Leaders, Parents, and Members:
Happy New Year! A new year means new 4-H opportunities. Check out this newsletter to find out how you can get more involved in 4-H in 2017. If you’re new to 4-H, please don’t hesitate to ask us any questions you may have about our program opportunities. We are here to help you make the most of your 4-H experience!

Upcoming 4-H Events

January 9  Entrepreneur Camp registration due
January 11  4-H Day at the State Capitol registration due
January 16  Extension Office Closed
January 22  Teen Leader Meeting
January 23  4-H Record Books/State Scholarship Applications due in County office
January 27  Ambassador Workshop registration due
January 27-29  Entrepreneur Camp, 4-H Center
February 1   High Adventure registration due
February 10-11  Ambassador Workshop, 4-H Center
February 16  4-H Day at the State Capitol, Little Rock
March 1    Equine Camp/STEM Camp registrations due TLC/Camp Scholarship applications due
March 11  4-H Advanced Record Book Interviews
March 15  Teen Star/Ambassador/Governor’s Award/Hall of Fame/Officer Election applications due
March 18-21  STEM Camp, 4-H Center
March 20  Camp Leadership Workshop registration due
March 21  Teen Leadership Workshop, Fairgrounds
March 20-23  Spring Equine Camp, 4-H Center

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4-H Day at the Capitol

Thursday, February 16 will be the second 4-H Day at the Capitol to educate our youth on state government in action. It also can serve a dual purpose of educating our elected officials on the many attributes of our 4-H program. This year we are looking for 400 4-H’ers ages 13 and older to participate. Participants will receive a long sleeve polo shirt to wear, a box lunch, and a ride to the Capitol from the Jack Stephens Center (next to the State Office Building). Any youth that is at least 13 years old by January 1st, please log on to https://arkansas.4honline.com to register if you haven’t already. Registration closes January 11, so don’t miss out! Once we know how many youth are going, we will work out transportation plans. We will excuse you from school.

4-H Record Books

It’s Record Book time! Record Books are a written history of your project work and a narrative of success and learning in 4-H. This is the best way to earn 4-H Scholarships and Awards and is part of the overall 4-H experience. You will find your record book useful in evaluating past achievements and in making improvements in future plans. Remember, you can include things that you have accomplished up until December 31, 2016.

4-H Record Book Forms, Tips, and Guidelines are available online: http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/resource-library/project-books.aspx. Completed Record Books are due in the County Extension Office January 23, 2017. If any of you need assistance with your record book, contact the office and we would be glad to help. Just don’t wait till the last minute! We are looking forward to reading your books this year.

4-H Poultry Chain

It is almost time for the 2017 4-H Poultry Chain Program. Poultry Chain is open to all registered 4-H members and is a great “starter” animal science project. Participants are required to exhibit 3 of the Poultry Chain birds at the 2017 Prairie County Fair. More info should be available soon. Let us know if you are interested in participating. Orders are typically due in late February/early March.

State 4-H Camps

Enclosed you will find a flyer with information on 2017 Arkansas 4-H Camps and Workshops. Please contact us with any questions you may have. Remember, if you attend 50% of club meetings, turn in a record book, and participate in 4-H O-Rama we will pay ½ of your fees. State camp scholarships are also available to apply for via https://arkansas.4honline.com.

Cloverbud Corner

Valentines for the Community

Materials needed:
- Paper or cardstock
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils
- 4-H stickers
- Valentine stickers

Call a local nursing home and ask if Cloverbuds can visit the nursing home, and ask each Cloverbud to make personalized Valentines to give to residents. Have them color and decorate personalized Valentine cards. Then set a time to take them to the nursing home to give their Valentine gifts to the residents. Children should be encouraged to talk with the residents. Emphasize how their efforts helped these people have a better Valentine’s Day and that their work is greatly appreciated.
Teen Leadership Opportunities

4-H Teen Stars—4-H members ages 15-18 who have outstanding achievement in the areas of 4-H projects and activities, leadership, and community service can be named an Arkansas 4-H Teen Star. Statewide 4-H scholarships are a part of the Teen Star program. Only the top 4-H members are selected each year to receive this honor. Teen Stars are recognized at the 4-H Teen Star Banquet during the Teen Leader Conference in June.

Arkansas 4-H Ambassadors—Ambassadors are called upon to promote the 4-H program throughout the county and state and assist with statewide programs such as Teen Leader Conference, O-Rama, and other events. To be selected as an ambassador, the 4-H member must first be named a 4-H Teen Star. Applicants must make a 4-H promotional speech and complete an interview. Those selected to become Ambassadors will be recognized at the 2017 State O-Rama in Fayetteville. Teens can apply for teen star and ambassador in the same year. The state deadline to apply for these recognition programs is March 15.

Ambassador Workshop - The purpose of the mandatory workshop is for ambassadors to utilize their leadership abilities in planning, then conducting the three-day statewide 4-H Teen Leader Conference held at the Arkansas 4-H Center in June. Some training is also provided to help teens better serve in their role as ambassador. Cost is $60 and the date is February 10-11. Registration is due January 27.

State Officer Program - State 4-H officers are selected by their peers and are required to perform on a vigorous and continuous basis. A total of seven state 4-H officers ages 16-19 are elected. Positions are three district vice presidents, and four at-large state officers. At-large elections are held at the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama. Interested teens must apply by March 15.

Scholarships - Arkansas 4-H teens are eligible to receive only one college 4-H scholarship from each category of state 4-H scholarships. All attachments must be included with the scholarship applications and received in the state 4-H Youth Development office by February 1 for the application to be considered. Visit the website for details: [http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/about/awards/scholarships.aspx](http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/about/awards/scholarships.aspx).

For more information about any of these leadership opportunities, visit the website at: [http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/citizenship-leadership/activities.aspx](http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/citizenship-leadership/activities.aspx). We will assist teens in completing these applications during the next two Teen Leader Meetings. Hint: a concise 4-H record book will make this process a piece of cake!

Pop Tab Competition

Every summer at State O-Rama counties compete to see who can collect the most pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we won the most pop tabs for the Delta District. This year, we want to win for the entire state but we will need your help! Please start collecting aluminum tabs from cans: soda, some pet food, canned fruits, vegetables, etc. Let’s see which club can collect the most!

True leaders aren’t born, they’re grown. At the core of 4-H, and critical to the success of our youth, are volunteers who give their time and talents to grow 4-H’ers. We REALLY need help in securing a few more caring and dedicated adult volunteers for our clubs. We will provide the resources needed to volunteer – we just ask that you provide the passion for helping youth succeed. If you or someone you know are interested in becoming a club leader, or just have a few hours to invest, we’ve got challenging and fun jobs for those who want to make a difference.

4-H GROWS HERE
4-H in the Spotlight

Congratulations to Sara Beth T. for receiving this year’s 4-H Spirit Award at the county banquet. Sara was also selected as a 2015 Arkansas 4-H Camp Champion where she will be promoting 4-H camp to youth in our district. We’re so proud!

Thank You 4-H Donors!

Ms. Lynda Andrews – In Memory of John Palsa
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and Mrs. Jeff Dunlap
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Congratulations to all our 4-H Banquet award winners!

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