



TIMELY TOPICS



November 2009

The newsletter of the University of California
Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program,
Santa Clara County

Mission: The University of California 4-H Youth
Development Program engages youth in reaching
their fullest potential while advancing the field of
youth development.

Presentation Day Workshop Wants You!

November 7, 10 a.m – 12:30 p.m
1553 Berger Dr., Bldg. 2
Berger Drive Auditorium

It is a great feeling to hear the applause of an audience after giving a speech! This November, 4-H will be offering a Presentation Day Workshop that will focus on teaching the advantages of public speaking and the different types of presentations available. From Demonstrations, to Illustrated Talks and Interpretive Readings, this workshop has it all. 4-H'ers will be taught the proper mechanics and techniques in doing presentations. Public Speaking is one of the most important elements in developing leadership skills. It allows a person to speak in front of large groups and convey messages to others. These skills build self-confidence and esteem in a person.

All 4-H'ers are strongly encouraged to attend Presentation Day Workshop. This event will boost your enthusiasm for 4-H and Public Speaking. Now is the chance to become an orator! The skills learned at the workshop are invaluable and will last for a lifetime. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Presentation Day will be held on **February 13, 2010** at the Berger Drive Auditorium.



by Rachel Doering, Coyote Crest 4H

I hope you were at the Mega Field Day because there was an amazing turn out of people. You wouldn't believe that this was so amazing that it was in the newspaper for the top 3 things to do that day! We also had a lot of people show up at our booth interested in 4-H. If you weren't there this year you can still go next year!

Timely Topics: Last Issue to be Mailed

The November 2009 issue of Timely Topics is the last issue that will be mailed to you. In December the newsletter will only be available online and printed copies will be available at the 4-H Office, and at the Santa Clara County 4-H Council and Executive Board meetings.

Our postage budget has been reduced by almost 50% and all newsletters produced by our office will be electronic newsletters. We will use the 4honline database to generate an email to a list of undisclosed recipients alerting you when the newsletter is online.

Day at the Tech

By Joshua Beyer, Adams 4-H

While I like my rabbits and chickens, my favorite projects (like Robotics) involve a lot of science and technology. I was really excited when I found out about the 4-H day at the Tech Museum. The Tech Museum is a great place to go if you wonder how things work. I had fun learning how to use water and wind to make energy. There was even a lab for young, mad scientists where you could take jelly fish DNA and inject it into bacteria. After spending twenty-four hours in an incubator, the bacteria glow in the dark! I would love to have test tubes of this stuff in my room at night. At noon, our club went to the park across from the museum for a picnic lunch. It was good to eat and play together and then return to the Tech for more fun and learning.



The Watsonville Rabbit Show

On September 26th, the Watsonville Rabbit Show was held. Many people from different counties attended. To keep the youth occupied, Adams 4-H members sponsored and ran the youth activities. Some of the activities included Rabbit Racing, Breed I.D., Showmanship, a Judging Contest, Rabbit D.Q., Arts and Crafts, and the Costume Contest. Surprisingly, Breed I.D. was the most popular event. For Breed I.D., you need to identify the breeds and varieties of 4-9 rabbits depending on your age—the older the member, the more rabbits he or she needed to identify. The next most popular event was the Costume Contest. There were twenty contestants who entered their rabbits wearing some radical costumes! Sara Williams, Jonathan Williams, Kellen McDevitt, and I had the difficult task of judging. As hard as it was, we managed to select winners from five different categories: My favorite event was the Knowledge Bowl. I was on a team of three with Sara and Jonathan. We came in second place. I enjoyed attending the Watsonville Rabbit Show each year because it is a very low-key, fun way to deepen my knowledge of rabbits.



By

Jasmine Beyer, Adams 4-H

4-H International Exchange to Japan

By Anna Sakoi, 4-H Member, Santa Clara County

In 2008, I participated in the 4-H International Exchange to Japan. Over the course of two months, I studied Japanese, experienced a new culture, made new friends, and had a whole lot of fun.



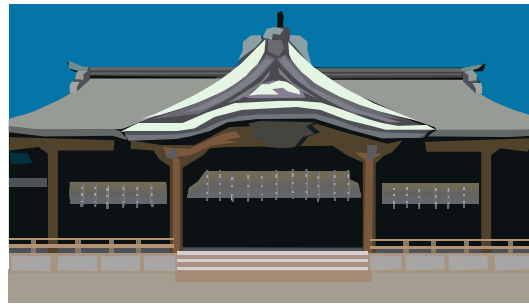
The first month I lived near Tokyo and took Japanese classes with other delegates from all across America, Canada, and Australia. In the class, in addition to learning how to speak and write Japanese, we also explored some famous parts of Tokyo, such as the fashion district, Harajuku, and the ancient temple, Asakusa.

But that first month wasn't all school; I also had time to spend with my host family, the Takatsukas. Living with them was great! I had a younger host sister, Ayako, and two older host brothers, Takuya and Kento. Whether we were out on outings or just hanging around the house, it was always a ton of fun. They were curious about America, so even as I learned about Japan, I was able to teach them about American culture. When the first month was over, and it was time to move to our second host families, I was sad, I really felt like I was a part of their family.

During the second month, the home stay delegates spread out all over Japan. I ended up in Kariya, a city near the historical city of Nagoya. I was nervous at first because after all the crowds of Tokyo and living with a family of six people, the relatively quiet Kariya and my new host family of only three people was a big change. Soon enough, however, I was having more fun than ever. Without the Japanese school to go to during the day, there was a lot more time to do activities with my host sister, Saki. In Japan, summer vacation was just beginning, and so were all the festivals. We had a lot of fun watching the fireworks by the ocean, and making wishes in the traditional fashion for the Tanabata festival.

When the end of the second month came around, I was surprised. It had all gone by so quickly that it didn't seem like two months had passed. While I sat in the plane, watching Japan grow smaller beneath me, I felt a mixture of sadness and optimism. Soon I would be back in America, thousands of miles away. All was not bad however; I had made new friends, experienced new things, and I look forward to the day that I can go back.

(Anna was in Japan for 8 weeks because she participated in the elective Nihongo language program before her home stay)



A BIG 4-H THANK YOU

Melanie Bright, President Hilltop 4-H

What would you do, if you had to find temporary housing for your project animals?? Cry, lose sleep, stress? Hilltop 4-H recently experienced this situation. Due to the temporary barn closure at Prusch Farm Park, all our project animals had to be removed from the barn for the month of October. Can a 500 pound sow be kept in your backyard without major destruction? No!!! With a few e-mails and phone calls, we were able to find enough pen space to move our animals. A very big 4-H THANK YOU goes out to Rolling Hills and Calaveras Hills, for opening up their farms to us. This move has been a great learning experience, and we have made numerous new 4-H friends. Athena and Misty think they are in Hog Heaven in their new temporary homes.

Thanks again to everyone that helped us in our time of need, that is the power of 4-H.



SAVE THE DATE!

WHO? 6TH GRADERS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY 4-H

WHAT? A FREE ALL-DAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

WHERE? BERGER DR. AUDITORIUM AT UCCE SANTA CLARA COUNTY
1553 BERGER DRIVE, BLDG. 2
SAN JOSE, CA 95112

WHEN? DECEMBER 12, 2009, 10AM TO 3PM

WHY? TO LEARN PUBLIC SPEAKING, TEAM BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND TO MEET AND WORK WITH OTHER YOUTH OF THE SAME AGE FROM ACROSS THE COUNTY.

YOUTH WHO ATTENDED THE 4-H STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE DURING THE SUMMER WILL SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND ENTHUSIASM FOR 4-H AND PASS ON THEIR SKILLS, TIPS, AND TRICKS TO YOUTH WHO ARE IN 6TH GRADE TO ENSURE THEIR SUCCESS IN 4-H.

HOW? APPLICATION MATERIALS WILL BE OUT SHORTLY. WATCH THE YAHOOGROUP AND NOVEMBER'S TT FOR MORE DETAILS.

Did we mention that it's free?! BY 6th Grade Conference Staff

Santa Clara County 4H Horse Year-end Awards Banquet

The Santa Clara County 4H Horse Year-end Awards Banquet is set for Sunday, November 8th at the San Martin Lions Hall. There will be an hors d'oeuvre and dessert potluck beginning at 2 pm followed by the Awards Presentations. We will be going over the county program and events for the coming year, as well as some important issues that need to be presented and discussed. All horse project members and leaders are strongly advised to attend.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the horse program and visit with members from throughout the county. Dressy, casual attire is encouraged, and members and guests are asked to bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvre snack to share and their drinks. Please RSVP to jayneperryman@yahoo.com

4-H Shooting Sports Workshop Rifle Discipline Tulare, CA

Saturday, January 9, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 10, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A 4-H shooting sports workshop for the rifle discipline will be held at Rankin Field Range, 20000 Road 140 in Tulare. Participants must attend both days of training to receive certification. Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be certified as rifle trainer and can lead a rifle project at the club level or serve as county trainer to certify other leaders. There is no cost for the course. To register for the course and receive more information contact John Borba at: jaborba@ucdavis.edu

For information about the facility and a map, please visit the range website at:

http://www.tcdsa.org/documents/rankin_field.htm

- **Announcements from the CA 4-H Office**

The California 4-H Youth Development Program offers inexpensive **curriculum** for 4-H volunteer leaders and members through ANR Communication Services. Please check out the catalog on-line at: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/>. Browse through the collection by clicking on 4-H Youth Development in the "Browse Menu" to the left. Items can be ordered on-line.

A free professional development training opportunity is available for those involved with youth development programs focusing on healthy living concepts. The two-day trainings, "**Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: A Centerpiece for a Healthy School Environment**" will be held in several location across California. You may visit: <http://www.lifelab.org/ffv.php> to register today. Click [here](#) for the full training flyer. For any questions, contact Deborah Beall at dbeall@cde.ca.gov.

Dates have been set for the **2010 Citizenship Focus Program**. Come participate in hands-on programs that bring government and policy issues to life and help you get involved in your own community. **California Focus** June 25-29, 2010 <http://www.ca4h.org/citizenship/focus/> Washington Focus I Road to Democracy, June 27-July 5, 2010 Heritage Trail, I June 27-July 3, 2009 Washington Focus II Global Journey, July 11-21, 2010 Heritage Trail II, July 11-17, 2010 <http://www.ca4h.org/citizenship/dcfocus/>

- For more information, contact Pat English at penglish@ucdavis.edu or 530-754-8520.
- The **California International Exchange Program** will offer **outbound programs** to Australia, Costa Rica, and Japan during the summer of 2009. Applications will be accepted until **January 15, 2010**. An interview with the California 4-H International Exchange Coordinator, Pat English, is required. For more information contact Pat English at: penglish@ucdavis.edu or 530-754-8520.
- The **2010 Western Regional Leaders' Forum** is scheduled for March 11-14, 2010 in Albuquerque,

N.M. Click [here](#) to register. Some key upcoming dates youth development professionals will want to save include:

December 15, 2009:

- Early Bird Registration Deadline, \$200.
- January 15, 2010:
 - Regular Registration Deadline, \$250
 - Share Faire Registration Deadline
 - 4-H Display Registration Deadline
 - Volunteer Leader Award Deadline

4-H Calendar November

- 11/6-8** State-4-H Leaders' Forum
- 11/7** Presentation Day Workshop, Berger Drive Auditorium
- 11/7-8** Archery Certification
- 11/8** 4-H Horse Year-end Awards Banquet
- 11/10** SCC 4-H Council Mtg.
- 11/14** County Awards Night

December

- 12/12** 6th Grade Leadership Conference, Berger Drive Auditorium

January

- 1/9-10** 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop, Tulare, CA

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4-H Youth Development Program
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**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
1553 BERGER DRIVE
SAN JOSE, CA 95112**

(408) 282-3116

Fax: (408) 298-5160

http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth_Development

*Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday*

All meetings and events are open to
EVERYONE! Please come!

*TIMELY TOPICS is published monthly
through the cooperative efforts of the
University of California Cooperative Extension
and the County of Santa Clara.*



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Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.