



Clover Connections

Investing in Montana youth through the values of 4-H since 1969



A semi-annual newsletter of the Montana 4-H Foundation

Summer 2016

4-H National Conference

Garret Leland, Richland County 4-Her & Montana delegate to National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C.

“In the round table discussions at National 4-H Conference, I learned that communication and leadership have helped me understand and get more involved in 4-H. I met 4-H’ers from across the United States and we shared our 4-H experiences and what 4-H meant to each of us. We also discussed how we could get disabled kids involved in fitness programs and how we can better include them with other kids to help them feel involved. At different times I had to lead my round table discussion of how to involve disabled kids in any fitness program. I plan to use what I have learned by trying to understand and help any disabled kids in our 4-H program and in my community.”

LEFT: Delegates received a warm welcome at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, headquarters for the conference.

FAR RIGHT: Taylor Schepens, *Richland County*; Bailey Chalfant, *Big Horn County*; and Garrett Leland, *Richland County*; along with Joe Purcell, volunteer, *Big Horn County* (not pictured), attended National Conference in Washington, D.C., a working conference to develop recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs. The Montana youth are shown in front of the Smithsonian Castle.



Ambassador Officers



State Ambassador Team 2015-16

Left to right in photo: Nathan Wildeboer, *Missoula County, MEAC Representative*; Riley Reed, *Wheatland County, President*; Olivia Burk, *Wibaux County, Publicity Chair*; Erin Brush, *Madison County, Leaders Council Representative*; McKenna Kirschten, *Gallatin County, Foundation Trustee*

Olivia Burk, *Wibaux County, State Ambassador Officer Publicity Chair*

Hello, my name is Olivia Burk and I am your 2015-2016 Montana state 4-H Ambassador Officer. All throughout my 4-H career, I have tried to exemplify the 4-H motto, “Making the best better.” As a young 4-Her, I looked up to the older kids in my clubs as role models and mentors until I myself became a role model and mentor as my county’s Ambassador, and later as a State Officer.

As a State Officer, I have the opportunity to work closely with MSU Extension, the Montana 4-H Foundation, and several committed volunteers from across the state. As a team, State Officers plan, organize, and execute state events such as Montana 4-H Congress, Fall Ambassador Training, and Legislative Breakfast.

All this responsibility has given me an incredible chance to better myself and has given me experience that will guide me later in life. Being a state officer has not only tested me, but made my communication, leadership, and personal skills stronger. I have made friends that will last a lifetime and gained priceless experience that only 4-H offers.

If you wish to get the most out of 4-H, please consider applying for State Ambassador Officer.

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*The Montana 4-H Foundation is a member of
Montana Shares!*

*Donations can be designated to 4-H through the
Montana Shares workplace giving program.*



EXTENSION

The Montana 4-H Foundation is a 501(c)3 that works in affiliation with MSU Extension, an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

Growing True Leaders in Montana



Greetings 4-H Alumni & Friends,

A new nationwide campaign is being launched and if you care about 4-H you will want to be a part of it. Every child has the potential to be a true leader. However, kids today say they are missing experiences that grow the life skills they need – like confidence, responsibility, independence and compassion. It is a serious problem now that will lead to a severe leadership void in the years to come – impacting communities across America, and nearly every industry and sector.

THE ISSUE

- There is a critical skills gap in America: 50% of America's youth say they feel underprepared for life after high school.
- Only 11 percent of business leaders strongly agree that college graduates have the necessary skills for success.
- More than one-third of employers globally reported talent shortages in 2014, citing lack of skills as the top reason.

"GROW TRUE LEADERS": A CAMPAIGN TO RESPOND

- 4-H believes true leaders aren't born, they're grown.
- 4-H is launching the "Grow True Leaders" campaign, a youth-led campaign to prepare America's youth to truly lead in their lives, their communities and their future careers.
- After a spring 2016 launch, 4-H will highlight the "Grow True Leaders" campaign every graduation season—a time when many young people are preparing for the next chapter of their lives.
- The "Grow True Leaders" campaign will officially launch in Spring 2016 with the goal of creating (from 6M) 10 million True Leaders by 2025
- Today, 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the country: No other organization is better positioned to take on this challenge.

YOUR IMPACT

- By participating in the campaign, you are helping to grow True Leaders through 4-H programs that provide hands-on learning, adult mentorship and a proven, positive youth development approach.

Look for more information to come and if you haven't checked out our Facebook page, be sure to do that as the campaign is unveiled this summer in Montana! www.facebook.com/MT4HFdn

Enjoy the upcoming fair season and thanks for doing your part to Make the Best Better in Montana 4-H!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandra Germann'.

Sandra Germann

Executive Director



Kritters for Kids

Catherine Schafer, Annual Fund & Communications Coordinator

What's in a brand? Well, if it is the 4-H brand, quite a lot. Registered many years ago by the Montana 4-H Foundation, the 4-H brand represents learning, leadership, and a way of life for Montanans. Since 1973, people have been using this brand to designate livestock as a donation to Montana 4-H.

In 2005, Wayne Gibson of Bozeman, and his sisters, transferred ownership of the "4-H" brand to the Montana 4-H Foundation. The Gibsons' gracious act sparked a re-activation of this fundraising program, enabling more Montana youth to experience all that 4-H has to offer.

The "Kritters for 4-H Kids" program, formerly known as "Brand an Animal for 4-H," is a unique way to combine the state's rich ranching heritage and support of statewide 4-H programs. Participation in the program helps create opportunities for youth to attend and compete at events such as Montana State 4-H Congress and the Western Roundup in Denver. Priority will be given to 4-H livestock program support, including 4-H Livestock and Meat Judging Teams.

Once branded with the 4-H brand, the animal becomes the property of Montana 4-H. When each animal is sold, the State Brand Inspector overseeing the sale will verify that proceeds are to be sent to the Montana 4-H Foundation. Of course, donors wishing to not brand their animal with the 4-H brand may still donate proceeds from the animal once it is sold.

If you would consider either branding or simply designating an animal for Montana 4-H, you can make a real difference for our kids. The brand is applied by using a bar iron in multiple steps, or by use of a one piece iron obtained from the Montana 4-H Foundation or your County Extension Agent.

Thank you to Keith and Roberta Stevenson of Stevenson Angus in Hobson, Montana for their generous support of the "Kritters for 4-H Kids" program, and for helping to provide Montana 4-H Youth with expanded opportunities.

For more information on the "Kritters for 4-H Kids" program or to make a donation, please contact the Montana 4-H Foundation: phone: (406) 994-5911 or email: 4hfdn@montana.edu.



LEFT: Jess Moody taking notes on the cattle.

CENTER: Cole McKenney evaluating the market goats.

RIGHT: Greeley Schuman, Cole McKenney, Claire Ruckman, Jess Moody and Marc King, coach.



The Montana 4-H Hippology Team from Dawson County pictured left to right: Angela Magalsky, Kristy Cullinan, Tienna Canen, Alexis Canen, coached by Tana Canen. They placed 4th overall at the National Western Stock Show with Alexis Canen winning the individual horse judging aspect of the contest.

The team also competed at the Black Hills Stock Show where Alexis Canen won the Hippology contest individual and Magalsky won the Quiz Bowl Contest individual. The team earned the reserve champion Horse Quiz Bowl competition title.

People Partner: Blankets for Students in Need

When the Rowdy Ropers 4-H Club from Flathead County learned of the number of homeless students in their valley, they unanimously decided to make double-sided fleece blankets to be distributed to these students in need through the “Kalispell HEART Program.” This stands for H- Homeless, E-Education, A- And, R-Resources, T-Together.

Club volunteer leader, Susan Tutvedt, said “Teaching children to do things for others is so important. They are the future.”

The ages of club members range from 8-18. All members could be a part of this community service project: the older members and adults cut the fabric and all the members tied the knots on the blankets. At each club meeting they made four blankets and then finished the 25 blankets on a special blanket day.

Nicole Heyer, Homeless Education Liaison for Kalispell Schools, expressed her appreciation for the work completed by the Rowdy Ropers. “The blankets that you and your 4H group have taken the time to make and deliver have truly brought comfort and warmth to our students in need. As Fall sweeps our Flathead Valley with a dusting of frost, the need for these blankets will become even greater. When the students receive one of these handmade blankets, it not only serves as a source of warmth, but also a reminder that people care. Those human connections help these kids remember that they are a part of this community and motivate them to keep going. You are, by far, the largest contributor of blankets for the Heart Program, and we hope that you will continue to do this important work for the students that we work with.”



The Rowdy Ropers received a \$500 People Partner Grant from the Montana 4-H Foundation to purchase supplies for their project. These grants are available annually to Montana youth groups to help make life better in their community. It is funded by an endowment started by Gerry Fenn in the 1970s.

Rowdy Ropers 4-H Club members (Left to right) Nate Tutvedt, Megan Tutvedt, Bethany Lyford, Dylan Leese, Brynn Hankinson, Brooke-Lynn Hankinson, Bryor Hankinson, and Garrett Tutvedt are pleased to share the results of their work with students in need.

“4-H took root over a century ago by empowering youth to lead. Lead with confidence and strength, with the curiosity to question and capability to find answers, with the grit to get the job done and humble pride to make sure it’s done right. Most of all, these youth understand that giving back can move an entire community forward. These are the young people that we call True Leaders. And at 4-H, we understand that True Leaders aren’t born, they’re grown.”

-Jennifer Sirangelo, President & CEO National 4-H Council

Giving is Easier than Ever

Fast, Easy and Secure!

Online at the Montana 4-H website:
www.montana4h.org/#give4h



Reach for the Stars at the 2016 4-H Rec Lab

What do you get when you combine great workshops, wonderful speakers, team building activities, gym floor sleeping, and over 200 4-H members? Montana 4-H Rec Lab.

In April the Rec Lab took place in Joliet, MT, and focused on building leadership and project skills. Rec Lab kicked off when teens and adults explored their artistic side while building leadership skills with Karen Grosz from Canvas Creek Team Building.

Then on Saturday, 4-H'ers spent the day in interactive workshops with topics ranging from outdoor cooking to drones. Everyone had a chance to learn something new including innovative crafts and exciting games. Each workshop focused on skills that teens could take back and share with their club and community.

The banquet keynote speaker, Adam Lee Brooks, shared a message of self-acceptance, leadership, and the importance of speaking up. Both teens and adults walked away feeling inspired to be an agent of change in their lives and the lives of others.

The 2016 4-H Rec Lab was a huge success, leadership skills were developed, talents were shared, and fun was had by all, proving once again that 4-H is the place that gives everyone the chance to "Reach for the Stars."



Could you work as a team to stay sitting when the chairs are removed from beneath you? These Rec Lab participants can! This activity was one of many fun activities learned in Cloe Flunn's teambuilding workshop.



Montana 4-H Foundation is on Facebook

Check out the Foundation's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MT4HFdn

We'd love to hear from you!

National Congress

National 4-H Congress, held in Atlanta, Georgia, is an award trip for individuals recognized as State Award and State Contest winners. National Congress participants gain insight in leadership, youth empowerment and cultural diversity.



Back row left to right: Jodie Drange, *Yellowstone County, chaperone*; Jhren Carpenter, *Lewis & Clark County, Quilting*; Augustina Wofford, *Beaverhead County, Demonstration/illustrated Talk and Leadership*; Meghan Brence, *Custer County, Photography*; Andrew Rath, *Yellowstone County, Community Service*; Kathy Cheney, *Gallatin County, chaperone*.

Front row left to right: Watson Snyder, *Teton County*; Haley Darlinton, *Cascade County, Stir-Ups*; Kendra Scherrer, *Cascade County, Stir-Ups*; Riley Anderson-Reed, *Wheatland County, Leadership*; Anna Snell, *Sanders County, Fashion Revue*; Amber Voss, *Missoula County, Demonstrations/Illustrated Talk*; Clint Connors, *Silver Bow County, Demonstrations/Illustrated Talk*.



Volunteer of Excellence

Mary Ann Zorn, shown with her husband Ted, received a Volunteer Excellence Award for 10+ years of service at State Leaders Forum in Havre, October 2015.

Mary Ann is from Liberty County and has been very committed to their Shooting Sports program. (We apologize for overlooking this important information in our last edition.)



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Shed Hunt for Montana 4-H

Looking for something to do this weekend? How about collecting antler sheds to benefit Montana 4-Hers.
Prizes and Club Recognition for all Participants

Bring Collected Sheds to Bozeman, Montana!

Drop off at Foundation Office at Congress
or anytime throughout the year.



Contact Sandra Germann with any questions
at the Montana 4-H Foundation
(406) 999-5911 or sandra.germann@montana.edu

Roger Czech, 4-H Shooting Sports Leader from Cut Bank, recently dropped off a large box of sheds. When asked why he chose to support 4-H in this way he said: *"I believe in the discipline that comes with the (4-H) shooting sports program and know that it carries over to all aspects of life. This is good for our young people today. Who would have thought some old antlers would be worth so much! Thank you for the opportunity to help where I can."*