



CLOVER CONNECTIONS

Connecting Volunteers, Alumni, & Friends of Montana 4-H

Summer 2020 | www.montana4h.org | www.mt4hfoundation.org

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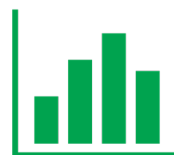
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MONTANA 4-H CONGRESS IS GOING VIRTUAL

Each summer we look forward to gathering the 4-H youth from around Montana for five days of hands-on learning and memory making on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman. Well, it's that time of year and Congress is upon us! With the uncertainty of COVID-19, this year's Congress is going to look a little different – for the first time ever, Montana 4-H Congress is taking place VIRTUALLY!!

Virtual events and activities will take place during the regularly scheduled Congress week which falls July 6-10, 2020. We have a lineup of fantastic speakers and interactive events that will be engaging and fun for youth of all ages. Our 2019-2020 State Officer Team will be moderating pre-sessions LIVE each day from campus to give attendees 20 minutes of fun before each workshop!

Congress Highlights include:

- Talent Show | Wed. July 8 at 6:30pm
- General Session with Jim Cain | Thurs. July 9 at 6:00pm
- 6 exciting workshops that can be done in small groups in YOUR COUNTY.

See the full Schedule of Events online at: bit.ly/2VbcYhS

We can't wait to see you at VIRTUAL MT 4-H CONGRESS!



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

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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.

Times they are a Changin'!

I have the Bob Dylan song in my head... "The Times they are a Changin'." Throughout history this has been the case so I know we will face current challenges with no less diligence and fortitude. This will be the year we will look back on when everyone was affected by COVID-19. I say everyone because even if you are from an area with no cases of the virus, you are working and dealing with communities and others who are, from local businesses to innovative new ways. How this will shake out is still up in the air, we simply don't know how things will look different in the future. But we are resilient, and we will adjust. Look for ways 4-H is impacting communities throughout these times in the survey mentioned in this publication.



Sandra Germann
Executive Director

Montana 4-H leadership at the state and county levels are busy making the best decisions possible based on the information at hand. This includes making recommendations for modifying events, deciding how to phase activities back into meeting programming needs, and reworking budgets and policies – all while learning and using new workplace skills. Whew!

From virtual Congress, fairs and camps this summer, Montana 4-H and Extension is busy doing business as usual. It isn't what we are used to, but we are learning new ways to reach youth and adults through webinars, distance learning, and a whole host of creative, interactive delivery methods. I am proud of our people in Extension for rising to the challenge to better serve youth and communities. Give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done. If you are tired at the end of the day, it's no wonder!

COVID-19 isn't the only agent of change being brought to our attention either as the issue of equity has risen to the forefront as we discuss later in this publication. There is no doubt that 2020 will be one for the books.

The times may be "a changin'" but I can't think of a better group of people to be changing with. Thank you to our donors, alumni, volunteers and friends for all you do for your communities and Montana 4-Hers. Stay well, stay healthy and I hope to see you in person or at a virtual event as the summer unfolds.

Sandra Germann, Executive Director

PEOPLE PARTNER GRANT AWARDS

The following clubs were awarded a 2020 People Partner Grant! These grants provide incentives and financial support to groups and individuals for programs and service projects that enhance the quality of living for people in their communities. Each application is eligible for up to \$500, and these grants are funded annually by an endowment established by **Geraldine Fenn**. Congratulations to each of our awardees!

CLUB NAME	COUNTY	DESCRIPTION
Big Horn County 4-H Ambassadors	Big Horn	Annual roadside clean up.
Community Hustlers	Big Horn	Bike safety and helmet distribution.
Hot Springs Wranglers	Sanders	Help club rebuild the bluebird houses that were destroyed and help preserve the bluebirds nesting grounds.
Rowdy Ropers 4-H Club	Flathead	Double sided twin sized fleece blankets for the HEART Locker, benefitting homeless teens in our valley.
Clever Clovers 4-H Club	Glacier	Rebuild the dog arena and repair the stands at the fairgrounds.
Cougar Creek 4-H Club	Prairie	Build Emergency Grab and Go bags for the elderly members of our community.
CB&R 4-H Club	Treasure	Plant trees in Hysham's Lions Park.
Puptown Wranglers 4-H Club	Carter	Add a concrete picnic table at the Carter County Fair Grounds.
Junior Leaders 4-H	Wibaux	Renovating the "W" in the park from racks and timbers to landscape pavers and flowers.
Giffen Coulee 4-H Club	Cascade	Annual community Easter Egg Hunt.
Tiger Butte 4-H Club	Cascade	Build a 4-H themed food display for Cantastic event to support Great Falls Food Bank.
Project Rockin Wranglers	Yellowstone	Provide water to vulnerable members of the Ballentine/ Worden community.
Lucky Clover 4-H Club	Valley	Beautification project highlighting the town sign.
Phillips County Swine Members	Phillips	Install cement under 12 swine pens in the Phillips County Swine Barn.

Interested in learning more about the People Partner Grant application process? Visit the Foundation's website to learn more:

<http://mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html>



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN 2020

Rising to the forefront today is the societal issue of equity. 4-H is an organization committed to diversity, equity and inclusion for all youth. In a short video produced by National 4-H Council, youth describe equity to include the following: open-minded, hope, empowerment, support, love, community, justice, togetherness, opportunities and more. **Watch the video: <https://4-h.org/about/equity-and-inclusion/>**

As adults and mentors in 4-H, we empower youth to lift their voices and meet these challenges head on. In 4-H we believe in the power of YOUth, from all backgrounds and beliefs. We believe in their stories and we work to create opportunities for young people, even those hardest to reach and who need us most. As our National 4-H leadership reminds us, it is the wisdom, clarity and humanity of our young people (who are) the hope for a brighter future for our country.

Montana 4-H, we are all in this together!

Carter Jasper | Montana 4-H Foundation Youth Board Member

Hello, my name is Carter Jasper from Mineral County.

This year I have been serving as your at-large youth member on the Montana 4-H Foundation board. 4-H has played an important role in my life since I was 10. It has provided opportunities for learning new skills, growth as an individual, leadership experience and many friendships in my club and beyond. Through work with the Montana 4-H Foundation, I hope to promote and further Montana 4-H so that kids from remote areas like Mineral County all the way to our more urban clubs can experience all that 4-H has to offer. Through work with the 4-H Foundation I am acquiring additional life skills like learning how to read budgets, (which does not sound interesting but is definitely is a valuable skill) and how to lead on a state level, and not just at your county or club. Serving on the Montana 4-H Foundation board is an honor and an awesome experience.



THANK YOU for Supporting Montana 4-H



Photo: Backcountry Media | 2019 MT 4-H Congress

4-H AND COMMUNITY | A MONTANA SURVEY

The past few months have been trying indeed, especially for 4-H members, volunteers, and Extension educators who have worked hard to keep their county programs going. We know, from previous research, that 4-H builds character, provides youth with a sense of belonging, and teaches them important life skills. What we don't know, but are attempting to find out, is **how 4-H as an organization, affects communities**. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the way that communities usually do things like operating county camps, fairs, and other community events has been turned upside down. We think that 4-H provides communities with continuity and contributes to community cohesion. To check this out, we distributed a Qualtrics survey to 4-H families and volunteers through 4-H online and to county Extension educators.

Summary of key findings include the following:

- Over **1,000 youth and adults** took the survey.
- Of those, approximately **30% were 4-H aged youth**.
- Approx. **68%** of respondents **participated in 4-H of some kind since March 28th** when the Governor's mandate was established.
- Approx. **70%** of participants worked on individual projects and/or **attended club or project meetings virtually or in person**.
- Responses from volunteers and extension staff were also compiled and while the majority of **Volunteers** (64%) focused on helping with 4-H project work, club meetings and social media interactions; **Extension Agents** time was split pretty evenly with providing information through various delivery methods to volunteers, youth and families.

Survey Drawing Winner:
Amber Erickson

The results will be shared over the coming months. If you would like a copy emailed to you (when the time comes), please contact Stephanie Davison at sdavison@montana.edu.

Cade Duran | Montana 4-H Foundation Trustee



We would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to Cade Duran of Mineral County for serving as the State Ambassador Representative on the Montana 4-H Foundation's Board of Directors this year!

In Cade's own words,
"Just remember 4-Hers... get involved and have a great year!"

What Does Community Mean to You?



FOURWARD FUND

Across Montana, our communities are experiencing unforeseen challenges due to the impact of the COVID-19. Our network of 3,000 volunteers and professionals have had to quickly adjust to continue serving the 20,000 4-Hers across the state. While COVID-19 has presented new obstacles, our commitment to positive youth development is unwavering.

We recognize the financial setbacks faced by many and are grateful for those who are able to consider supporting Montana 4-H by visiting www.mt4hfoundation.org.

Please consider including the Montana 4-H Foundation (EIN#23-7051460) in your will or estate plan and talk to your accountant about benefiting from the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.





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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

2020 4-H Youth Leadership Sponsors



Thank you to the Montana 4-H Youth Leadership Sponsors and Statewide Program Sponsors! Your support ensures that Montana 4-H can continue to grow the true leaders of tomorrow.

Interested in sponsoring Montana 4-H?

Contact the Foundation at (406)994-5911 or send an email to 4hfdn@montana.edu.

MT 4-H Program/Project Sponsors

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