



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

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# Clover CLIPS



VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER 2008

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension • Western Area

## “What if?” Your Way to More Club Enthusiasm

### Thinking Outside the Box

Leaders, parents and 4-H’ers feel at a loss for reasons when they find themselves stuck in a rut of repetition within their club structure. Frustrations develop and often club membership falls as the club continues along the established and familiar path that worked so well in the past. Leaders feel increased frustration when they attempt to find ways to reinvigorate the club and its members on their own.

Long time leaders and 4-H’ers recognize the cyclical rhythm of 4-H programs as a natural part of each club’s growth process. Clubs shift in response to graduating teens or members who simply choose to follow another path, new and younger members who reflect a shift in the activities and attention span of the ages involved and the number of supportive and involved parents. Everyone recognizes enthusiastic membership as key to the life of a club. The challenge for leaders, 4-H’ers and parents is how to keep that enthusiasm.

Engaging the club membership in an exercise of thinking outside of the box is one way for clubs to put new life into a program. In order to think outside the box; clubs need to understand the “inside of the box” for their club. 4-H’ers build competency in their chosen project through repetition of activities involved in learning how, for instance, to raise a lamb, show a rabbit or shoot a firearm. Heavy emphasis on the end result of a well raised lamb, a good show rabbit or hitting the target can reduce activities to the same steps over and over until excitement for the project dwindles and boredom sets in.

The definition of thinking outside the box is to think creatively or from a new perspective. Leaders can begin by asking “what if?” questions.

“What if” members took a larger part in decisions on:

- developing the club calendar
- choosing guest speakers
- selecting field trips
- establishing time lines for achieving goals

Leaders need to remember that 4-H’ers will keep things interesting for you. The challenge for leaders and parents is to keep things interesting for them by including them in the decision making process. For many adults this is really thinking outside of the box.

The following are a few hints to begin that process:

- Give your 4-H’ers increasing independence and responsibility as they grow into those roles
- Lead them to setting their own agendas
- Let 4-H’ers tell you what they like, want or enjoy
- Listen actively
- Explore new ways of doing things
- Recruit other leaders and kids
- Share the leadership load with interested and qualified people
- Encourage parental support and participation
- Allow yourself to make a mistake and learn from it
- Help 4-H’ers set realistic goals and achieve them
- Everyone have fun

Rather than gritting their teeth and forcing 4-H’ers to continue tedious and repetitive activities that no longer work, leaders and parents can help keep clubs active and enthusiasm high as they engage their 4-H’ers in increased involvement through thinking outside of the box. And, when all else fails, assume the absurd and if possible act on it.



*4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.*

# Have Fun and Shop at the Pumpkin Patch and Craft Fair

## Carson City/Storey County 4-H Sponsors Initial Pumpkin Patch Scholarship Fundraiser

The Carson City/Storey County 4-H Council is sponsoring The Great 4-H Pumpkin Patch to raise scholarship funds for local 4-H youth. Fuji Park, 601 Old Clear Creek Road, will host the Pumpkin Patch and carnival games on **October 4**, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Visitors can expect lots of inexpensive family fun including skee ball, bounce house, face painting, a petting zoo, balloon twisting, the shooting sports trailer, a scavenger hunt and of course a chance to purchase your Halloween pumpkin and enter the pumpkin decorating contest! Decorating prizes will be given in pee wee, junior, intermediate and senior divisions. Bring the family to



enjoy the games, food and drinks and help Carson City/Storey County raise scholarship funds for deserving 4-H youth.

## Carson City/Storey County 4-H Hosts Harvest Festival Craft Fair

Get an early jump on Christmas shopping and support scholarship fund raising by attending the 4-H Council of Carson City/Storey County's Harvest Festival Craft Fair **November 8**, at Fuji Park Exhibition Hall, 601 Old Clear Creek Road in Carson City.

The event is from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and proceeds will benefit the 4-H Council scholarship efforts.

As of this writing, crafter applications are still being accepted for 10-foot-by-10-foot booth space for \$50. Crafters will set up 6-10 a.m. on the day of the event and some electrical hookups will be available for \$20. For more information or to request an application, please call the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Carson City/Storey County office, 775-887-2252.

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## One Million New Scientists. One Million New Ideas.™

### 2008 NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE DAY

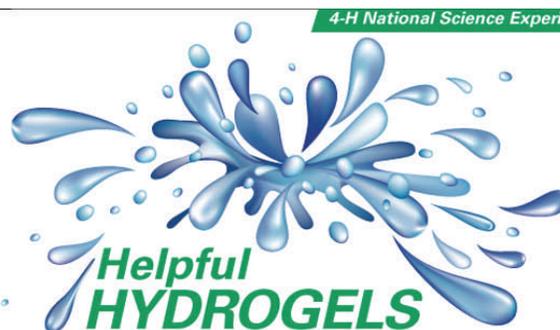
Did you know that 4-H is the nation's largest youth development program? It serves 6 million youth; and one of its three main mandate areas is Science, Engineering and Technology (SET)

To complement SET curriculum, 4-H has announced a new national initiative named "National Youth Science Day" which will take place on **October 8**, during National 4-H Week. It is part of comprehensive campaign to support 4-H's goal of attracting 1 million new youth to 4-H science, engineering, and technology programs by the year 2013.

Each year it will feature a national science experiment. This year the quality, hands-on experiment is about hydrogels and the conservation of our nature resource, water. You are encouraged to perform this experiment at home, at your club meeting or in your

classroom and report your findings to [www.4-H.org](http://www.4-H.org). Go to the web site to find out the details of the experiment, share your thoughts and join a discussion on the potential impact of hydrogels; as well as environmental issues relating to water conservation and groundwater contamination.

For more information contact your local 4-H office.



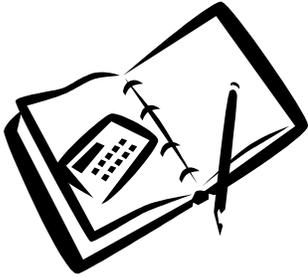
We have copies of the experiment and can answer questions. This would be a great activity to do at your first meeting in October as water conservation and water quality are important aspects of all our projects.

# Record Books are Due Everywhere

## Carson City

Record keeping is a time honored part of 4-H clubs and serves each 4-H'er to better understand how their project developed throughout the year and make adjustments where necessary. Carson City/Storey County 4-H'ers are encouraged to drop off their 2007 – 2008 project portfolios or record books by October 30 to the Carson City office.

Portfolios and record books should include highlights of your project year, activities and events attended, a financial record of expenditures and earnings for the year, photo page, awards received and positions held both in and out of your club, visual history of you and your project, and your 4-H Story. Older teens should consider including a one page resume.



Creativity is encouraged.

Portfolios can be as simple as a three ring binder, or on a scroll,

in DVD format, or as educational poster board. Please call the office for answers to any questions or for a review of your project portfolio prior to turning it in. Our goal is to have enough portfolios turned in that we can begin inviting members from the business community to join in reviewing these important records.

## Washoe County

On October 10, 2008, all Washoe County 4-H Record Books are due to the Washoe Office to be judged for county awards. The only way to earn a medal in a project area is to turn in a book. Don't forget to put in for star rank. Simply fold the star rank form in to an envelope attached to inside cover. Also, for those who have finished any level workbooks, this is the time to turn them in. If you have any questions please call the Washoe Office at 784-4848.

### *Delegates Needed for National Conference*

If you are interested in becoming a delegate to the National 4-H Conference please contact your local 4-H office for an application.

Delegates must be 15 years old as of January 1 of the conference year. In addition to the application, applicants will be asked to include a photo, a signed photo release and a resumé. Successful applicants will demonstrate leadership and commit to making significant contributions to their 4-H community by sharing ideas.

Applications are due to the State Office by October 31, 2008 with interviews planned for the second week in November. For more information on the conference check out the website at <http://4hconf.4-h.org/>.



# GIS Day is Where It's At

November 19, 2008 is GIS Day. GIS Day is an international grassroots event to promote geographic literacy in schools and communities around the

world. This year's celebration is the tenth annual event and is your opportunity to learn and share knowledge in geography and technology.

Washoe County 4-H is planning a celebration on November 16, at the Reno Livestock Events Center Pavilion, from 9 a.m. to noon. The event is free to all youth, but you do need to RSVP by November 13. The Nevada State 4-H Mobile Technology Lab will be on hand, and you will learn about map making and even participate in treasure hunt using GPS.

For more information or to register for the event please call Cindy Smullen at 784 4848 or email [smullenc@unce.unr.edu](mailto:smullenc@unce.unr.edu). Enrollment is limited to the first 30 participants.

## Japanese Pen Pals Available

A 4-H club in Camp Zama Japan is interested in finding other 4-Hers that are interested in becoming pen pals. If your club is interested, please have your club leader contact Valda Campbell in care of Claire Nakatsuka at [nakatsuk@hawaii.edu](mailto:nakatsuk@hawaii.edu)

## Help Celebrate National 4-H Week by "Keeping It Green"

4-H youth from across the nation will be "Keeping It Green" as they celebrate 2008 National 4-H Week October 5-11 by raising awareness about environmental issues and initiating environmental

projects that make a positive difference in their communities.

Western Area 4-H members ask their communities to get

ready for the challenge by encouraging youth and adults to join 4-H.

Throughout National 4-H week and the year, 4-H'ers will solve problems in their communities, raise awareness about environmental issues, and make a difference for their futures in the spirit of 4-H's vision to create a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change. What will you or your club do for National 4-H Week and the new 4-H year? Share your ideas with your local 4-H staff and celebrate what is right with 4-H Youth Development.



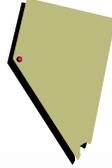
**Western Area  
October dates to remember**

**Oct. 4** Pumpkin Patch & 4-H Carnival,  
Fuji Park, 10 a.m. – 4 pm

**Oct. 10** Record books due – Washoe

**Oct. 30** Record books due –  
Carson/Storey

**Oct. 31** Nevada Day Holiday,  
Offices closed.



**WEB RESOURCE CENTER**

Are you a “city kid” who has never been around farms before? Or maybe you raise sheep, cows or swine but were curious about fish farming.

At [www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualfarm/main.html](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualfarm/main.html) you can get a quick idea about a lot of different types of farming. Find out about cattle, dairy, poultry, fish, wheat and horse farming. Read interviews with farmers making their living in each field. Take virtual tours of the different working farms, and find out about the products they produce.

There are also fun quizzes to test your knowledge of the subjects and find out just how much of a farmer or city kid you really are.

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**WESTERN AREA OFFICES**

**Carson City/  
Storey County**  
(775) 887-2252  
2621 Northgate Lane  
Suite 15  
Carson City, NV 89701

**Douglas County**  
(775) 782-9960  
1329 Waterloo  
Gardnerville, NV 89410  
PO Box 338  
Minden, NV 89423-0338

**Washoe County**  
(775) 784-4848  
5305 Mill Street  
Reno, NV 89502

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# 4-H Events Calendar

Unless stated differently, all meetings are held at your local Cooperative Extension office.

## October 2008



DATE	WESTERN AREA	CARSON CITY/STOREY COUNTY	DOUGLAS COUNTY	WASHOE COUNTY
4		Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser and Carnival, at Fuji Park 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival, 8 a.m.	
6			Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m.	
9	NSF livestock committee mtg., interactive video 5:30 p.m. – Reno & Yerington			
10				Member Record books due by 5 p.m.
11			Snapshot Day on the Carson River	
13		4-H Council Mtg., 6:30 - 8 p.m.	Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m.	
14				Horse Leaders' Mtg., 6 p.m.
15				Livestock Leaders' Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Dog Leaders Mtg., 7 p.m. Small Animal Leaders' Mtg., 7:30 p.m.
16	Lights On AfterSchool Activities – various locations			
17-18	State Shooting Sport Leader Training & Certification, Lovelock			
20			Community Club, Bubble Science, CV Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m. Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m.	
27			Leaders' Council, 7 p.m. Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m.	
31	<b>NEVADA DAY - OFFICES CLOSED</b>			
Oct. 31 - Nov. 2	State 4-H Ambassador training – State 4-H Camp			

Unless stated differently, all meetings are held at your local Cooperative Extension office.

## Upcoming 4-H Events Calendar



DATE	WESTERN AREA	CARSON CITY/STOREY COUNTY	DOUGLAS COUNTY	WASHOE COUNTY
<b>November 2008</b>				
3			Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m.	
8		Craft Fair & Harvest Festival, Fuji Park, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.		
10		4-H Council, 6:30 p.m.	Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m.	
11	<b>VETERANS' DAY - OFFICES CLOSED</b>			
12		State Shooting Sports Advis. Comm, UNCE office, 6 p.m.		
13				Horse Leaders' Mtg., 6 p.m. (Date change due to Veterans' Day Holiday)
16	Poultry show, RLEC Pavilion, 8 a.m.			GIS Day, Reno Livestock Events Center Pavilion 9 a.m.-Noon
17			Community Club, at CV Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m. Portfolios due at Community Club Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m.	
22				Dog Clinic, RLEC Pavilion Time TBA
24			Teen Institute, 2:30-4:30 p.m. No Leaders' Council until Feb 23, '09	
27	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY - OFFICES CLOSED</b>			
28	<b>FAMILY DAY - OFFICES CLOSED</b>			
30				NJLS Beef Weigh-in and Tagging. Damonte Ranch, 3 p.m.

<b>December 2008</b>				
6		Parade of Lights, Virginia City Starting at Dusk		
8		4-H Council, 6:30 p.m.		
9				Horse Leaders' Mtg., 6 p.m.
25	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY - OFFICES CLOSED</b>			