



TIMELY TOPICS



January 2010

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.

6TH GRADE CONFERENCE



“Perspectives from Participants”

Hi! I’m Tevy and I went to the 6th Grade Conference. It was pretty awesome. The people there were great and I could tell everyone was having a good time. The staff were really cool and helpful and I learned a lot about being a good junior leader, positive thinking, and recycling. I mostly liked the presentation about being a junior leader. It taught me what to do in certain situations, how to handle a meeting, and how to have fun. There were a lot of cool games that the staff showed us. I had a lot of fun and made new friends and I hope that other people will be inspired to go next year. *By Tevy Clemmons, El Sereno 4-H*

On December 12, 2009 I attended the 4-H 6th Grade Leadership Conference in San Jose. I enjoyed the recreation when we played learning games like Sharks and Minnows and the ice-breaker Name Game. I liked meeting new people my age who are interested in leadership. I look forward to seeing them again as I go on in my 4-H years. One of the teamwork games was really challenging for me--the Shoes Maze Game. The interest level in some of the games was inconsistent for me--I was not fond of the Positive Sentence Game, although in terms of learning it did reinforce the idea

that we should think about and talk to each other positively more often. Next time it would be great if the slideshows could be updated and made into video clips. That would really hold my attention! I would highly recommend this conference for any 6th grader who wants to become a junior leader and have fun doing it. By the way, the Smile Team (made up of the older team leaders) is awesome! - *Sophia Teixeira, San Martin 4-H*

One of the best ways to spend four hours on a rainy day is going to the Sixth Grade Conference. That was what I did on December 12th and I learned a great deal about how to be a junior leader. The leaders taught us about positive thinking, record keeping, recycling, and more. In between the sessions we played games, ate snack, and watched skits acted out by the leaders. My favorite parts were playing the game of Sharks and Minnows and doing the True Color Personality Test. It was my first time taking such a test and the outcome surprised me with its accuracy. At the end, the leaders performed a skit on everything we had learned. It was hilarious! I also made a lot of great friends. Going to the conference was a great experience for me. I had a BLAST.

By Ayano Grzymala, El Sereno 4-H

On December 12, 2009 I went to the 4-H 6th grade smiles conference. At the conference, I had a lot of fun learning the virtues of being environmentally healthy, optimistic, kind, and many other such ideas. In between the sessions we played some games that I saw as the crowning jewel of the whole meeting and at the end we watched a wonderful skit about what we had learned which was written and preformed by the staff. All in all it was an experience to remember and I would highly recommend going to it if it ever happens again. *By Xam Medvedeva, San Martin 4-H*

6TH GRADE CONFERENCE (CONT'D)

“Perspectives from Staff”



Staff leading a session on Record Books at the 6th Grade Conference

At the 6th grade Conference, I helped to lead sessions on being on junior leader and putting together a record book. I joined 4-H when I was in 6th grade, but did not know about the 6th grade conference at that time. If I had known about it, I would have been able to learn some of these skills from an early age.

I plan on using the information from some of the sessions to teach to at my club, Calaveras Hills that has many young members. I would like the younger members in my club to learn some useful information such as doing record books or stepping up into small leadership roles. As a high school senior going off to college next year, I want to help raise-up the next generation of leaders to lead the club.

Tyler Flesner , Calaveras Hills 4-H Club



S.M.I.L.E.S.

**SO
MANY
INCREDIBLE
LIFE
ENRICHING
SKILLS**

That is what 12 AMAZING high schoolers from all over Santa Clara County 4-H, who attended SLC last summer, passed on to 23 interested 6th graders who attended the 6th Grade Conference on the 12th of December.

Stas Banach, Dani Bianco, Wendy Clark, Tyler Fleschner, Allie Fritz, Becky Kirby, Jad Kurdi, Gregory Carter-Kurdi, Matt McClintock, Cepideh Ramezany, Rahimeh Ramezany, and Taylor-Leigh Walters, were the hosts and staff for this very fun afternoon of educational sessions mixed with recreation (and snacks!).

The 6th graders learned about record books, communication skills, public speaking, environmental awareness, team building, the power of positive thinking, and many other things.

The staff worked together, helped and supported each other to make sure the 6th graders had the best possible experience. They were AWESOME!

I want to say a special "Thank you" to the Clark family for producing the amazing stencils that made the staff tee-shirts so fantastic that for the first time ever we had several 6th graders asking if they could have one!

Also, thank you to Sarah Pence, Bob Clemmons, Hiromi Grzymala and Jeanine Lenihan, our chaperones - without whom, this event wouldn't have been possible.

Pauline Kirby, SCC 4-H 6th Grade Conference Advisor.

4-H Spreads Christmas Cheer at "Operation Military Kids!"



Tis' the Season for Giving! On December 5, Santa Clara County 4-H assisted the military community of Moffett Field at the annual "Operation Military Kids" Christmas party. 4-H'ers helped the boys and girls design clear glass Christmas ornaments with creative coloring schemes by pouring different paint colors inside the ornament, swirling the paint around, and letting it dry upside down in a Styrofoam cup.

The event was a huge hit! Every child from 3 years old and up was able to bring home their ornament to hang on their tree. Operation Military Kids appreciates our efforts and would like to convey their thanks to Santa Clara County 4-H. Thank you to James & Paul Freeman, the Phillips Family, and Theresa Johnson for volunteering and helping to run the booth. It was a great day to spread some Christmas cheer! *By Anthony Johnson, Pleasant Acres, 4-H*



Los Gatos Children Christmas Parade

On Saturday, December 5th Santa Clara County 4-H was represented at the Los Gatos Children Christmas Parade. We had a total of 25 4-Hers and adults from El Sereno, Rolling Hills, Coyote Crest, and Homesteaders clubs. We also had animals including dogs, guinea pigs, and goats. Before the parade started we made braided pipe cleaners and put bells on them so as we walked down the parade route we jingled bells and waved to all the adoring fans wearing our Santa or Elf hats. It was really neat to hear the announcer talk about our group as we were walking by. This was my first time walking in this parade and I had a lot of fun. I think everyone should come out and do it next year! It would be fun if we could get a 4-H float next year *by Kyle Geringer, El Sereno 4-H*



Calaveras Hills Community Service Project

Calaveras Hills 4-H Club held a canned food drive at our club meetings in November and December. We collected 16 cans in November and 17 cans in December for a grand total of 33 cans. The canned food was donated to the Milpitas Food Pantry, a local food bank connected with Second Harvest. The Milpitas Food Pantry serves very low income families and individuals in Milpitas and Alviso.

By holding this canned food drive, the club was helping the Food Pantry with their mission to provide food to the needy. In addition to the food drive, two members from Calaveras Hills volunteered their time to help at the Milpitas Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Distribution. Approximately 500 people were signed up to receive food this year, nearly double the demand from last year. Unemployment and a poor economy made for more people in need this year compared to a year ago. Without the hard work of many volunteers, these families in need would not have been able to have a Thanksgiving dinner,
Tyler Flesner, Calaveras Hill 4-H Club



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Market Lamb and Goats Homesteaders Ranch

Hi everyone-
This year we are opening up an old project that we haven't had in a couple of years... Market Goats. We have approximately 6 kids that will be born between December 21st and Jan 29th. If you would like to come look at them or join the project... contact either Maria Jimenez @ 408-489-8398 or Sara Yoders @ 408-409-3230 (co-project leaders)

Leadership Overnight 2010

Happy New Year, 4H'ers! Although we're practically in the middle of the 4H year, the beginning of the calendar year more or less marks the beginning of the majority of events. One such event is Leadership Overnight (LON)! Hosted and run by the county All Stars - Jesse Clemmons, Matt McClintock and Richard McWhirter - and the LON Staff, this county event is full of fun, engaging leadership Sessions, recreational activities, and the ever present 4H spirit.

The conference is for 4H'ers 7th grade and above, and takes place the weekend of February 5-7th at Walden West in Saratoga, CA from More information can be found in the LON Application which can be found on the county website, at
http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth_Development/4-H_Events.htm

The deadline for the application is **January 23rd.**

California Camping Conference April 23 – 25, 2010

The 2010 California Camping Conference will be held at the Nevada 4-H Camp near Stateline, Nevada (off Highway 80 at Lake Tahoe) on April 23 – 25, 2010. The conference serves as a valuable resource for camp administrators, camp staff (youth and adult), and Extension Staff in planning and implementing all types of camp programs. Important conference topics include the new Camp Safety Manual addressing California Health and Safety Code requirements for camps; engaging, fun activities for your camps; archery certification; and camp staff training. Look for conference fee and registration details in next month's Updates, but be sure to mark the date on your calendar for this important event.

4-H New Volunteer Orientations

*Fe Moncloa, 4-H Youth Development Advisor and
Acting County Director*

For the past year or so, new 4-H volunteers participated in an online orientation to meet one of the three requirements to enroll in 4-H. Although the initial feedback indicated that people were pleased they could take care of this requirement at a time that was convenient for them, in the long run this method proved to be an ineffective way of providing the basic information about the 4-H program. The organizational culture of 4-H is embedded in the relationships among volunteers and youth and is learned gradually. The online method is devoid of any type of organizational culture.

Effective January 1, 2010 all adults wishing to enroll in 4-H to serve as volunteers must attend a live orientation. A team of eleven 4-H Volunteers will be organizing orientations and posting the date, time and location on the yahoo group and in this newsletter. Starting January 1, our office will no longer accept "online" orientations as part of enrollment.

Updates from the CA 4-H Office

- The **4-H SET Activity Guide** is now available for download. Want to increase interest and enthusiasm for 4-H SET? Need an activity for a 4-H Club or Project meeting? The guide provides fast and fun science and engineering activities prepared to be SET-Ready. The activities allow youth to have hands-on experiences with a variety of science and engineering topics. Download the guide at <http://www.ca4h.org/SET/curriculum/index.asp?ID=30>
- **Understanding Science**, an interactive online curriculum library, is growing! Understanding Science strives to provide a fun, accessible, and free resource that accurately communicates what science is and how it really works. It recently added a new activity, Exploring Bouncing Balls, in which students explore the physical properties of a variety of balls and how they bounce. Find more fun activities at: <http://www.understandingscience.org>
- The Animal Science Education Committee would like to develop a **resource list of knowledge individuals** who can address issues relevant to youth members, including ANR's strategic vision. Specifically, they are looking for effective speakers who work well with 4-H members and are willing to be contacted by other counties to speak at their respective functions and events. Please contact Cynthia Barnett, PhD at ccbarnett@ucdavis.edu with suggestions.
- The American Horticultural Society is currently **seeking proposals** for presentations at the 18th annual **National Children & Youth Garden Symposium**. The theme of the conference, held July 22-24, 2010 in Pasadena, is The Vitality of Gardens: Energizing the Learning Environment. The deadline for receipt of proposals is December 15, 2009. For more information, please visit http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm

Updates from the CA 4-H Office (cont'd)

For more information, visit
<http://www.pschallengehub.com>.

- Look forward to the upcoming launch of the Coalition for Science After School (CSAS) National STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Directory! This zip-code searchable database is designed to connect families, policy makers, and potential funders with STEM-related events. Our five thousand programs are already saved in the network. This directory offers a great opportunity to find worthwhile events while publicizing your own! More information is available at <http://www.scienceafterschool.org/nsd.html>
- **For 4-H members:** As you prepare your 4-H presentations for club, county, sectional and state 4-H Presentation Days, consider the "**Scientific Demonstration and Illustrated Talks**" category. A scientific demonstration/illustrated talk is similar to a normal demonstration, yet focuses on the steps used by scientists to answer questions and solve problems. This presentation style can either be in the form of a demonstration where the experiment is performed in its entirety or in representative parts. More information on 4-H presentations may be found at <http://www.ca4h.org/leadership/spd/4HPresentationManual-3.pdf>
- Calling all bird lovers! USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection (APHIS) invites you to enter the **Biosecurity For Birds calendar contest**. Submit your favorite picture of poultry, game birds, wild birds, shorebirds, pet birds, etc for a chance to be featured in the calendar! Deadline for submitting entries is January 31, 2010. To enter the contest, visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/birdbiosecurity/photo_contest.html.
- **The Academy of Robotics Challenge (AORC) 2009** is a unique contest that allows you to compete with students from around the world virtually! This year's challenge theme is "Fire Bot". Sign up for the competition today for your chance to win fantastic prizes. PSC Challenge Hub membership is required, but they are offering a free 30-day trial.

4-H Calendar

January 2010

- 1/12** Full 4-H Council Meeting
Berger Drive Auditorium
7:15– 9:00 pm
- 1/23** Leadership Overnight
Applications due
- 1/22-24** C.A.L 2010 Conference-
Walker Creek Ranch

February 2010

- 2/5-7** Leadership Overnight
Walden West, Saratoga
- 2/13** Presentation Day
Berger Drive Auditorium
9:00 to 1:00 pm
- 2/27** Favorite Foods Day
Berger Drive Auditorium
ALL DAY

For more information on upcoming 4-H events at <http://www.ca4h.org/4hinfo/calendar/index.asp>

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

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

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.