

4-H programs help build character



Raising children to become decent and responsible adults is a complex and challenging job that is becoming increasingly difficult in our society.

According to the 4-H program, "to be a person of good character, youth must develop strengths of the 4 'H's': head - they must know what is good; heart - they must desire to do the good; hands - they must be willing to do good; and health - they must develop a lifestyle that supports the desire and willingness to do good.

The Morrow County 4-H program strives to develop good character in 4-H members, said Bill Broderick, Extension agent.

Qualities that define good character have been debated by various groups but in 1992, the Josephson Institute of Ethics with the help of scholars, parents, youth workers, and others published the "Aspen Declaration." This declaration has become the cornerstone for the character development education programs in the United States. The Aspen Declaration states:

1. The next generation will be the stewards of the world.

2. The well being of society needs citizens with good character.

3. People do not automatically develop good moral character. Children must be taught so that they develop the values and abilities necessary for moral decision making and conduct.

4. Character education is based on core ethical values - pillars of character development - trustworthiness, respect for others, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

5. These core values transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.

6. Although character education is first and foremost an obligation of faith communities, the community in general, schools, and youth and family serving organizations are also responsible.

7. Youth have a better chance of learning moral values if all groups work together to teach and reinforce moral values.

8. Every adult must take responsibility to model and teach the pillars of character development.

You can see, that although this declaration was only developed in 1992, 4-H, as the youth program of the land-grant Universities (Oregon State University) has been using similar guidelines for the past 75 years, said Broderick.

4-H Pillars of Character: Teach your 4-H members:

-Trustworthiness: be honest, stand up for their beliefs, show commitment, keep promises, don't ask someone to do anything wrong, don't gossip, stand by your friends and family.

-Respect: be courteous, polite, tolerate the different view of others, be on time, listen to others, respect others' decisions, judge people on merit, use peaceful methods to solve conflicts, take pride in their appearance, take care of their property and the property of others.

-Responsibility: think before they act, take responsibility for their actions, set a good example, do their best, not lose their temper, complete tasks, be a good sport, return borrowed things.

-Fairness: treat people fairly, listen to others, never cheat, play by the rules.

-Caring: treat others as they want to be treated.

-Citizenship: respect authority, protect the environment, volunteer in the community.

The most effective way to teach 4-Hers the pillars of

character development is to model the above qualities, says Broderick. Action speaks louder than words. Agents and volunteers are some of the most important teachers of our youngsters. Allow discussions of moral dilemmas concerning character. Volunteers, 4-Hers, and their parents must know the values of the 4-H program which are basically the pillars of character development.

4-H volunteers are perhaps some of the most influential people in the character development of 4-Hers, he said. Volunteers help youth learn the pillars of character by using some of the following tips:

-Strategy: create an atmosphere of positive and negative consequences that encourage and esteem good character; 4-H volunteer tips: Praise conduct of good character, especially when that behavior was difficult; make sure that negative behavior results in an appropriately negative consequence; don't be afraid of setting and enforcing limits in your club; use the pillars of character development as a guide when planning activities for youth.

-Strategy: youth learn by example. Hold yourself as a role model for the six pillars of character; 4-H volunteer tips: regardless of the difficulty, have your actions match the expected behavior of the pillars; when someone violates one of the pillars of good character, express disapproval; develop club rituals and patterns that support the six pillars, such as input into decisions, solve conflict fairly; as a club or individual, participate in volunteer experiences in the community.

-Strategy: express your commitment to character development to schools, individuals and organizations that influence youth in your community; 4-H volunteer tips: contact influential individuals and groups about the importance of character education in your community; make it clear to school administrators and other adults working with youth that you expect them to maintain an environment that fosters the development of the six pillars of character; work as a team with parents so that a consistent message is being sent to your members.

-Strategy: teach your club members the importance of living by the six pillars of character; 4-H volunteer tips: look for opportunities to discuss the moral dilemma of the six pillars in club situations, TV shows, movies, news items, Dear Abby letters, or books; emphasize character in club discussions; acknowledge feelings and listen.

Morrow County 4-H stresses character development that will help youth and volunteers learn:

1) I am responsible for what I do; 2) I am responsible for treating people with respect and consideration; 3) I am responsible to support my community and the world; 4) I am responsible for treating the earth with respect; 5) I am responsible for accepting individual differences; 6) I am responsible to do what I say I will do.

In an environment such as the Morrow County Fair, our Morrow County 4-H members can develop the character needed to be competent, caring, and contributing adults, he said.

The August 18 chamber meeting will take place at noon at the Boardman Marina Park Picnic Pavilion. There is no charge to attend. All interested members of the community are welcome; those wishing to purchase a box lunch must RSVP by 4 p.m. Monday, August 16. Call 481-2571 or 481-3014 to reserve a \$6 box lunch.

For questions or directions, contact the Boardman Chamber of Commerce, 481-3014.

Construction activities started the week of August 2. The closure area begins at the junction of East Birch Creek Road and continues approximately nine miles south on Forest Road 54.

"The road will also be realigned to move it further away from the stream in order to eliminate flooding and help improve fish habitat," said Edwards. Construction activities are expected to be completed sometime in November.

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Hydraulic/ Millwright Gilchrist, Oregon

Progressive wood products company seeking self-motivated, experienced Hydraulic/Millwright. Must possess a minimum of 5 years experience in hydraulic and millwright field. Must be proficient in trouble-shooting, hydraulic systems, read schematics, rebuilding hydraulic components, understand flow & design, welding, fabrication and general millwright duties. Must possess own hand tools.

Resume to:
Jim Adkisson
Crown Pacific
P.O. Box 638
Gilchrist, OR 97737
Crown Pacific offers an excellent work environment, compensation and benefits package
EEO/Drug Free Work Place Employer

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Kids invited to pedal power tractor pull

The Pedal Power Tractor Pulling Contest, for kids aged 10 and under, sponsored by Pioneer Implement of Hermiston, will once again be held at the fair on Wednesday, August 18, at 5 p.m.

Come out and watch the little guys and gals pedal as hard as their little legs will go.



A pedal power tractor pulling contestant about to cross the finish line

What is 4-H?

What is 4-H? - Friends, fun and learning about nature, cooking, growing plants, photography, animal care, or working together to help others.

Who can belong to 4-H? - Anyone kindergarten through 12th grade. You'll find 4-H

throughout your county, state, country and the world. Kindergartners through third graders must join 4-H adventure clubs. In Morrow County, we have over 300 members from grades four through 12.

Look what you can do in 4-H? - Members are enrolled in animal science, natural science, home economics and expressive arts project areas.

What do you do in 4-H? - It depends on you. 4-H members may be friends in the same grade or school, or include people from other communities. Clubs decide how often to meet and elect officers to conduct club business. Your club may decide to be active in the community, raise money for charity, become involved in recycling projects or build nature trails. You can go on field trips or to 4-H camp. The choices grow as you get older.

Does 4-H cost a lot? - There are no state or national dues or required uniform. You pay \$3.50 per year for printed materials and information and for project materials in most clubs. A horse project is \$4.50. Your 4-H club may decide to collect dues to fund special activities.

How do you join 4-H? - It's easy. Choose the project you like. Ask some friends or brothers and sisters to join you. Ask parents, grandparents, adult friends or neighborhood adults to be your leader. Several adults can share this responsibility. You need only two members, but you can have as many as you like. Determine the projects your club would like to enroll in and visit the Extension office or call an agent for help. There are also numerous active clubs that welcome new members.

4-H is Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow and "learning by doing." - Learning how to set goals and work toward those goals; responsibility--for an animal, finishing projects, choosing how much to learn and deciding how involved in 4-H to be; leadership, decision-making, cooperation and how to present yourself and ideas to others.

For information about the 4-H Youth Development program, contact the OSU Extension office in Heppner, 676-9642 or 1-800-342-3664.

Jazz in the park set in Hermiston

A free jazz concert has been planned for Saturday, Aug. 28, at the McKenzie Park in Hermiston. The group playing will be "Tall Jazz."

Awards program planned, Aug. 21

Do you ever feel there is too much emphasis placed on what is wrong with youth today? Here is your chance to see what is great about Morrow County youth - attend the Morrow County Fair Awards program, Saturday, August 21, at 4:30 p.m. in the Wilkinson Arena. The Awards Program is a must for 4-H and FFA youth, parents and leaders and anyone who enjoys young people, said Bill Broderick, Morrow County Extension agent.

At the awards program, it is always fun to see older youth receive the traditional "Grand Champion" and "Outstanding..." awards, said Broderick, but is also fun to see younger members

receive the "Champion Junior Cookie Maker" or "Most Enthusiastic Beginner Livestock Member" awards.

Most awards are purchased by the Morrow County 4-H Leaders Council with funds raised by volunteers through the donor campaign or Snack Shack operation. These awards are separate from fair premium awards.

Every youth who completes project requirements, registers for fair on time and competes is a winner, he said. Encourage family, neighbors, and friends of 4-H members to attend the awards program and congratulate youth for their participation in the 1999 Morrow County Fair.

Open dog show set for Aug. 18

Logan International of Boardman is sponsoring a hospitality booth at the fair on Thursday and Friday, August 18 and 19 between the hours of 12 and 10 p.m.

Everyone is invited to stop by, visit with Logan International's representatives and learn more about the company in Morrow County and have a sample of french fries.

Hospitality booth planned

An Open Dog Show will be held at the Morrow County Fair immediately following the 4-H Dog Judging on Wednesday, August 18. The 4-H Dog Judging starts at 3 p.m.

The public is reminded that

only dogs that are going to be in the dog show or in the pet show earlier in the afternoon are allowed on the fairgrounds.

Everyone (and their dog) is invited to participate in the open dog show.

Video on children and divorce available

The Morrow County Commission on Children & Families has donated the video, "Children: The Experts on Divorce" to each public library in Morrow County.

The national award-winning video tape was created for parents who want to learn what children really think about divorce and what children need from parents during and after