



4-H NEWSLETTER

March & April 2023

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

Note from Joli...

Happy Spring! We are hopping right into daylight saving time! Take advantage of that extra bit of daylight and enjoy some time outside!

The month of April is a time to show appreciation to all volunteers wherever they serve. I am extremely appreciative for all the time and effort our 4-H volunteers give. Simply put, we could not have a 4-H program without all the great volunteers! You are making a difference in the lives of so many. Thank you for everything you do!

4-H has so many fun events to participate in this spring, it makes me want to be a kid again! No one should have an excuse to be bored!

Be sure to read through this newsletter and see what you can find to spark your interest. Register early and mark your calendar with all the events!

Until next time,

Joli

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://4h.zsuite.org> and select the Floriculture and Horticulture projects. The first meeting of the season will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 4 pm, 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 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, 2023 deadline in order to ensure eligibility to exhibit in those project areas at the 2023 4-H Show in July. Livestock project enrollment deadline was January 3, 2023 for beef, swine, goats and sheep projects. Anyone can join 4-H after the May 1, 2023 deadline, however they will not be eligible to exhibit at the 2023 4-H Show.

Please take time to double check the projects you have selected! This is the time to add or drop any projects from your enrollment. Call the Extension office if you have questions about your projects.

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 the NEW enrollment website:

<https://4h.zsuite.org> to update your profile and complete your enrollment for the year. Getting your enrollment completed will ensure continuation 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!

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Extension

National Volunteer Week

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting 4-H youth clubs and programming. University of Illinois Extension's 4-H youth development program in Mason County honors its volunteers during National



4-H Volunteers
CHANGE Lives

Volunteer Week, April 16-22.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize all 4-H volunteers who serve in so many different capacities including: 4-H club leaders; 4-H shooting sports coordinators, instructors, assistants; 4-H Show judges and superintendents; along with 4-H event chaperones and assistants.

4-H clubs and programs benefit from volunteers, but volunteers also benefit from the volunteering experience; gaining skills in teaching, leadership, and communication that are useful in their work and lives.

Be sure to thank your 4-H volunteers for all they do!



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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



March

13 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting

18 Rabbit Workshop (10 am-12 pm) -Mason County Extension office, lower level

18 Poultry Workshop (1 pm-3 pm) – Mason County Extension office, lower level

18 Mason County Junior Master Gardener Club (4 pm)—season kick-off meeting, Mason County Extension office, lower level

19 Archery Workshop (2-4 pm) - Mason County Extension office, lower level

23 Mason 4-H Federation meeting

25 Cake/Food Decorating Workshop (9 am-12 pm) – Mason County Extension office, lower level

April

10 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting

13 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting

14 4-H Shooting Sports range set-up

16 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club (2 pm)—Safety Meeting, Mason County Extension Office

22 4-H Adventures in Nature Kick-off Event

23 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports meeting at range

30 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports meeting at range

May

1 4-H enrollment, project add or drop deadline

7 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports meeting at range

8 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting

11 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting

21 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports meeting at range

June

1 Fair entry opens

4 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports meeting at range

6 Farm Safety Day—Mason County Fairgrounds

8 Mason County 4-H Federation meeting

11 Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports meeting at range

12 Mason County 4-H & Jr. Show Association Fair Board meeting

July

3 Fair Entry deadline

20 Mason County fairgrounds clean-up day

26 Mason County 4-H General Project Show Day

26-30 Mason County 4-H Show and Jr. Fair

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 309-543-3308. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture by the Director, Cooperative Extension Service, and University of Illinois.



Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club, begins soon!

If you haven't enrolled in this fun club, now is the time to do so! Go to <https://4h.zsuite.org> and enroll in the Mason County 4-H Shooting Sports Club. The club offers air rifle, rifle, shotgun, pistol, and archery disciplines. Youth ages 8-18 (8 yrs. old by Sept. 1, 2022) are eligible for archery, air rifle, and air pistol disciplines. Youth age 10-18 years (10 yrs. old by Sept. 1, 2022) are eligible for shotgun, .22 rifle, and .22 pistol discipline.

The club's first meeting will be Sunday, April 16, 2023 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, and archery. Discipline fees will cover 6-8 shooting sports weekly sessions. Meetings are planned for Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 21, June 4 & 11.

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. Please contact Joli Pierson at the Extension office if you are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer with this club.

Archery Workshop - Making a Leather Arm Guard

Sunday, March 19

Mason County Extension office, lower level 2-4 pm
Space is limited, so call 309-543-3308 to register.
There will be a \$5.00 fee. Every youth will make and take a hand crafted leather arm guard suitable for 4-H archery events. Register by Friday, March 17. Class is open to youth ages 8-18 years. Participants are not required to be enrolled in 4-H Shooting Sports.

Build your tech skills and make new friends at this amazing summer program! Get the most up-to-date details by signing up for our eblast list at go.illinois.edu/FMPTeblast. (Select STEM programs.)

BECOME A TEEN TEACHER!

Join us on an adventure to develop your leadership skills, make new friends, teach young people, and make a difference in your community! 4-H Teen Teachers lead fun, hands-on activities, while getting great experience! Join anytime throughout the Spring. Training sessions are held at U of I Extension, Peoria County Office, and upcoming dates include:

- March 27 – 6 pm
- April 24 – 6 pm
- May 22 – 6 pm
- June 7-9 – 9 am to 3 pm

Learn more at extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/teens-teachers-program or email Judy at schmid7@illinois.edu.

News from Illinois 4-H

Clovers Around the Counties!

Geology - \$5
March 11 | 10am | Fulton County

Gardening with Pollinators - \$5
March 11 | 1pm | Fulton County

Rabbits - \$5
Mar 18 | 10am | Mason County

Poultry - \$5
Mar 18 | 1pm | Mason County

Food Decorating - \$10
Mar 25 | 9am-12pm | Mason County

Register at:
go.illinois.edu/CATC

We still have lots of **Clovers Around the Counties** fun coming up! Don't miss the amazing workshops happening in March! Learn more or register at go.illinois.edu/CATC.

20th Annual 4-H DAY
with the *Cardinals*

TICKET ONLY \$30
*All sales final
T-SHIRT INCLUDED!

SATURDAY 20 MAY

CARDINALS VS LA DODGERS

4-H members, alumni, families and their friends are invited to join us for the 20th annual 4-H Day with the St. Louis Cardinals, Saturday, May 20. Learn more or register by March 31st at extension.missouri.edu/events/4-h-day-with-the-cardinals-2023.

SAVE THE DATE

4G STEM Camp
GIRLS + GADGETS + GAMES + GENIUS

DATE: JUNE 26-30, 2023

LOCATION: BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

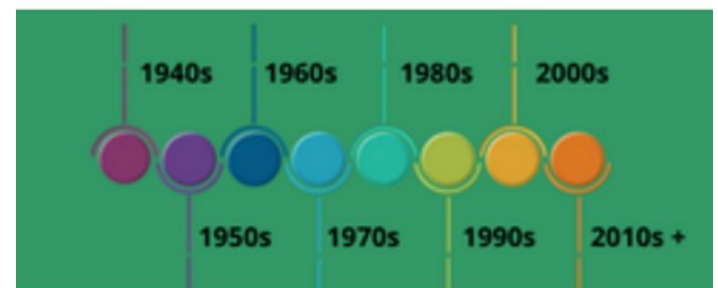
Registration will open March 1
For more information: <https://extension.illinois.edu/fmpt>

Illinois Extension

BRADLEY University

4G STEM Camp introduces girls entering sixth, seventh, and eighth grade to careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The camp includes hands-on activities, lab experiments, and field trips to area businesses offering STEM-related careers. Learn more at extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/4g-stem-camp.

4-H By the Decades



4-H BY THE DECADES 1990s - Tuesday, March 21, 2023

We are seeking Illinois 4-H History from our 4-H alumni by the decades! Join us to visit about how 4-H impacted your life during the 1990's growing up in the Illinois 4-H program. We will also be seeking photos of special memories, mementos, and awards of each decade to share on a new Illinois 4-H History website to be developed. Share with us your 4-H story! *Sponsored by the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association*

Register by Friday, March 17 - <https://form.jotform.com/230454284435152>

The link will be sent to registered attendees on Monday, March 20.

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ILLINOIS SUMMER ACADEMIES IS BACK!

SUMMER 2023

Illinois Extension

Illini Summer Academies

Participants attend academy sessions led by university professors and enjoy a variety of engaging activities that provide a taste of just how cool college life can be. Stay tuned for registration this spring!



Get your tackle ready! The 2023 **4-H Hooks-Us-Together** Statewide Fishing Tournament will run from April 1 – June, 30 2023. Details on how to register coming later in March!

April – Crappie State 4-H Tournament

May – Largemouth Bass 4-H State Tournament

June – Channel Catfish 4-H State Tournament

Family Camp at 4-H Memorial Camp

Are you ready to get outside for a fun family weekend? We are kicking off the summer with **Family Camp** at **4-H Memorial Camp** on May 19-21, 2023!

Find more information and registration forms at 4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-memorial-camp/4-h-family-camp.

Please contact Monika Hammerschmidt (hammersc@illinois.edu) or Andy Davis (ardavis1@illinois.edu) at (217) 762-2741 with any questions.



2023 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Trainings:

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles, IL

Disciplines offered: Rifle; Pistol; Archery; Coordinator

Saturday, May 6, 2023

4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello, IL

Disciplines offered: Shotgun, Rifle; Pistol; Archery;

Coordinator; Hunting/Outdoor Skills

If interested, contact your local University of Illinois Extension office for registration information. These dates are 9-hour “field days” which teach range management. An additional 3-hour on-line 4-H training will complete the certification process. Registration will be open Dec. 15, 2022 – Feb. 15, 2023.

Questions? Contact Curt Sinclair, Illinois 4-H State Office at sinclair@illinois.edu



National 4-H Day of Service is Coming!

4-H members continuously demonstrate they are *True Leaders* by providing amazing service to their communities! And **April 22**, the **National 4-H Day of Service**, is another great opportunity to “pledge your hands to larger service!” Be sure to share your stories of how you and your club are supporting your community (on April 22 or anytime throughout the year) by visiting 4h.extension.illinois.edu/participate/4-h-community-service. Here, you can register your event or report your service. The accomplishments of both individual members and clubs will be highlighted on the Illinois 4-H Website, so make sure to use the reporting link to document your positive efforts.



4-H Outdoor Skills Challenge returns!

Ready to challenge yourself and then prove it to your 4-H Leader or another trusted adult? You could teach them a thing or two! Learn these skill

levels and compete for some great prizes that will help you enjoy the outdoors!



Illinois & Indiana are teaming up for 2023 Citizenship Washington Focus! On this trip, teens will be able to experience Washington DC during an amazing week, **July 2 – 7, 2023!** The delegation will be traveling by bus, with a stop in Gettysburg, for a visit at the battlefields there. Estimated cost is \$2000 (dependent on

number of participants). Register at 4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/19340 by **March 6, 2023** to reserve your spot! Learn more at 4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/national-events/citizenship-washington-focus or contact Patricia McGlaughlin at patm@illinois.edu



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

KICK-OFF EVENT

Our 4-H Adventures in Nature Kick-Off Event will take place at Wildlife Prairie Park on Earth Day, April 22, 2023 at 10am-12pm!
(Register now for discounted admission.)

Explore the park and do fun, 4-H activities!

Tour the 4-H Great Learning Garden!

Receive a free nature journal!

Participate in a service project!

4-H ADVENTURES *in* NATURE

Every month (April through August), we'll email you nature-based activity challenges that you and your family can complete together - whenever and wherever works for you!

Families can earn digital badges each month by completing at least one challenge, and earn a special prize by completing challenges in all 5 months of the program!

Use the link or QR code to register! The watch your email for more info and your monthly challenges.

REGISTER NOW!



go.illinois.edu/4-HAdventuresinNature