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. “This is a very old cemetery and some of the graves were only marked with rocks. The younger members couldn’t understand why they didn’t have markers like we do now.”

“They made plans to return in the spring and wash headstones and do a general cleaning,” she said. “It was a good day – a very good day.”

Jack Boles, a 4-H state faculty member for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, who spearheaded the One Day of Service project, said: “The efforts made on Oct. 6 by our 4-H’ers exemplify the ideals of the 4-H youth development program. We’re so proud of the kids, parents and the volunteers who made this day so special.”

4-H is the youth development program of the University of Arkansas, provided through the Cooperative Extension Service.

Among the projects:

- Johnson County 4-H held a canned food drive and a 4-H CANstruction contest at the Harvest Foods in Clarksville. The group collected about 500 cans of food that were donated to the River Valley Church of Christ Food Bank.

- Town & Country 4-H club in Benton County coordinated a snack drive for The Samaritan Community Center Snack Packs. These snack packs go to children in 87 public schools in Carroll, Madison, Benton and Washington counties.

- The Bloomfield 4-H Club helped prepare their community for the Gentry Fall Festival by picking up trash, cleaning sidewalks, mowing grass, planting flowers and decorating windows.

For more information on 4-H, visit [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu), [www.kidsarus.org](http://www.kidsarus.org), or contact your local county agent.
4-H’er Spotlight: Adriana J., Benton County

How old are you? I am 15.

How long have you been a 4-Her? I have been in 4-H for about 6 years.

What is your favorite thing about the 4-H? I like having the opportunity to meet people at state and national events and I enjoy the variety of competitions that are available.

Do you have any hobbies? I love to read, and I am a very active person. I play soccer, run, bike and love to work with our 3 border collies. I also like embroidering and baking.

Who’s your favorite artist or musician? I don’t have a favorite, but I like the Plain White T’s and Sugarland.

What would you like to be when you grow up or major in when you go to college? I haven’t decided yet, but I like working with people, especially kids.

What’s the biggest challenge facing your community and what can you do to overcome this? That is a big question that can be answered differently depending on perspective.

What’s your favorite quote? “Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog it’s too dark to read.” — Groucho Marx

Who is your personal hero? I don’t have just one hero because I try to find the best parts in people and emulate those parts myself.

Adriana J.

4-H Record Books
Brian Helms, Instructor 4-H Youth Development

As the year begins to wind down and before the holidays get into full swing, now is the perfect time to begin working on your 4-H Record Books. Please check with your county office before your county's due date. Remember that changes have been implemented for 2013. There is now one form for beginner, intermediate and advanced categories. Additional changes include indicating the level (county, district, state, etc.) where educational experiences and leadership roles took place. The participation in non-4-H activities section has been replaced with the 4-H Impact section. 4-H members are asked to describe what difference 4-H has made in their lives in 100 words or less. Please be sure to consult the “4-H Project Categories and Objectives" to ensure your 4-H members’ project work is meeting the objectives set forth by that project. Additional information can be found on the Arkansas 4-H website at http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/recordbook/Default.htm.
The Arkansas State Fair was a success this year with 447,710 attendees. The Arkansas 4-H booth was one of 110 exhibits in the Hall of Industry. The booth engaged youth with three 4-H curriculum activities: the marker-bot, National Youth Science Day experiment, and polymer. 447 youth and adults, who were interested in the 4-H, completed a survey to be entered into a drawing for an I-pod and ATV safety helmet. Special thanks go out to all of the 4-H’ers who participated in the activities on 4-H Day at the state fair. Please see below for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each contest. Cash prizes were awarded to the winners.

**Giant Pumpkin Contest**

1st - Kallee C., Pike County, 140 lbs.
2nd - Dodge C., Pike County, 28.5 lbs.
3rd - Jeff S., Yell County, 55 lbs.

**Giant Watermelon Contest**

1st - Tiffany M., Pope County, 79 lbs.
2nd - David B., White County, 67.5 lbs.
3rd - Kallee C., Pike County, 50 lbs.

**Poultry BBQ Contest**

1st - Lilly W., Saline County
2nd - Rivers B., Jackson County
3rd - Maggie M., Jackson County

**Entomology Exhibit**

1st - Joshua R., Howard County
2nd - Darrell R., Howard County
3rd - Caleb S., Howard County

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**State 4-H O-Rama Highlights**

- 523 4-H’ers & 100 volunteers attended the 2012 State 4-H O-Rama.
- Backpacks sponsored by Farm Credit were presented to winners of competitive events during State 4-H O-Rama.
- Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas donated iPod shuffles, $25 iTunes gift cards, an iPad, a 32”HDTV and an Xbox 360 for social media contest winners.
- Motivational speaker, Brandon White, spoke at the Recognition Assembly.
- The picnic and workshops were sponsored by the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.
- Community Service Projects were sponsored by the Arkansas 4-H Adult Leaders’ Association.
4-H receives a big helping hand from Arkansas Farm Bureau, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, and Farm Credit

The 2012 Arkansas 4-H O-Rama has received a big helping hand from some good friends: Arkansas Farm Bureau, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas and Farm Credit.

Arkansas Farm Bureau has been a longtime friend of 4-H, and this year again donated a significant amount of money to help Extension’s youth development program continue its mission. Arkansas Farm Bureau is a nonprofit, private advocacy organization of more than 210,000 families throughout the state working to improve farm and rural life.

This year Farm Credit provided funds and custom-printed backpacks to competitive event winners in advance of the school year. The Farm Credit system is a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions that provides services to farmers, ranchers, rural homeowners and others.

A new friend to Arkansas 4-H is the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, which co-sponsored the banquet in addition to providing an electric vehicle demonstration on campus. The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas based in Little Rock is one of the top generation and transmission cooperatives in the nation. The co-ops serve nearly half a million Arkansans.

“We are so grateful for the support being provided by these three organizations for our Arkansas 4-H program,” said Anne Sortor, Associate Director-FCS and 4-H. “Their help is much-needed during these financially hard times, and we know we will be able to continue helping Arkansas’ youth reach their full potential.”

The 2012 O-Rama is the state’s largest gathering of 4-H’ers and was held July 25-27, 2012 at the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville.

See photos from O-Rama on the Extension Flickr site at: www.flickr.com/photos/uacescomm/sets/7215763074 9712618/.

4-H’ers Travel to Atlanta
Priscella Thomas-Scott, M.Ed., 4-H Youth Development Associate

On Thanksgiving night thirty-four 4-H’ers and five adults will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the National 4-H Congress. The conference will be held November 23-27, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. “Become a Catalyst of Change” is the theme of the conference.

In Atlanta, more than 1,000 delegates from throughout the United States and its territories will participate in this annual event. The program provides a mixture of educational, service and recreational opportunities including an Evening of Culture at the Atlanta History Center and the Congress Gala, featuring Robin Kaeppeler, Miss America 2012. Delegates will also have the opportunity to make donations toward the third Clover House to be built in conjunction with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity (continued on page 9).
Also this year, we have several youth who will be serving in leadership roles during conference. Natalie G. of Pope County is on the Congress leadership team. Ariana W. of Jefferson County is the State Delegate Advisor and Joshua L. of Benton County will serve as State Flag Bearer at the Citizenship Assembly.

National 4-H Congress is an opportunity for the Cooperative Extension System to recognize the nation’s brightest and best young people. The program is designed to help youth continue their development as the leaders of the next millennium.

The Eco-Bot Challenge

FeDerica Gill, 4-H Afterschool AmeriCorps* VISTA Social Entrepreneur

The 4-H National Youth Science Day was held on October 10, 2012. Youth, volunteers, and educators from all over the nation completed the National Science Experiment. This year’s experiment was the 4-H Eco-Bot Challenge. Youth built robots, also known as Eco-Bots, and tested how their Eco-Bots adapted to controlled environments.

The challenge involved a three step process: (1) Youth built their own Eco-Bots and explored how their robots function, (2) developed controlled surfaces, where the Eco-Bots had to be programmed to find a solution to a toxic spill in their environment, and (3) measured the effectiveness of their robots in cleaning up toxic spills. Arkansas 4-H Afterschool provided each county with one Eco-Bot Challenge kit.

“TEAMWORK ALLOWS COMMON PEOPLE TO ATTAIN UNCOMMON RESULTS.”
--ANYMONOUS--
RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

“What’s Your Focus?”
Brian Helms, Instructor 4-H Youth Development

Arkansas 4-H will once again send a delegation to the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF). The dates for the 2013 CWF program in Washington, DC are **July 6-13, 2013**. Delegates will experience our nation’s capital by learning about their role as U.S. citizens and the democratic process. They will get the inside scoop on how the government functions from prominent guest speakers. They will also participate in bill writing workshops, a national issues forum, mock elections, and congressional sessions that prepare them for leadership roles in the future.

Applicants must be at least 14 years old. The cost for youth is $1,035. Two County Extension Agents and two adult volunteers will serve as chaperones. The cost for adult volunteer chaperones is $515. Applications sent through 4honline must be submitted by **Monday, December 3, 2012**. Complete payment is due by **Tuesday, January 15, 2013**.

The registration fee will cover program costs while at the National 4-H Center, transportation, dinner, a theatre ticket, a personal copy of the 8” x 10” color picture that will be taken of the 2013 delegation on Capitol Hill, a CWF shirt, and snack breaks during the delegation orientation. Transportation will be provided by a chartered bus to and from Washington, D.C. The bus will depart from the State Extension Office, located in Little Rock, AR. Delegates will need at least $150 in spending money for additional meals, snacks, and souvenirs.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit [http://www.4hcenter.org/youth-conference-center-overview/educational-programs/citizenship-washington-focus/](http://www.4hcenter.org/youth-conference-center-overview/educational-programs/citizenship-washington-focus/). Brian Helms can be contacted at (501) 671-2289 or bhelms@uaex.edu.

Volunteerism for the Next Generation
Noah Washburn, 4-H Youth Development Program Director

“What skills or competencies will volunteers need in order to effectively deliver 4-H programs and projects in the next decade?”

This simple question started the nationwide research project that resulted in the Volunteer Research Knowledge Competency (VRKC) Taxonomy. VRKC Taxonomy, evaluated by National 4-H Headquarters, is based on input from current volunteers and extension staff across the country. Through their input, six skill categories were identified: Communication, Organization, 4-H Program Management, Educational Design & Delivery, Positive Youth Development, and Interpersonal Skills. Each skill area includes 5-8 specific competencies.

Taxonomy stands as the cornerstone that guides the training, support, identified skills and competencies that volunteers will need in order to effectively deliver 4-H Youth Development programs and activities in the next decade (continued on page 9).
By getting involved with the University of Arkansas 4-H program, not only are you helping “make the best better” for kids, but you are also gaining access to valuable resources and training to help better yourself through utilizing the VRKC.

4-H is driven by volunteers and cannot exist without them. It is a win for the kids because they get access to caring adults, it is a win for the state because we now have more individuals committed to positive youth development, and it is a win for you because you are receiving free professional development training. Volunteers are needed at all levels from the local clubs to the county, and even at state events. To learn more about VRKC or to get involved with Arkansas 4-H, please contact the 4-H State Office at 501-671-2064 or your local county Extension office.

Military 4-H Club Program Offers Technology Opportunities for Youth
Maureen Rose, 4-H Youth Development Associate- OMK

Arkansas’ Military 4-H Program is working to organize 4-H Project Clubs with Science and Technology themes. A new 4-H Club, the Techno Kreepers, is meeting at Camp Robinson on November 15th to elect 4-H Officers and plan their activities for the next several months. This club, which targets children in 4th grade through high school, will work on technology and robotics activities and projects, using the 4-H Junk Drawer Robotics and Lego Mindstorm platforms.

Other project clubs with supplies and materials available for military youth include 1) Iron Skillet, which incorporates 12 monthly project lessons teaching nutrition and food preparation through hands-on learning, and the 2) Junior Master Gardener Project, which teaches children how to raise fruits, vegetables and flowers.

The clubs welcome non-military friends to join as well, so consider starting a club in your neighborhood. A 4-H Club requires 6 or more children from more than one family, a minimum of 6 meetings per year, and adult volunteers who will have a background check and attend volunteer training workshops. 4-H members learn how to conduct meetings, share their learning experiences at meetings through demonstrations or talks, and enjoy educational programs and recreational activities as part of the meeting format.

For more information about forming or joining a club for military youth, contact your County Extension Office. For information on the Camp Robinson club in Pulaski County, contact Erica Harris, Pulaski County 4-H Agent, at 501-340-6650. 4-H Military Programs in Arkansas are coordinated by Maureen Rose, Arkansas 4-H Military Liaison. Maureen can be contacted at 501-671-2066 or mrose@uaex.edu.

4-H is the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension Service, which is part of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. These programs are offered for youth ages 5-19 regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status or any other legally protected status. 4-H Military Club programs in Arkansas are funded by the Navy Child and Youth Programs.
“Inspire, Connect, Learn”
FeDerica Gill, 4-H Afterschool AmeriCorps* VISTA Social Entrepreneur

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Annual Statewide out of School Time Conference was held on October 10-12, 2012 in Hot Springs, AR. The mission of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is to provide support for organizations that offer youth academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours. Over 300 individuals from community learning centers across the state of Arkansas attended the conference.

Interactive breakout session topics included bullying, resolving conflicts, and entrepreneurship. Attendees were also entertained by the Mabelvale Elementary School 2 Cold Drum Line & Dancing Dolls. To find a list of the 21st century programs offered in your county, please visit http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/federal-programs/21st-century-community-learning-centers

Holiday Volunteer/Donation Opportunities in Little Rock, AR

Our House (Homeless Shelter)
302 East Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72206
(501) 375-2416
http://www.ourhouseshelter.org/

The Salvation Army/Angel Tree
1111 W Markham Street, LR, AR,
501-374-9296
1505 West 18th Street, NLR, AR,
501-758-7297
www.salvationarmyusa.org/

Arkansas Foodbank
4301 West 65TH Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209
501-565-8121
http://www.arkansasfoodbank.org/

The Watershed Human & Community Development Agency
3701 Springer Blvd
Little Rock, AR 72206
(501) 378-0176

Saint Francis House (Homeless Shelter)
2701 South Elm Street
Little Rock, AR 72204
(501) 664-5036
www.stfrancishouse.org/

Heart of Arkansas United Way
516 West Pershing Boulevard
N Little Rock, AR 72114
(501) 376-4567
http://www.heartaruw.org/

Youth Home, Inc.
20400 Colonel Glenn Road
Little Rock, AR 72210
(501) 821-5500
http://www.youthhome.org/

The Little Rock Compassion Center (Homeless Shelter)
3618 West Roosevelt Road
LR, AR, 501-296-9114 (Men)
4210 Asher Avenue, LR, AR, 501-663-2972 (Women)
www.lrcompassioncenter.org/
DEADLINES & UPCOMING EVENTS

December Calendar of Events

December Due Dates:
10 Camp Leadership Workshop – Basic Registration via 4-H Online
10 Kansas City Summit 2012 Applications via 4-H Online
17 2013 Tech Team Applications & Yearly Fee due to LRSO

December Activity Dates:
1 Arkansas 4-H Afterschool Provider Training, Dallas Co. Corporative Extension Office (Fordyce), 9-3 p
8 Arkansas 4-H Afterschool Provider Training, Jefferson Co. Corporative Extension Office (Pine Bluff), 9-3 p

January Calendar of Events

January Due Dates:
4 Camp Leadership Workshop – Basic Registration
4 Kansas City Global Summit Registration
4 Teen Counselor Applications for Entrepreneur Camp
15 Full Payment for Citizenship...Washington Focus due in LRSO

January Activity Dates:
15 High Adventure Registration
16 National Program Assistant Internship Applications - CWF (June-July)
25 Ambassador Workshop Registration

February Calendar of Events

February Due Dates:
TBA 2013 4-H Poultry Chain Orders
1 Advanced Entrepreneur Camp Registration
1 Entrepreneur Camp – Basic Registration
1 Governor’s Award Nominations
1 4-H Record Books (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) due in LRSO
1 National 4-H Dairy Conference
1 South Reg. Vol. Leader Forum State Coordinator
1 State Scholarship Applications
1 Volunteer Applications to Judge 4-H Record Books
1 Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Practice Session Registration

February Activity Dates:
15 Beekeping Essay Contest Entries

February Activity Dates:
1-2 AR State 4-H BB Championship, 4-H Center
8-9 Ambassador Workshop, 4-H Center
15-16 Adult Volunteer Leaders’ Board Meeting
20-21 4-H Record Book Judging, 4-H Center
22 State Beef Quiz Bowl, Fayetteville
22-24 Entrepreneur Camp, 4-H Center
22-24 Advanced Entrepreneur Camp, 4-H Center
23 Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Practice Session, ASU Beebe
The State 4-H Newsletter, prepared from national and state sources, is edited and compiled by FeDerica Gill, 4-H Afterschool AmeriCorps* VISTA Social Entrepreneur.

For more information about the news and opportunities found in the Arkansas 4-H Outlook, please contact Priscella Thomas-Scott at 501-671-2271 or pthomas-scott@uaex.edu.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating

The Division of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.