Happy New Year 4-H Families! I hope all of you have been doing well and have had an enjoyable holiday with your families. As we look forward to a new year, I wish everyone the best of luck (with added grace and patience) as unknown territory is still being navigated.

As we look forward to a fresh start and a new 4-H year, I encourage you to read through the opportunities included in this edition of the newsletter. Also, I hope that as a 4-H family we can approach this year with positivity and hopefulness. I look forward to the day we can meeting in-person again (with caution of course). The details of our program events are still being worked out in hopes that we can conduct them in person, however virtual plans are being drafted as well. Until we have a clearer approach, full details will not be shared. As clubs and committees, I remind everyone to be mindful of others’ health and wellness. Please make sure to review the Ohio 4-H Planning Guide for In-Person Meetings as we prepare for another amazing year of Geauga 4-H.

Yours in 4-H,
Alisha Faudie
4-H Extension Educator
**Advisor Area**

**2021 Packet Pick Up & Virtual Update**

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.* Summaries may also be emailed to faudie.2@osu.edu or ward.714@osu.edu.

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

**Ohio 4-H Virtual Conference**

The 2021 Virtual Ohio 4-H Conference brings together 4-H volunteers and teens (age 13 and older) from across Ohio. You can participate in a variety of educational session that offer something for everyone!

Join us as we learn from one another to make the best better for Ohio 4-H programs.

This year's conference dates:
- **Saturday, February 20**: 9:00am
- **Thursday, February 25**: 7:00pm
- **Saturday, February 27**: 7:00pm

**New 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](http://www.geauga.osu.edu).

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

**2021 4-H ENROLLMENTS**

It’s time to start enrolling in Geauga County 4-H for 2021. Project selection is important, and we encourage you to check out [https://projectcentral.ohio4h.org](http://https://projectcentral.ohio4h.org) to explore the wide variety of options available. Once you are ready to enroll…

**WEBSITE:** [http://v2.4honline.com/](http://v2.4honline.com/)
Best Browsers for access: Firefox and Chrome.

**Returning Members & Advisors:**
Instructional step-by-step video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6tEKXvnFRY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6tEKXvnFRY)

**New 4-H Members**

Complete a paper enrollment form. The Extension Office will enroll you based on your form. If the new member is a sibling of a current members (family already has an enrollment profile), member can submit a paper form or be entered online by the parent/guardian.

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](https://geauga.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/how-join-geauga-county-4-h/4-h-online-enrollment)

Need Enrollment help? Open to volunteers, parents, and members.
March 4 at 6:30pm - [Virtual 4-H Enrollment Help Session](#)
4-H Club News

4-H Yard Display Contest – Replaces the Window Display Contest
This year we are taking a social distancing approach to our 4-H promotion actions. Instead of the regular Window Display Contest where clubs come together to decorate a business display, we are suggesting “yard displays”. Both youth members and volunteers are encouraged to decorate their own yards, front doors, porches, barns, etc.

Displays can promote a club, 4-H camp, or 4-H in general. This year there is no specific criteria required. There is no limit to the number of displays once club can have. Displays should depict a positive 4-H message and be large enough to read from a distance. Take a picture of your display and email it to faudie.2@osu.edu or ward.714@osu.edu by 8:00am on March 8th. Winning display will earn their club a $50 gift card to the 4-H Mall.

Refer-A-Friend Contest
As 2021 may continue to be a challenging year, clubs are encouraged to recruit new members again for the 2021 4-H Year. This year’s contest will award the club who recruits the biggest percent of new members in relation to their 2020 returning members. Winning club will get to choose between a $50 4-H Mall Gift Card or $50 Joann Fabrics Gift Card. Clubs electing to participate will need to submit the club refer-a-friend form.

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

Club Information for Website
It’s time to review and update your clubs information on the website. Please review what is currently online and complete the attached form titled Club Information Form and return it to the Extension Office at your earliest convenience with any changes. The information you provide will be used to update the club page on the OSU website geauga.osu.edu. If at any time a club would like to change the content on their club page, the club would just resubmit a new form and the information will be updated. Club Information Form

Celebrating 4-H
4-H Stories from Current Members, Advisors, and Alumni. Share your fondest 4-H memories, how 4-H has changed you, your leadership experiences, how you met your best friend in 4-H, how your project challenged you, etc. Send us your stories by February 28. We hope to share through social media, our website, compile a handout of our 4-H stories, and possibly share in the newspapers

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-later 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
### Member Information

#### Camp Counselor Applications
Camp Counselor Applications will be due January 15th. 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](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: [Geauga Trumbull 4-H Counselor Reference Form](https://geauga.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/geauga-county-4-h-camp)

*Camp Counselors do not need to be 4-H member*

#### 4-H Fashion Board Applications
Members interested in joining the 2021 Fashion Board should complete an application and submit it to the Extension Office by March 1, 2021. Members must be at least 12 years old (as of Jan 1, 2020), have previously completed two years of clothing or textile projects, and carry a clothing project while serving on the board. Contact the Extension Office for an application or complete the online application at: [2021 Geauga 4-H Fashion Board Application](https://geauga.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/geauga-county-4-h-camp)

#### State Achievement Record
25 different areas; beef, citizenship & community service, clothing, companion animals, dairy, dairy goat, environmental services, family life & child development, foods & nutrition, gardening and horticulture, health & safety, horse, leadership, meat goat, mechanical engineering sciences, personal development, photography, poultry, rabbits, sheep, shooting sports, swine, woodworking and vet science. Applications are due by February 1st. Youth can submit their application via email to Alisha at faudie.2@osu.edu.

For more information regarding opportunities, please visit [https://ohio4h.org/families/just-teens](https://ohio4h.org/families/just-teens)

#### Across County Lines Request
OSU Extension policy is that youth should participate in the 4-H program in their county of residence. Each county program received money for operations from their county government and local volunteers work hard to support their local programming. Therefore, across county membership is strongly discouraged.

If you have youth interested in joining your club that live out-of-county, they MUST complete a Request for Membership Across County Lines form and submit it to the 4-H Educator in the county where membership is being requested. NOTE: This must be done as early as possible in the 4-H year as counties have different enrollment deadlines and the form may need to be processed earlier than the county deadline.

The policy and form may be printed from our website: [geauga.osu.edu](http://geauga.osu.edu) (4-H Youth Development, Club Information and Forms). The Geauga County deadline is March 15th.

Permission for 4-H membership across county lines should NOT BE assumed by the parents of the child or advisors until official notification is received from the 4-H office I the county of request.

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