

Geauga County 4-H



News & Notes

December 2020

To Our 4-H Families:

As you know, COVID-19 is on the rise in Ohio and because 4-H'ers pledge their health to better living, we must do our part to not contribute to its spread. Ohio 4-H is a part of a land-grant academic institution; we follow science and model what the [CDC](#), [Ohio Department of Health](#) and [other experts](#) stress is important in addressing this virus. As a result, in an effort to keep our 4-H families, volunteers, and communities safe, effective December 7, 2020, **all 4-H meetings and events are to be canceled, postponed, or held virtually until January 15, 2021.**

All 4-H volunteers are expected to follow these guidelines regarding 4-H meetings and events. Volunteers who are not in compliance and hold in-person 4-H events and activities will receive a first warning. A second incident disregarding our effort to protect the health, safety and well-being of members, families and communities will result in immediate termination of volunteer status.

The [Ohio Public Health Advisory System](#) indicates the status of counties based on a color-coded system. If a county is purple or approaching purple, OSU Extension offices will be closed and employees will be working virtually. If a county is red, OSU Extension offices will be staffed by appointment only. You will need to call in advance to schedule a time to go to the office. Please note there may be additional guidelines from county health departments.

We are incredibly proud of the efforts of our 4-H youth and volunteers who remain committed to making the best better and look forward to the time when we can safely meet together.

Yours in service to 4-H,
Kirk Blair
State 4-H Leader
Assistant Director, OSU Extension

ADVISOR AREA

2021 Packet Pick Up & Virtual Update

January 28, 2021

Due to COVID and the ongoing restrictions associated with large in person gatherings, our Annual Update and Conference will not take place as regularly scheduled.

Clubs can pick up their club packets at the Extension Office on
Tuesday, January 26th 9:00am – 4:30pm
Wednesday January 27th 9:00am – 4:30pm and 4:30pm-6:30pm

Virtual Annual Update: Thursday, January 28th at 6:30pm

- One volunteer from each club should attend.
- Please register for this virtual training update at: [2021 Annual Update Registration](#)

***Clubs may submit their 2020 Financial Summaries when they pick up their club packet**

https://geauga.osu.edu/sites/geauga/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/financial%20summary.pdf

2021 Potential 4-H Volunteers

Anyone interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer for the 2021 year must complete the entire screening process (application, references, BCI, and interview) by **March 31, 2021**. Volunteer applications are available to download and print at www.geauga.osu.edu.

Volunteer interviews will be conducted on Friday, December 11th, Monday, February 15th and Thursday, March 18th. All potential volunteers must schedule an interview time. Interviews will be virtual via the Zoom platform until further notice.

Virtual Volunteer Recognition

Geauga 4-H would like to virtually showcase and recognize our outstanding volunteers since we are not able to do so at the annual recognition ceremony. Similar to our Senior Recognition, we will be featuring volunteer bio's on the Geauga County 4-H Facebook page. If you would like to participate, please complete the following questionnaire, and upload your photo. To complete the Volunteer Recognition bio, visit [Geauga 4-H Volunteer Recognition](#)

Advisory Committee Membership

Our 4-H Advisory Committee is seeking new membership in the project areas of Goats and Miscellaneous Projects. The committee meetings the first Monday of the month October – May. If you are interested, please contact the Extension Office.

CLUB NEWS

2021 4-H Enrollment – ONLINE

This year we will be 99% online enrollments. Paper enrollments are required for first time members and volunteers only. No paper enrollment forms for returning members/volunteers will be distributed like previous years.

Families will be enrolling their youth members by creating a family profile. Volunteers will enroll themselves as well.

Complete instructions and video resources are available at: <https://geauga.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/how-join-geauga-county-4-h/4-h-online-enrollment>

We are working to hold virtual 4-H Enrollment Q&A office hours.

Project Book Orders

If clubs/youth can place orders through the Extension Office or can order directly from the website. Only orders purchased through the Extension Office with a club check are tax exempt. Personal orders will be charged tax.

To order online, visit: <https://ohio4h.org/booksresources> (Coupon for free shipping on orders over \$20)

For an order form to submit to the Geauga Extension Office, visit:

https://geauga.osu.edu/sites/geauga/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/2021%20Summary%20of%20Changes.pdf

Family Guide Distribution

The Ohio 4-H Office will be sending each Geauga 4-H Family a Family Guide Packet directly by mail around mid-January. One packet per family. The Extension Office will have a limited supply of Family Guides for new families. Clubs should notify the office of how many new families they anticipate. We will include these additional Family Guides with the club packets.

Family Guides are available for print and digital viewing at: <https://ohio4h.org/familyguide>

Distribution of 4-H Information

Effective January 1, 2021, all Geauga 4-H mass correspondences including newsletters, event flyers, etc. will be sent from our 4-H Online System, using the emails families and volunteers entered during their enrollment. This transition will be occurring over the next few months, communications will be sent through 4-H Online and directly from the Extension Office. Please check your email spam/junk files. The correspondences will come from oh-geauga@4honline.com. Families will also directly receive newsletters and other information through 4-H Online as well

4-H MEMBERS

Camp Counselor Applications

Camp Counselor Applications will be due December 31st. Applications are available in "click and print", online, and can be mailed upon request. Youth (4-H or not), age 15 or older by June 1, 2021, are eligible to apply. The 2021 Geauga-Trumbull Camp is scheduled for June 13-18, 2021 at Camp Whitewood. <https://geauga.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/geauga-county-4-h-camp>

Submission of References:

Applicants should provide their reference with this link: [Gauga Trumbull 4-H Counselor Reference Form](#)

Volunteers: If you would like to recommend a youth (4-H member or not), who you think would make a great counselor, please send Alisha their contact information.

2021 Quality Assurance Update

Gauga County will attempt to offer an in-person QA training on Saturday, May 1st. We will also be offering QA Zoom trainings like were offered earlier this year. Virtual QA dates will be announced early in 2021. Members can elect to do the YQCA online training for 2021 if they wish to pay a fee. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

- 5** **Steer Tagging**
- 11 Virtual Volunteer Interview Day
- 24-25 Happy Holidays – Extension Office Closed
- 31** **2021 Camp Counselor Applications due**

January

- 1 Happy New Year – Extension Office Closed
- 28** **Virtual Annual Update (must pre-register)**
- 31** **2019 Club Financial Summary due**

February

- 15 Volunteer Interview Day by appointment only
Camp Counselor Interviews

The following 2021 dates are tentative in-person events. Please note, they are subject to change at anytime and may be moved to a virtual format due to COVID.

- February 15** – Camp Counselor Interviews
- May 1** – Quality Assurance Training
- July 17** – Project Judging (Animal & Miscellaneous)

We gratefully acknowledge the continued help and financial support of our Geauga County Commissioners:
Jim Dvorak, Tim Lennon, and Ralph Spidalieri.

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Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership. TDD/TTY - 1-800-750-0750.