

4-H volunteer leaders do awesome things for youth

The 4-H program relies on volunteer adult leaders to organize and lead groups of 4-H members. Research shows that youth who have a non-parental adult as a friend, teacher, and mentor do better than youth without such an adult presence. As a 4-H leader and educator, you are in a position of great influence. You can channel members' curiosity, inspire new interests, and continually offer new opportunities for them to grow and develop into happy and productive adults. You can be the key to a young person's success!

A recent study showed that most 4-H leaders volunteer because they are interested in making a difference in the lives of young people. While some 4-H leaders have expertise in a particular content area, such as animal science, it is not a requirement. The 4-H program is always looking for quality, committed adult volunteers. If you are interested in exploring becoming a 4-H volunteer, please call or visit the Extension office.

Studies show that each 4-H volunteer gives an average of 200 hours of time annually to the 4-H Youth Development program. Looking at Oregon's 6,000 volunteers, that means 1,200,000 hours are given annually to help youth develop skills for a lifetime. Nationally, the current estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$17.55 per hour. "Not only are 4-H volunteer leaders awesome, but the value of their time to Oregon 4-H is more than \$20 million annually," said Bill Broderick, M.C. Extension agent.

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Awards program planned August 18

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 18, at 3 p.m. in the Wilkinson Arena. The awards program is a must for 4-H youth, parents and leaders and anyone who enjoys young people.

All fair categories are recognized at the awards program, 4-H and open class. It is always fun to see youth receive the traditional "grand champion" and "outstanding...." awards. But it's also fun to see younger members receive the "champion junior cookie baker" 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. Bill Broderick, Morrow County Extension agent, encourages family, neighbors, and friends of 4-H members to attend the awards program and congratulate youth for their participation in the 2007 Morrow County Fair.

Get involved in Morrow County Fair

We go to the Morrow County Fair to look at the flowers, watch the 4-H members compete, and check out the livestock. But there is no doubt that fair is always more fun if we are part of the event!

There is still time to participate. The fair opens to the public on August 15, but exhibits are accepted on Monday, August 13. Turn through your Morrow County Fair Premium Book right now and look at all the opportunities to be part of the fun.

Be an exhibitor at the 2007 Morrow County Fair. It's easier than you think.

Buyer Appreciation Dinner new to fair this year

New to the fair this year will be a Buyers' Appreciation Dinner. The dinner is provided to each livestock auction buyer from 2006 plus one guest.

Meals may be purchased after buyers have eaten, based on availability. 4-H would like to show their appreciation to the tremendous support that these buyers have for our youth, said Morrow County Extension agent Bill Broderick. Last year's buyers should receive passes to the fair and the dinner. The dinner will be held from 4:30 pm to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 18, prior to the auction.

Pet show Wednesday

The Pet Show will be on Wednesday, August 15, at 3 p.m. Immediately following the pet show will be The Ugliest and Prettiest Pet Contest. Everyone is invited to enter their pet or just see all the many different pets entered.

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