



# Illinois *Leader*

Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

October-November 2008

## 4-H Mission Mandate: Science, Engineering & Technology (SET)



To address our nation's critical challenge to prepare a competitive workforce and informed citizenry, National 4-H Headquarters has established a science, engineering, and technology (SET) mission mandate to prepare 1 million new young people to excel in the SET arena by 2013. University of Illinois Extension 4-H has identified four SET core programs: 1) **Sustainable Energy**, 2) **Robotics**, 3) **Geospatial Technologies (GIS/GPS)**, and 4) **Exploring the Wonders of Science: A Hands-on Career Exploration**.

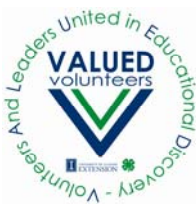
National 4-H curriculum materials are available to order through Illinois 4-H DMS for Robotics and GIS/GPS (*Exploring Spaces. Going Places*). Many counties have the **Wonderwise** curriculum kits available for use by 4-H clubs/groups. These kits introduce 4-H members to women who have made science their career. Each kit includes a video, CD-ROM, and activity book. Additionally, some counties may have supplemental kits of non-consumable supplies needed to implement the science activities outlined in the curriculum. **Wonderwise** topics include: African Plant Explorer, Urban Ecologist, Pollen Detective, Parasite Sleuth, Sea Otter Biologist, Rain Forest Ecologist, Space Geologist, Genetic Counselor, and Vet Detective. Contact your local Extension office for information on these SET core programs.

## October 8 – 4-H National Youth Science Day



As part of National 4-H Week, youth from across the country are invited to participate in the first ever **4-H National Science Experiment Day on October 8**. In the experiment "Helpful Hydrogels", youth will examine the properties of water-absorbing polymers, which are long chains of molecules that can be used in environmental applications such as agriculture, erosion control, soil management, and environmental clean-ups. Youth of all ages will test the effectiveness of polymers in an easy-to-administer soil and water experiment and then post their findings online to engage in dialogue with fellow youth nationwide. Information about the experiment and how to share results with others can be found at [www.4-H.org](http://www.4-H.org). Additional interactive activities will be available online during National 4-H Week. This will be the springboard for the new 4-H public service campaign "One Million New Scientists. One Million New Ideas.<sup>TM</sup>"

## VALUED Volunteer Program



The **VALUED Volunteer Program is expanding** again this year. New and less tenured volunteers who are interested in the orientation program should contact their local Extension office to enroll by **Sept. 30**. The six one-hour **orientation** modules are offered through face-to-face meetings, teleconference sessions, and web-based or self-study sessions. Participants are asked to complete evaluation forms for each module. Recognition is provided for those leaders who complete all six modules during the 4-H year. Topics include volunteer roles in 4-H, club organization, club program planning, and communications within the 4-H club, positive youth development, and experiential learning. Join more than 400 Illinois 4-H leaders who have participated in this series. New and experienced volunteers are welcome to enroll.

This year some of the **VALUED Volunteer Modules** will be offered statewide. The topics and dates are listed below: **Positive Youth Development** – January 8, 13, or 14; **Communications within the 4-H Club** – January 22, 26, or 27; **Public Presentations** – February 3, 11, or 19; **Parental Involvement** – February 4, 10, or 17; and **Risk Management** – March 3, 11, or 19. Each session lasts one hour. Registration deadline will be one month prior to the first session by topic area. Materials will be mailed directly to the 4-H leaders from the State 4-H Office. The next issue of the *Illinois Leader* will indicate the procedure for registering for the sessions.

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#### **4-H Premier LCP Awards**



The Illinois Farm Bureau and their Affiliate Companies offer a wonderful opportunity for 4-H members ages 17 and above to be recognized for their involvement in the 4-H program. The **4-H Premier LCP Award** provides several levels of recognition to applicants. Each county may submit two entries. Ten 4-H members with the highest cumulative point totals receive state recognition at the Illini Summer Academies and ten 4-H members receive the opportunity to attend the IFB Premier 20 Leadership Conference in April.

Applications are now available through your local Extension office. **Each Extension unit determines how they select their two nominees for the state competition.** Applicants must be 4-H members who are at least 17 years of age by December 1, 2008. Your local Extension office will set a county deadline; the applications sent to state competition must be postmarked by **December 15.**

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#### **2009 Junior Leadership Conference Dates Set**



Get this weekend on the calendars of your junior high age members NOW! The 2009 Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference is set for **February 21-22, 2009.** The Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team will be hosting this event at a new location – Lake Williamson Retreat Center near Carlinville, Illinois. It will be open to 4-H members currently in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. More details and registration information will be in the next issue of *Illinois Leader*.

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#### **National 4-H Week is October 5 - 11**



The theme for National 4-H Week is “**Keeping it Green**” which shows how 4-H is bridging old and new ideas to teach youth environmental stewardship and connect youth to science-related issues. The green theme also showcases 4-H pride and is a direct connection to our well known brand emblem.

Consider getting involved by planning an environmental-themed club activity for this week: use GIS or paper maps to locate natural resources in your community, participate in the 4-H National Science Experiment on water conservation, encourage youth to share their knowledge with others by teaching the importance of caring for our environment, or organize a trash pickup or recycling day in your community.

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#### **Helping You Help Youth: Build Character**

The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to: Illinois Leader, Sheri Seibold, 1902 Fox Dr, Ste A, Champaign, IL 61820, (217) 333-0910 [www.4-H.uiuc.edu](http://www.4-H.uiuc.edu)

A new resource for Illinois 4-H leaders is available on the Illinois 4-H web site. It is a new *Helping You Help Youth* fact sheet titled “*Build Character.*” This fact sheet helps to define character building and why it is important. It also includes practical tips on how to include character building in your club/group and lists a variety of character building 4-H projects that a club/group may wish to enroll in for the 2008-09 4-H year. The fact sheet may be downloaded at [www.4-h.uiuc.edu/opps/L90501p.pdf](http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/opps/L90501p.pdf).

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