

President's Corner

By Bobbi Flowers State Leaders Association President

Hello Idaho Volunteers,

Spring has sprung and so have the activities for the 2014 4-H year. Robotic Regional Qualifiers, and Know Your Government and T.A.L.K. conferences have concluded for this year with great involvement from across the state. Events yet to come are the State Archery Shoot, Teen Conference, and the State Leaders Forum to name a few. I do hope volunteers and youth alike will take the opportunity to participate in some of the upcoming events.

The State Leaders Association is embarking on evaluating and redefining itself to better serve those whom we represent. Nancy Melville, 4-H Volunteer Development Specialist and I would appreciate hearing from volunteers, parents, youth, and extension across the state regarding needs or concerns that you have. We wish to grow the participation of volunteers through recognizing what is lacking and working on correcting it. Nancy may be reached at nmelville@uidaho.edu. I may be reached at idaho4hsla@gmail.com.

If you haven't signed up with 4-H Online, I encourage you to do so as it will benefit the efforts of communicating with all. For questions regarding signing up on 4-H Online, contact your local extension office for assistance.

Wishing you and your 4-H youth all the best in the county, district, and state contests!

Respectfully yours,
Bobbi Flowers

The Leader's Corner is Evolving! This newsletter, written for all 4-H volunteers in Idaho, is now a collaborative effort from volunteers around the state. We have some big shoes to fill following the previous editor, Bobbi Flowers, but we're dedicated to the high standards she set. Let us know what you think and be sure to offer ideas and suggestions for future editions

Editors: JoAnne Fortier, Dist. 1
Tass Heim, Dist. 2
Kortni Wells, Dist. 3
Virginia Dye, Dist. 4

The 2014 District 1 Teen Retreat was more fun than we could stand. Here are some snapshots of what we got to do in Post Falls January 19-20.



We began with icebreakers and get to know you games which we will be able to utilize later. There were some intense Minute -To - Win - It moments! Community service projects completed as a group included making Valentine's cards for a retirement home as well as donating collected winter clothing to the St. Vincent de Paul Shelter.

Nancy Melville came and spoke with us about bullying and being an Upstander. There were some thought provoking activities to get us thinking about this topic.

Jim Wilson led us through Leadership Challenge activities to get us working as a group and refining our communication skills. These proved easier done with your feet on the floor and no blindfolds.

Just to make sure we all got our exercise we all learned some new Western Swing moves. What a great way to get your heart pumping.

Over the retreat we also got to dye and decorate unique District 1 T-shirts. You will certainly see us coming, each one an individual, but all of us part of the group.



Save the Date: November 7-9, 2014



2014 Idaho State 4-H Leaders' Forum
Hosted by Northern Extension District 4-H Volunteers and Staff
Red Lion Hotel
Lewiston, Idaho

Workshop Proposals are now being accepted until April 25th. Forms are available on the Forum website:

<http://extension.uidaho.edu/kootenai/2014/03/06/state-4-h-leader-forum/>

Calling all leaders... We need your great ideas to be shared at the November State Leaders' Forum. This Forum is an important opportunity for leaders to support their peers by expanding their knowledge and adding "tools" to the project leader toolbox! Please don't keep all your successful ideas and outcomes to yourself! If you need any help putting together a workshop, do not hesitate to contact Nancy Melville at nmelville@uidaho.edu or 208 454-6556. We look forward to benefitting from your knowledge and experience!

Help! We need help making certain EVERY leader in Idaho receives the important information in this newsletter. If you know a volunteer who does not have internet access PLEASE encourage them to contact their county office for a hard copy.

Hall Of Fame

It is once again time for Idaho 4-H to honor a group of dedicated, caring individuals by including them in our Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame. We will be inducting this new group of individuals at our annual state 4-H Leader's Forum being held in Lewiston, November 7, 8, and 9, 2014.

More information, including nomination applications and guidelines, will be coming your way very soon! Information will be sent to you via email (4-HOnline) and will be placed on our state website. Your county offices will also have information and applications. Please be thinking of those people who have made a significant difference over the years to our 4-H youth in Idaho, and let's recognize them for their efforts.

2014 State 4-H Leaders Forum

Workshop Proposal Form

Submissions Due: April 25, 2014



Primary Presenter: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Primary Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____
Role (check one): Youth Volunteer Faculty/Staff Other: _____
Co-presenter Names (if applicable): _____

Workshop Title (30 character limit): _____
Workshop Goals/Outcomes – “What will participants learn” (30 words max.): _____

Workshop Description – should reflect goals/outcomes above (50 words max.): _____

Target Audience (check one): Youth New Volunteers Experienced Volunteers Staff
Workshop Format (check one): Lecture Interactive Discussion Hands-on Activities
Presentation Length: 1 hour 2 hour
Room Set-up Preference: Classroom Large Square Theatre
Does this workshop require open space for group movement: No Yes
Is there a limit as to number of participants: No Yes If yes, maximum group size: _____
Will this workshop require an additional fee: No Yes If yes, how much: \$ _____
If additional audio/visual equipment is requested, please specify:
 Flip chart/easel Screen Power Strips LCD Projector Other: _____

Workshop proposal are due (preferably electronically in MS Word) no later than **April 25th** to:

Kootenai County Extension
1808 N. 3rd Street, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
Phone: 208-446-1680, Fax: 208-446-1690
Email: jwilson@uidaho.edu

All primary workshop presenters will be notified by **May 5th** whether their proposal was selected or not.

Angela Neely

Madison County Swine/Beef Leader

“4H is not just for the kids involved. It is a family affair. If parents dedicate a little bit of time.. the project turns out so much better

I grew up on a farm in Ashton. We raised grain, potatoes, alfalfa, and sheep. I didn't do 4H as a child, but always wished that I had. When my oldest daughter turned 8 and asked about 4H, I was thrilled. I found her a leader, offered to assist her, and when that first year was done, her and my other children convinced me to be their future leader. After just two years of swine 4H, my children have talked me out of my comfort zone and we are adding a beef project. We are all excited to go into this new endeavor together.

We hold club meetings on a weekly or bi-monthly basis through the year. We recite the 4H pledge to start every meeting and have a presentation. The members choose what they want to learn about and are each required to do a presentation which can consist of a diagram showing the various cuts of meat on a market animal to the different breeds of the species, or one of

our personal favorites...the different parasites and what we can do to control them. When the children aren't giving a presentation then I prepare one. It's geared on a "fun" learning level. Several times during the season we do "hands on meetings" where we practice what we have been learning on a live animal. We try to work in a faux show and a service project as a club. In the past we have cleaned up the fair grounds and cleaned up the side of a road. This year we are thinking of gathering scrap metal and donating the money to a worthy cause.

For anyone thinking of volunteering as a 4H leader, "If I can do it anyone can!" I came into this blindly and have had to learn my way through it, but it has been a very rewarding experience. ■



VOLUNTEER:

Swine Leader | 3rd year
Beef Leader | 1st year

CLUB NAME:

"The Bacon Bunch" because we added beef we're thinking of "The Bacon Burgers"

MEMBERSHIP: 5 members, 3 of them are my own children

PROJECTS: Market Swine;
Market Beef

Janis Ritchie

Madison County Dairy Project Leader

“I have seen compassion, kindness, and acceptance bless the lives of my 4-Hers as they work together every year.”

The Country Kids 4-H Club is active year around. In October, we begin the fall preparations for the Live Nativity that the club presents to the community. We prepare the set, check the sound and lighting systems, prepare costumes, and train any new animals. In November, we hold practices, haul feed and bedding and straw bales for seating, and move the animals into the pens. We do 14 live performances between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and invite everyone at no charge. Every member has specific tasks to do before and after each performance in addition to being in the cast. We give this gift to our community every year. We hosted about 1800 people in 2013.

During the winter months, we hold weekly Saturday meetings where we learn about all the aspects of dairy and beef production. We also have health and safety workshops, dairy and beef animal and dairy product judging workshops, and practice with such skills as delivering a calf and giving a shot. We have a lot of fun as the older members help the younger ones learn the program material and we finish with a game and a dairy treat.

In the spring we clean and repair the Nativity set, work on

changes we want to make and get ready to train our project animals.

Summer brings animal training and fair preparations, and we also do a tour or two. This year we will tour an artisan cheese dairy, and milk, cheese, and ice cream processing plants and a native plant raising facility where aquatic plants are raised for stream and river bank restoration.

Our club has provided a "petting farm" for the county fair for many years. We bring, set up and take down the pens for animals such as chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, rabbits, calves, pigs, goats, sheep, alpacas, donkeys and horses.

We have information about each animal on its pen, and we care for the animals and clean the pens often. We see many families with small children who spend a lot of time enjoying this part of the fair.

I am a 4-H leader because I love to see the 4-H experience make a difference in children's lives. ■

VOLUNTEER: Dairy Leader | 46th year
CLUB NAME: "Country Kids"
MEMBERSHIP: 17 Members

The Stepping Stones of the Future

By: Kortni Wells

(The following article was written by a young lady who participated in the 4-H KYG experience for 4 years and made the most of her opportunities).

The ascent of a ladder begins with the first step...until eventually the ladder touches the sky. Donny Osmond said, "If you're climbing the ladder of life, you go rung by rung, one step at a time. Don't look too far up, set your goals high but take one step at a time. Sometimes you don't think you're progressing until you step back and see how high you've really gone." This is how I view my experiences with the Know Your Government Conference, and how it set me on the path for my future.

Hi, I'm Kortni Wells from Cassia County. I started off as a delegate who observed things going on from the sidelines, discovering a grounding step for things to spiral upwards. My experiences truly began with that introduction into the world of KYG, the first step onto my ladder of opportunity. In the beginning, I really didn't know whether my experiences of Know Your Government would truly help me in the future, other than helping me become a more responsible voting citizen at the rightful age. I cautiously took one step forward, and decided to try moving one step up and became a Reporter. I loved being able to showcase my personality and passion for writing, while also trying my hand in a respective leadership role. A year later, I moved another rung upwards, returning as Reporter News Editor, and took my leadership endeavors to what I thought was the optimal level.

At the end of the Conference last year, I thought my government days had ended. A year later, here it is 2014. I recently finished my term serving as a Senate Page for the Idaho State Senate, and have almost reached the top of that little ladder I cautiously placed my feet upon four years ago. Being a Senate Page was one of the most joyful, fun and also hard experiences of my life. A Senate or House Page is a hard-working, high school senior, who spends six weeks in the beautiful Idaho Capitol, working with Senators and Representatives from all over Idaho, who meet together three months out of the year to discuss bills, budgets for the state, and the overall welfare of the State of Idaho. Each Senate Page is assigned to a secretary and a chairman of different committees, and the majority of the six weeks is spent with their assigned secretaries and Senators, in a wonderful learning environment.

I had the opportunity to learn about the state government in its most natural habitat. The Idaho State Capitol provided me the opportunity to see the wonderful things that occur within the Capitol walls. I learned so much by shadowing my Senator and Sponsor, Senator Dean Cameron. Being a Senate Page is an irreplaceable, once in a lifetime opportunity, that not every able-bodied youth in Idaho has the chance to experience. I count myself as one of the lucky forty juniors/seniors from our very own state of Idaho, who has experienced one of the best things the state has to offer, in the best place to do it. And just as the quote mentions, there was no reason to look back and wonder if I have gone anywhere, because I know I have definitely progressed from where I started four years ago! My future plan is to enter either Brigham Young University-Idaho or Utah State and major in (can you guess?) Political Science or Journalism. There is a world of opportunities awaiting me, and all because of one courageous step into the Know Your Government Conference.

(The world of opportunities mentioned in this article are available to all 4-H members who take that first step and participate in KYG.)

The 25th Idaho 4-H Wool Contest Results – 2013

Submitted by: Sharlene Woffinden, Bear Lake County Extension Educator & Wool Contest chair

The results of the 25th Idaho 4-H Wool Contest were announced during the 2013 State Leaders' Forum lunch on November 9 at the Fort Hall Chief's Event Center. The five contestants from Bonneville County, Angel Neil, Alyssa King, Desiree Billman, Marlee Doman, and Cody Chamberlain modeled their wool garments while Bonnie Caywood, a Bear Lake County volunteer, read a short narrative about each entry. The wool garments of Ruth Farnham, (Elmore); Katy Haight, (Lewis); Davi Murphy, (Idaho) and Holli Ulhorn, (Idaho) were shown by three 4-H members - Trevor Keetch, Kirsten Stevens and Makenzie Stevens (Bear Lake).

The top state and district award recipients are:

Basic Level (Age 8 to 16 and/or construct a garment with 3 or less advanced sewing skills.)

Davi Murphy, Idaho County, 1st Place Northern District; Top State Basic

Ruth Farnham, Elmore County, 1st Place Basic Southern District II

Angel Neil, Bonneville County, 1st Place Basic Eastern District

Advanced Level (Age 8 to 18 and/or construct a garment with 4 or more advanced sewing skills.)

Marlee Doman, Bonneville County, 1st Place Eastern District; 1st Place State Advanced

Katy Haight, Lewis County, 1st Place Northern District; 2nd Place State Advanced

Alyssa King, Bonneville County, 3rd Place State Advanced

The Idaho Wool Growers Association has donated the awards for this contest since 1988. The guidelines have changed over these 25-years, but not the contest's objectives. Ernestine Porter, former UI Extension textiles and clothing specialist stated in the Lewiston Morning Tribune, July 9, 1990, the third year the contest was held "the objectives of the contest include helping a new generation of consumers become familiar with wool clothing construction and encouraging them to go on and further their education." This year the Idaho Wool Growers will be donating a total \$1,425.00 as awards to our winners.

Two Idaho 4-H Members To Compete in National Make It With Wool Contest

Submitted by: Sharlene Woffinden, Bear Lake County Extension Educator & Wool Contest chair

Cindy Teuscher, Idaho Wool Growers Association member, has been the contact person between the association and the Idaho 4-H Wool Contest Committee for 21 years. Through Cindy's efforts last February, the Idaho Wool Contest has become an official qualifying event for the "National Make It With Wool" (MIWW) Contest. 4-H members who entered the Idaho 4-H Wool Contest had the option to also enter the MIWW contest by submitting an official entry form/fee when they sent their garment/outfit and portfolio for judging.

4-H members, Marlee Doman and Cody Chamberlain from Bonneville County acted on the option and will be attending the National Make It With Wool Contest in January 2014. They will be the first to represent Idaho at this national contest in over 25 years. Marlee will be competing in the MIWW Senior Level (age 17 -24) and Cody will be competing in the MIWW Junior Level (age 13 - 16).

Sharlene Woffinden and Cindy Teuscher, co-directors of Idaho's MIWW, have been involved in combining the MIWW contest with Idaho's 4-H Wool Contest. For the first 2 years, 2013 and 2014, the Junior and Senior levels of the national contest are being offered. It's not too early for 4-H members to start thinking about entering both contests in 2014. The 2014 Idaho 4-H Wool & MIWW Contest brochure and guidelines will be available by the end of February 2014.

Sharlene Woffinden will be attending the national contest to learn more about the contest plus gain a better understanding of the different divisions of the MIWW contest. There is an adult MIWW division that she could see offering in the future. This adult level contest could become a great way to recruit new 4-H clothing leaders and also be fun to let current leaders show off their sewing skills. If you know any adult who might be interesting in participating or if you are interested, contact Sharlene in Bear Lake County.

April is National Volunteer Month!!

Across the country this month, Americans who give freely of their time, energy and talents will be honored as part of National Volunteer Month. April also encompasses National Volunteer Week (April 6 – April 12). This began in 1974 when President Nixon established the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Please take time this month to let your fellow 4-H volunteers know how much their contributions and efforts to “Make the Best Better” are appreciated.

If you are an eligible donor, we encourage you to pay tribute to your fellow volunteers in your county and area by donating blood with the American Red Cross this month. Let’s roll up our sleeves and make a difference by perhaps saving a life! Idaho 4-H volunteers are the best!!



Clark County Showcase

There is no doubt 4-H members in Clark County feel just as blessed to have Laurie Small at the helm of their 4-H program as she feels about all “her” kids!

This sparsely populated county may not have big numbers, but their 4-H work and life skills loom large.

Besides livestock, horse, cooking, sewing, shooting sports and KYG projects, these 4-H members are productive citizens.

The 4-H Council in Clark County supports the 4-H program with scholarships and in many other ways.

Community service plays a large part in all club activities. A strong partnership with the local school district affords members and alumni alike the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and share the life skills 4-H instills.

A community center building is another plus for hosting activities of all kinds.

August 14 – 16 are the dates of the Clark County Fair in DuBois. Stop in and say hi to Laurie. Her 4-H enthusiasm is contagious!