

Geauga County 4-H



News & Notes

October | 2020

In-Person Meeting Guidelines – Effective as of September 1, 2020

- Virtual is still the preferred method to conduct meetings.
- If activities are critical/essential and are in-person, they must be education-focused.
- Group cannot be larger than 50 people, including adults, youth, presenters, etc.
 - This directive is dependent on local health department guidelines.
 - The group size may need to be reduced to 10 (or other amount), based on the directives of your local health department.
- Face masks are required.
 - This includes inside AND outside at all times.
 - Program participants and parent/guardians ages five and older must wear a mask.
 - The exception is shooting sports where safety is a concern when on the line. Refer to the full guidance document online for additional shooting sports guidance (link below).
 - Medical conditions or disability exceptions are also permitted.
- Potlucks and buffets are not permitted

Any time your county is designated a Level 4 Public Health Emergency (color-coded purple) by the Ohio Department of Health, all in-person 4-H club meetings and events must be held virtually or postponed until the designation changes to Level 3 or below.

Ohio's Public Health Advisory System updates are at

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/publichealth-advisory-system/>

All other guidance we provided July 22 is still in effect. That information, along with these new updates, is at <https://ohio4h.org/families/stay-connected>.

ADVISOR AREA

4-H Advisory Committee Open Recruitment

The Geauga County 4-H Advisory Committee is comprised of a representative group of Ohio State University Extension Screened Geauga County 4-H Volunteers. The committee offers insight, review, and input for the operation and management of the Geauga County 4-H Program and helps guide the 4-H program direction in concert with state and national 4-H policy. The committee meets face-to-face on a monthly basis and may utilize email to conduct committee business. Open recruitment for committee membership takes place every fall. Interested individuals are invited to apply. Applications must be printed or typed. Applications are due by **October 31st** and submitted to the Geauga County Extension Office. Selected individuals will be notified in writing. See attached application or contact the Extension Office for more information.

https://geauga.osu.edu/sites/geauga/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/forms/Advisory%20Committee%20Application.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. Online applications submissions will be available soon.

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.

CLUB NEWS

Virtual 4-H Promotion Challenge

Virtual 4-H Club promotion. We are looking for a short video submission (think 30 second commercial, 1 minute max) giving a brief overview of your club: what projects, how often you meet and where, any community service/education events, and anything else that makes your club unique. Videos can include members, volunteers, project samples, etc. and will be posted on the 4-H Facebook site, OSUE website, and linked to a digital flyer to be distributed throughout the county. Limit one video submission per club. Deadline to submit videos is November 13th. See flyer for more details.

TSC Paper Clover Campaign – Fall 2020

TSC continues their partnership and support of 4-H with the Paper Clover Campaign. This fall's dates are set for Oct. 7-18. TSC store and regional management are extremely committed to partnering with 4-H on the local level to raise the visibility of our program and garner customer donations that advance positive youth development. Unfortunately, there will be no in-store promotion events this fall.



Contribute during our 2020 fundraisers by:

1. Donating in store at the register. [Click here](#) for the store locator.
2. Donating online at checkout when making a purchase on tractorsupply.com. (Donations will be assigned to states based on the shipping location).
3. Donating by phone when you call TSC Customer Solutions at 877-718-6750

All funds the Geauga County 4-H Program receives from the Paper Clover Campaigns are used to provide full campships for Cloverbuds to attend our Cloverbud Camp in July at no cost to the families

4-H Information Distribution

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.

Member Recognition Certificates & Pins

Those clubs who would like member achievement certificates (to recognize a member's years in 4-H) and corresponding pins, should place their club order with the Extension Office by **September 30th**. Certificates and pins, by club, will be available for pick up at the Extension Office. To be eligible, members must have completed their yearly 4-H requirements (project judging, QA, etc.) and volunteers must have completed their trainings.

**There is a limited supply of Membership Pins. Pins will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis until gone.*

4-H MEMBERS

Statement on 4-H Membership Eligibility – Kirk Bloir, Assistant Director Ohio 4-H

Ohio 4-H membership begins with Cloverbuds when a child is five and ends on December 31 of the year, they turn 19. Due to cancellation of activities in 2020, there have been requests to extend a year of eligibility for 4-H members. This was given strong consideration at the national and regional levels. The decision was made that national 4-H programs will follow existing age requirements and another year of eligibility will not be granted. Following conversation with our 4-H professionals, Ohio will follow that policy.

Changing the policy would set an unsustainable precedent for youth participation for years to come. It would create increased unfairness when considering competitive events with the cascading impact on those who would have aged out taking spots of current youth down the line. COVID-19 has created a loss of experiences for everyone however, I am confident in the resiliency of our youth. Over the past few months, their ability to adapt and willingness to persevere has been evidenced by their participation in virtual camps, meetings, and other 4-H activities. Ohio 4-H is proud of how our volunteers and young people have adapted in this unprecedented time.

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>

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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.