



# 4-H NEWSLETTER

March & April 2022

University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

## Note from Joli

Good news...spring is just around the corner! I'm not sure about all of you, but I know I am ready for some longer daylight hours, warmer temperatures, and spring flowers! After a long winter of hosting virtual 4-H club meetings, leaders and members can look forward to gathering in person once again. Spring is a great time to schedule club meetings in outdoor locations or to take a club tour.

Spring is also the perfect time for members to get started working on 4-H projects. Horticulture, floriculture, shooting sports, weather, and sport fishing are all great projects to get you outdoors and into the fresh air. You could also embrace some spring cleaning and then create an interior design or visual arts project to spruce up a room. Many of you have new farm animals arriving, so spend some time halter breaking and working with them. And of course, 'tis the season for purchasing new chicks and bunnies for your projects. 4-H Show time will be here before you know it (140 days)!

We are excited to reveal *4-H Adventures in Nature*, a new spring and summer outdoor activity! This program will entice you and your families to get outdoors each month and complete a challenge. Those completing the nature challenges will receive digital badges and fun prizes! Are you enrolled in a visual arts nature or a photography project? You can use this adventure time to take some photos or collect items to create your 4-H Show exhibit. Continue reading through this newsletter to find more information about the *4-H Adventures in Nature* challenge and other springtime 4-H opportunities!

Happy spring!

Joli



## 4-H Enrollment & Club Meeting Attendance

Time is ticking and a deadline is quickly approaching! Don't wait, take care of this today!



4-H members should enroll in general projects by the May 1, 2022 deadline in order to ensure eligibility to exhibit in those project areas at the 2022 4-H Show in July. (Livestock project enrollment deadline was January 4, 2022 for beef, swine, goats and sheep projects.)

Anyone can join 4-H after the May 1, 2022 deadline, however they will not be eligible to exhibit at the 2022 4-H show.

**Please take time to double check** the projects you have enrolled in! May 1 is also the deadline to add or drop any projects in 4-H online. Call the Extension office if you have questions, or need project manuals.

4-H members and leaders, as well as shooting sports coordinators, instructors, and assistants, should all take a few minutes to re-enroll in 4-H as a member or volunteer if you haven't already done so.

Go to <https://v2.4honline.com> to update your profile and complete your enrollment for the year. Getting your enrollment completed will ensure you will remain on the 4-H mailing list to receive 4-H news, club, and project information.

**Meeting attendance ...** As always, 4-H members are required to be actively involved in club meetings and events. Meeting attendance is required to be eligible to exhibit at the county 4-H Show. Club leaders and secretaries should be tracking attendance at each meeting. The Extension office will check member attendance records before allowing 4-H Show entries. Member attendance and participation helps to build strong communication and leadership skills, as well as making club meetings more fun!

# Mason County Junior Master Gardener 4-H Club



Youth ages 8-18 years are invited to join this fun club! Members will experience fun, hands-on gardening, and learn from U of I Extension Master Gardeners. Members can have their own garden plot at the Mason County Fairgrounds where they can garden together, grow their own food, flowers, and herbs. Youth will have the opportunity to exhibit their produce, flowers, and herbs at the Mason County 4-H Show. Anyone interested in joining the Mason County Jr. Master 4-H Club should enroll now! Enroll at <https://v2.4honline.com> and select Floriculture and Horticulture projects. The first meeting of the season will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Mason County Extension office lower level. Please call Joli Pierson at the Extension office if you plan to attend or need further information. (309) 543-3308

# 4-H Events

## March

- 10- Mason County 4-H Federation meeting
- 13- Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting
- 14- Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 14- Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting
- 17- St. Patrick's Day
- 19- Happy Handful 4-H Club meeting
- 26- Mason County Jr. Master Gardener Club meeting



## April

- 10- Mason County 4-H Shooting Sport Club-safety meeting
- 10- Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting
- 11- Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 11- Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting
- 14- Mason County 4-H Federation meeting
- 15- Good Friday
- 16- Happy Handful 4-H Club meeting
- 17- Easter
- 22- Earth Day
- 27- Administrative Professionals Day



## May

- 1- Deadline for Mason County 4-H project enrollment
- 1- Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports club meeting
- 8- Mother's Day
- 9- Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting
- 9- Pleasant Workers 4-H Club meeting
- 12- Mason County 4-H Federation meeting
- 14- 4-H Day with the Cardinals
- 15- Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club meeting
- 15- Kountry Kritters 4-H Club meeting
- 21- Happy Handful 4-H Club meeting
- 22- Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club meeting
- 29- Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club meeting
- 30- Memorial Day



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## Unit 4-H Staff

In our four-county Extension unit, a team works together to provide 4-H programming. Each county has an individual 4-H program plus we all work together on unit-wide events and program planning.

### Krista Gray

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

### Joli Pierson

4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County

### Kristi Smith

4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County

### Katharine Girone

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

**Emily Schoenfelder**, 4-H Youth Educator

**Judy Schmidt**, Metro 4-H Youth Educator

**Earl Allen**, County Director

**Deb Balagna**, Fulton County Office Support

**Paula Lane**, Mason County Office Support

**Angela Sassine**, Peoria County Office Support

**Julann Schierer**, Tazewell County Office Support

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# Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club News



**Enroll now!** Anyone interested in 4-H Shooting Sports projects (Shotgun, Air Rifle, Rifle, Archery, or Hunting & Wildlife) should enroll in the Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club. This club teaches firearm safety and skills, awareness of related career opportunities, and helps youth develop leadership abilities. You can enroll at <https://v2.4honline.com>. Get enrolled now so you will receive any club news and updates!

**Mark your calendar!** The club's first meeting will be Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2p.m. at the Mason County Extension office lower level. This meeting will be a mandatory informational and safety meeting for members and their parents. Completion of online enrollment, medical and liability forms, and payment of all fees will be required before youth are allowed to participate in club events. The \$20 annual 4-H enrollment fee can be paid online at time of enrollment or by check, payable to U of I. Shooting sports discipline fees, which cover costs of ammunition & targets, must be paid directly to the club with cash or check at the first meeting. Discipline fees are as follows: \$10 each- shotgun, .22 rifle, .22 pistol; \$5 each- air rifle, air pistol, archery, hunting & wildlife. Discipline fees will cover 6-8 shooting sports weekly sessions. Meetings are planned for Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. April 24, May 1, 15, 22, 29. Back-up dates June 5 & 12.

Club meetings will take place at the 4-H shooting sports range in rural Havana. Shooting sports equipment, including firearms, ammunition, and safety gear, is provided for all youth participants. Youth who own their own equipment are welcome to bring it for inspection by an instructor, and must receive permission to use it on the 4-H range.

**Adult Volunteers Needed!** The Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club is in need of adult volunteers who are willing to assist or instruct youth in the shooting sports disciplines. A volunteer application, and background checks must be completed for all 4-H volunteers. To receive Adult Volunteer Shooting Sports Instructor Certification, you must attend one of the three scheduled trainings being offered in the state (see article on page 5 in this newsletter). Please contact Joli Pierson at the Extension office if you are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer with this club.

## FMPT Unit News

### Teen Teacher Information Night:

**Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 -7:00 p.m.**

Peoria County Extension Office, 4810 N. Sheridan,  
Peoria

**Make a difference. Make new friends. Teach others.  
Have fun.**

Being part of the 4-H Teen Teacher program is a great way to make an impact on kids in your community! Come learn about the program, meet current teen teachers and eat pizza!

Contact Judy Schmidt, 4-H Youth Development Educator at (309)685-3140 or [schmid7@illinois.edu](mailto:schmid7@illinois.edu) to register

### 4-H Shooting Sports Archery Club

A Spring 4-H Archery Session open to all youth in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties will begin April 24.

Meetings will take place at Pekin Archers, 2501 Edgewater Dr, Pekin, IL 61554.

Register for this event by April 8, 2022 here: [go.illinois.edu/4HArcheryInPekin](http://go.illinois.edu/4HArcheryInPekin)





# News from Illinois 4-H

## 4-H Family Spirit Award

4-H is a family affair for many! We want to encourage you, as a multi-generational 4-H family, to nominate your family for the Illinois 4-H Family Spirit Award. You can find more information at [4hfoundation.illinois.edu/content/family-spirit-award](http://4hfoundation.illinois.edu/content/family-spirit-award). Please contact the Illinois 4-H Foundation ([illinois4hfoundation@mx.uillinois.edu](mailto:illinois4hfoundation@mx.uillinois.edu)) with any questions. **The deadline to apply for the 2022 Family Spirit award is May 1, 2022.** We look forward to hearing from you and reading about your family's 4-H story!



## Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award

National 4-H Council is pleased to announce that the 2022 Salute to

Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award application is now open. The National 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award recognizes 4-H volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to 4-H, while promoting service through volunteerism as both an opportunity and a privilege. The deadline to apply is March 18. <http://grants.4-h.org/index.do>



Every dollar makes a difference in helping a young person find their SPARK.

February 1 – April 30, visit a local JOANN store and you can invest in a young person by donating to 4-H.

[#JOANNhearts4H](https://www.joann.com/4-H/).

Get your 4-H Rewards

Card today! Stop by a local JOANN store now to sign up for free and receive 15% off your purchases. It's a great way to shop with purpose & give back to 4-H! [joann.com/4-H/](https://www.joann.com/4-H/)

## 4-H Day with the Cardinals!

Busch Stadium  
May 14 @ 1:15p.m.  
Tickets: \$25 each

Register by Mar 31: [go.illinois.edu/4HCardinals2022](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCardinals2022)

**Please note:** Groups of families or county groups that wish to sit together MUST submit one (1) order.

For ticket/t-shirt questions, contact Rhonda Shafer – 636-528-4613 or [shaferr@missouri.edu](mailto:shaferr@missouri.edu)  
For parade/raffle questions, contact Dave Hileman at [hilemand@missouri.edu](mailto:hilemand@missouri.edu)



Applications are now OPEN for the 2023 #4HYouthinAction Awards! Now is the chance for 4-H'ers ages 15-19 to tell their 4-H story of impact, leadership, and purpose.

Four selected recipients will:

- earn a \$5K scholarship
- serve as a national youth spokesperson
- ...and much more!

Learn more about the awards, application process, and apply! <https://bit.ly/3FgUIb0>

## GET YOUR TACKLE READY!

*2022 4-H Sport Fishing Virtual Monthly Challenges Coming Soon!*

Open to all current year 4-H members, but new rod & reel prizes **only** for 4-H members registered in the 4-H Sport Fishing project for the 2021-2022 year. Tournament details coming soon!

**April** – Crappie State 4-H Tournament

**May** – Largemouth Bass 4-H State Tournament

**June** – Channel Catfish 4-H State Tournament

Hint: *Sign up for 4-H Sport fishing project now*, and begin preparing for crappie contest in April by beginning to learn about crappie at

[www.ifishillinois.org/species/CRP.php](http://www.ifishillinois.org/species/CRP.php)

## Special Workshop - Intro to 4-H Air Rifle Competitions

**DATE CHANGE: March 19, 2022**

Take your existing 4-H air rifle club to a new level! Competition training for 4-H Rifle Club leaders and up to three 4-H Club members.

10am-5pm at Central Illinois Precision Shooters in Bloomington, IL.

Contact Curt Sinclair at [sinclair@illinois.edu](mailto:sinclair@illinois.edu) for flyer or more information. Register at [go.illinois.edu/4HAirRifleTraining](http://go.illinois.edu/4HAirRifleTraining).



## 2022 4-H Shooting Sports Adult Volunteer Certification Trainings

Contact your local 4-H office and they will process your registration. Certifications in Archery, Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, Coordinator, and Hunting/Outdoor Skills (May 7 only) offered. One discipline per day/per person. All programs run 9am-6pm and are active range time instruction.

**Sat., March 26, 2022** Tombstone Range, Marion, IL (southern Illinois)

**Sat., May 7, 2022** 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL (central Illinois)

**Sat., July 16, 2022** Bi-State Sportsman's Club, Colona, IL (N.W. Illinois)

Questions? Contact Curt Sinclair at [sinclair@illinois.edu](mailto:sinclair@illinois.edu).



Illinois RiverWatch is a tremendous opportunity for youth to become aquatic citizen scientists! Plus, it's a fabulous, ongoing service project for clubs! Consider attending one of the 15 upcoming training sessions set up for March and April - each in a different county in Illinois. To learn more, visit their official website at [www.ngrec.org/Riverwatch](http://www.ngrec.org/Riverwatch).

## 4-H Memorial Camp-Summer Employment

Summer camp employees wanted! If leading activities for youth campers, being a role model, working outdoors and interacting with your peers sounds like your kind of job, then you may be one of the people we are looking for. Apply to work with us this summer as we get back to Summer Youth Camping. We start accepting applications for the following positions January 1, 2022.



**Summer Program Staff** (18 years old minimum)  
Summer/Seasonal Assistant Camp Director  
Lead Male/Female Counselors  
Lifeguards  
Outdoor Education Director  
Arts & Crafts Director  
Creation Station (S.T.E.M.) Director  
Recreation Director  
Climbing Tower Director

**Cabin Counselors** (16 years old minimum)

Additional details and application materials can be found on the 4-H Memorial Camp [website](#) towards the bottom of the page under *4-H Resources*.

Contact Andy Davis [ardavis1@illinois.edu](mailto:ardavis1@illinois.edu), (217) 762-2741 with any questions.

## 4-H Memorial Camp-Summer Youth Camp

Are you ready to get back to camping at 4-H Memorial Camp? We are! Join us any of the four (4) Summer Youth Camp sessions in the summer of 2022. Watch for additional information on the 4-H Memorial Camp website ([4h.extension.illinois.edu/programs/camping](http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/programs/camping)) and on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/4-H-Memorial-Camp-95026468854](https://www.facebook.com/4-H-Memorial-Camp-95026468854)).

### Camp Dates:

June 5-9, 2022  
June 12-16, 2022  
July 5-9, 2022  
July 17-21, 2022





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Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit  
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127 S High ST, Ste. 1  
Havana, IL 62644  
**Return Service Requested**

## 4-H Adventures in Nature

Starting in April, 4-H will offer a series of five monthly challenges! For each month in which you complete a challenge, your family will receive a special prize to be given out at our Outdoor Adventure Fun Day on Saturday, August 27, 2022. Each month will be a different prize. Plus, you'll get a digital badge to reward your progress! Visit [go.illinois.edu/AdventuresInNature](https://go.illinois.edu/AdventuresInNature) to get started on a grand adventure!



# 4-H Adventures in Nature

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

[go.illinois.edu/AdventuresInNature](https://go.illinois.edu/AdventuresInNature)

