Dear 4-H Volunteers,

Thank you for going above and beyond during this hectic and constantly changing time. Undoubtedly, this year already looks different than what we are used to and may not return to the “normal” we are familiar with until after our 4-H year is complete. Clubs are meeting virtually. Communication is being done online through various media platforms. We are missing out on that direct connection with our members and families. Members may not have direct access to their animal project or may be engaging in self-instruction while working on their sewing or photography project.

Please know that the Geauga County 4-H Program is working to plan high-quality 4-H programs in 2020, even though these events may not be held face-to-face. Staff is currently working on Quality Assurance, skillathon/project judging, and other programs in preparation for the Great Geauga County Fair in September.

We are working on what our summer events will look like. Our top priority is the safety of our youth and volunteers, so we are playing close attention to the guidelines announced by Ohio State University and Governor DeWine’s administration as we make plans. These guidelines tend to change as more information is learned about COVID-19. With that in mind, our event dates and structure continue to change. Currently, we are not releasing another Quality Assurance training date. However, Geauga County will be offering QA, we just do not know how it will look. Project judging’s format will be changing as well. This includes Style Revue. The large numbers of youth at these events do not follow the current social distances guidelines. Options include online and testing possibilities. Ohio 4-H is working on project completion guidelines that we will reference and specific project requirements for State Fair qualification that we will also be using.

I understand that with many things uncertain, this is can be adding additional stress to your already strained lives. As soon as we have information regarding these events, it will be shared with all our volunteers via email. Do not stress about QA, project judging, or your club meetings. We are all in this together and we will have a 4-H year (it is just going to look a lot different).

Thank you for Making the Best Better!

Alisha
**ADVISOR AREA**

**Club Roster Review:**
The head/organizational advisor of each club has been emailed a 2020 roster with volunteers, members, and projects. Please review these rosters at the club volunteer level – these rosters should not be shared with your members as they contain the contact information of minors and this information cannot be distributed. Any changes to the club rosters, must be confirmed by 4:30 pm on Friday, May 8th. No changes can be made after this time. Project changes will not be granted.

**CLUB NEWS**

**Hunger Task Force Food Drive**
Greener Fields 4-H Club, in partnership with all of Geauga County 4-H and Dr. Augustine Kellis, will again be running a food drive for the Geauga Hunger Task Force. Our drive this year is being led by our club secretary, Jayme O'Neill. The GHTF supports six local food pantries in Geauga County, as well as provides support to NextStep, to groups that deliver home based meals, to provide lunch meals to Seniors at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center, financial support to local churches providing community meals, and financial support to Claridon Cares which provides summer lunches to students.

All donations and money from 4-H clubs and businesses who give through the 4-H drive, will be matched up to $25,000. In 2019, the Geauga 4-H and business donations, plus the match from Dr. Kellis, totaled over $36,000! If any club wants to send a financial donation, please mail it to the Geauga Hunger Task Force (check made out to them), Attn: Claudia Toth, 209 Center St., Chardon, OH 44024. Please indicate in the memo line that it's for the 4-H food drive. If it's not a club check, please also include the club name so your club's participation can be noted. If possible, also let Christine Belliveau know of the donation by email at christine.belliveau@yahoo.com or 440-313-2864. Because of COVID 19 and the suspension of community service activities through 4-H that prohibit food collections through July 6, Dr. Kellis will also match personal donations made through the drive. If a personal donation of food items is made, please contact Christine or Jayme at 216-346-5027 so that club participation and the match can be recorded. Thank you all for your past help and participation! Our help will be needed this year more than ever.

**4-H MEMBERS**

**Scholarship Opportunities**

4-H Advisory Committee Scholarship
The Geauga County 4-H Advisory Committee Scholarship may award up to two $500 academic scholarships for the 2020 year. See application for details and requirements. Deadline to apply is July 31st.

4-H Horse Committee Scholarship
The Geauga County 4-H Horse Committee may award up to two $500 academic scholarships. See application for details. Deadline to apply is August 1st.

Geauga County Jr. Fair Livestock Sale Committee Inc. Scholarship
4-H youth participating in the Geauga County Junior Fair Livestock Auction, that have graduated from High School and will be attending either a vocational, two or four year college are eligible to apply for a scholarship sponsored by the Geauga County Junior Fair Livestock Sale Committee Inc. Applications due July 1. See application for complete details.
4-H Camp Whitewood Shirts
If you are missing camp this summer, we have got you covered with the limited edition “Camp is the Cure” shirt collection. A portion of sales will help support Camp Whitewood. Orders will be distributed through the Extension Office or you can choose to have it shipped directly for an additional fee.

Sale ends May 10th

https://4hcampwhitewood.itemorder.com/sale

Virtual Public Speaking & Demonstration Contest
This year’s contest will be conducted on the Geauga County 4-H Facebook Page. Members wishing to enter the contest will post a 3-5 minute speech or demonstration in the comments of the Contest Post. The winner will receive a pizza part for their club (once we are able to meet in person again).

Contest Details:
- Videos must be posted by 4:30pm on May 22
- Videos will be judged on content and delivery
- All participants will receive a certificate
- Resources are available at http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/4h-46

LIVESTOCK/HORSE

Horse Safety & Ethics
All first year horse project members must complete the Ohio 4-H’s Horse Safety & Ethics program. First year members will be receiving an email invitation for the EquiSTEP online course program from the state office. Please check your junk/spam folders. Additionally, an email outlining instruction will be sent from the Geauga County Extension Office. Members must complete this training by June 1st to be eligible to participate in 4-H horse events.

Quality Assurance Update
Geauga County will offer QA training after the July 6th date, pending any additional OSU programming extensions and social distancing guidelines from Governor DeWine. At this time, we are not releasing a date until we have a better idea of what protocols will be in place. The in-county training will be either online via Zoom platform or in-person but we do not know what that will look like at this time. Members can elect to do the YQCA online training if they wish to pay a fee. Thank you for your patience and understanding.
**A Message from Jan:**

I hope this finds all of our Junior Fair exhibitors and their families well. Junior Fair is still on at this time, just a little different than year’s past. We continue to secure judges and make preparations for our activities in the hope that things will be closer to normal than they currently are.

Any Junior Fair youth 16 to 18 interested in applying for Junior Fair King or Queen should complete the application form, which can be found on the Fair website or you can contact me via email at jlijackam@gmail.com to get a copy.

Those clubs with market goats and sheep please note that there will be no weigh-in for your animals this year, as the stay at home mandate is still in effect. Make sure your animals have been tagged and your information turned in to your adult coordinator by the tagging date of May16. Swine tag information is also due by this date.

A special thank you to all those members who participated in the Ferris wheel Friday, the pictures were great!

Thank you! Jan

**Swing Tagging**

Hog tagging must be completed and turned in to Kirk Walker by noon on May 16th. Contact Krik to pick up your tags. Thanks Kirk. 440 679 4207.