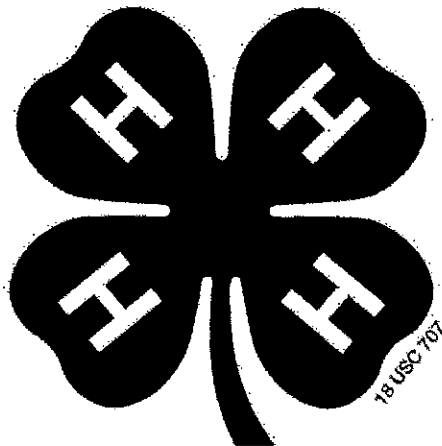


Genoa City's

**Flame throwers 4-H
Club**

Survival Guide for 4-H



What is 4H? It is many things that you will learn about as the year goes on, but personally, I want to say it is a union of members that establish a friendship and camaraderie from the very beginning of their joining a club.

In Walworth County, there are 19 existing clubs, and chances are that members throughout their years as members will meet other members from all the different clubs throughout the county.

The 4-H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, thus the pledge:

I pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service,

My Health to better living for

My Club, my Community, my Country, and my World.

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

So we want to welcome you to the Flamethrowers 4H club, which has been in existence since 1992. We are considered the local club that will guide you through the 4H guidelines and, as with everything else, the rules. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month in Genoa City at the First Congregational Church basement, at 7pm. Every meeting, families will be assigned to bring a drink and snack. I assign families by the month the children's birthdays fall in. We try to limit our meetings to an hour, but there are exceptions. You will be dealing with children of all ages and children that have been elected by the other members to run the meetings. New officers are elected in October of each year and are officially sworn in at our November meeting and the new year of activities begins to be planned. The 4H fiscal year ends on June 30 of every year and begins July 1. Club officers are elected on a yearly basis for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, photographer, and historian.

The rules are really very minimal, but one I will stress here is respect for each other. Our members are not all from the Genoa City area. They are from Illinois, Lake Geneva, Burlington, Pell Lake, Williams Bay, and that may

change over the course of the years that the club exists. You can start expanding your friendships

The 1st night you come to the meeting, by just standing up and telling the other members about yourself. We encourage all our members to talk as it expands your speaking skills.

With that much said so far, let me introduce myself. I am Sheane Martin the General Leader of the Flamethrowers 4-H Club. I took over as a leader in November 2011. I have been a resident of Genoa City since 2004. My daughter has been a 4-H member since 2008. I am also assisted by a group of parental volunteers who are invaluable in their experience and efforts; and to whom I am most grateful. They are Ronda Smith, Terrie Jenni, and Chelsea Police. They are available to help answer questions in club meetings as well as assisting in our activities.

4-H is a really great program and has many different activities and interests to offer anyone. 4H is open to any youth regardless of that person's race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability or handicap, pregnancy, or marital or parental status. Flamethrowers 4H meeting facility is handicapped accessible.

Flamethrower's 4H does require that members attend a minimum of 6 meetings in order to be considered a member in good standing. If a member will be absent from a meeting, they are to call the leader. If you should be enrolled in college, you will be excused from calling, BUT you must attend a meeting during your breaks home from school. If that is not possible due to commitments or work, then the college student must report their absence.

The club does also require you to participate in fundraisers. We try to minimize the fundraisers, but it is the only way the club has to fund itself. The funds are used for community service projects and to minimize the cost of some of the yearly activities that the club members participate in. The fundraisers we do vary from year to year but we have sold Christmas wreaths in conjunction with the scouts in our area in October with delivery in November, a county wide pizza sale that begins in January with delivery in late February, and Market Day Sale in July. We have also done carwashes

and candy bar sales. Throughout the year we have ice cream socials, which we do for a free will offering, which helps cover our expenses, and those are in June and August during our local Lions Club functions.

Any 4H activity that the members participate in, if the parents do not attend, they will be required to provide a medical release to the leader before the event, just in case we need to get a hold of someone. This must include all activities that the children travel to. Some events we allow friends to come along, and those friends will also be required to sign a release.

The final rule I want to address here, is record keeping. When you sign up for 4H you will fill out a form for the project are you are interested in. There is a Record Book that all members are required to turn in at the end of the year. The record books are due at the meeting in September following the Walworth County Fair. I will encourage you to start your record book upon receipt of your material. The leader or other parents can help guide you and your child through this book. I highly recommend that you bring a small calendar, a pen or pencil, and a small tablet of paper to meetings to take notes. This is your club and activities being planned and you should be learning to write down notes and also bring parents to meetings. Record keeping is a vital part of the life skills we must learn in life and the Record book you start with the year you join 4H will be a part of your records for the lifetime of your membership. You will hear mention of a PPR, (Permanent Participation Record), which is exactly that, a permanent record of all your years in 4H. This book if kept up properly can be a vital tool when it comes time to fill out resumes for jobs or college when the time comes. A member can be in 4H for one year past their high school graduation, which brings me to a rule for members in their last year. The county recognizes achieving members through various award ceremonies, scholarships, and an end of year banquet. It is this banquet that graduating members will be invited, providing they have done some service to the club, turned in their record book, and abided by the attendance rules.

When you sign up for the new 4H year, there is a nominal fee per member for the county to cover materials you will need, and there is a \$5.00 club fee per family to cover the cost of postage and mailings.

The following is a list of activities the club does on a yearly basis (subject to change)

- Nov** **New Year sign up begins. Re-enrolling members: forms are due to club leader by November 24th. New members have until March 1st to join the club. New officers are sworn in.**
- Dec** **Current re-enrolling members registrations turned in. We have participated in the Christmas Parade in Lake Geneva. Our meeting night for this one month has been changed to a Tuesday so the members can go to a retirement home in Genoa City to Christmas Carol for the residents on the night of our normal meeting, and play bingo if time allows. All members bring in 1 dozen cookies to the home. We hold a short meeting in the basement of the home. A countywide pizza sale kicks off this month.**
- Jan** **The pizza sale continues and order forms are due at our January meeting. There is a county wide bowling tournament held throughout the month, which is a wonderful icebreaker. Clubs from the whole county are there.**
- Feb** **Pizza delivery is scheduled for this month. Material for members should be in for the members to start working on their projects. The club has held a lock in at the church in February or March. New member enrollment forms are due by February 24th, and also add drop project forms for reenrolling members. The leader must have them to Elkhorn by March 1st.**
- March** **Depending when Easter falls, we do an Easter Egg Hunt at the Genoa City Retirement Home on a Saturday morning 2 weeks before Easter. If Easter falls in April, the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled then.**
- April** **Veteran's Park in Genoa City clean up or some other community service project, might be scheduled.**

- May** Not much is planned for this month, as graduations are coming up, but projects can continue to be worked on. Fair books come out and you get to decide what you want to show at the fair. Forms are due back by the end of June.
- June** June is Dairy Month. Clubs to promote dairy through a window display. Ice Cream Social held at Genoa City Lions Club event at the park.
- July** We have families bring their picnic baskets to Lance Park in Twin Lakes to swim and picnic. Short meeting held after meal. Are your projects being worked on? Fair judging begins in August.
- August** Our club participates in the Genoa City Activities, which includes the parade, an ice cream social on Sunday morning, maybe a small animal exhibit, and any other activity we might come up with. We try not to make this a fundraiser weekend, as the attendance does not support the time to do one. Make sure your projects are being finished up because FAIR TIME is right around the corner. The Fair is the last weekend of August through Labor Day. The judging (referred to as Junior Judging) for all projects is done throughout the month and through the days of the Fair. During the Fair all clubs in the county have 2 obligations. The House of Pork which raises funds for all kinds of county programs, requires 6 to 8 people, with 2 being adults, and the kids age 12 and over to help work in the House of Pork, and the other is a 3 or 4 hour commitment to supervise the junior exhibit building during fair time. This requires adults and members. If we can have multiple families sign up for this then the time can be 1 and ½ or 2-hour shifts.
- Sept.** Fair ends. Record books are due at this meeting. If you do not turn in a record book you will not receive your premium check from the fair office. (A premium check is for the placing you received for whatever item you showed at the fair. You receive premium money for your ribbons in the form of a check, but we do not get them until the end of September, so we pass them

scholarships for college, international trips, in-state exchange programs, space camp, camping trips to Upham Woods which is up in the Dells area, and many more opportunities. Dream of endless possibilities and your 4H years can become a very memorable experience.

Content of this "Survival Guide" is subject to change as needed.

Guide prepared by Christine Armstrong in January 2007.

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