

Welcome

Dear 4-H Families and Volunteers-

The last six-plus months have posed many challenges and uncertainty, we are so happy that you have stuck with us. As we look ahead to the next six months we are planning some fun, exciting, and interactive experiences for all of our families, members, and volunteers. With that, we are excited to officially reveal the framework that will shape our 4-H program as we move through the start of our 2020-2021 program year.

4-H, as we know it, has changed due to COVID-19. After many hours of thoughtful planning and collaboration, we have developed a framework that will provide everyone an opportunity to continue their participation in 4-H. Starting now, our programming will follow a 4 pillar framework made up of Monthly 4-H Club Check-ins, County 4-H Club Support, County 4-H Project Support, and Additional 4-H Staff Efforts. All combined, these efforts are intended to provide 4-H participants with a blend of business content, educational and recreational programming, and social interaction in keeping with the nationally recommended 4-H club meeting model.

Monthly Club Check-ins will not be the traditional monthly 4-H Club meeting, for now. We are asking that 4-H General Leaders connect with families virtually at least every other month and meetings should last 20-40 minutes. During non-Zoom meeting months, you will be hearing from your club leader in the form of a card, newsletter, personalized email, etc. to make sure that as a member you feel supported and connected to the program. We also encourage families to share 4-H stories with their club so leaders can post about them on Club Facebook pages. In addition, your leader may plan something for you to participate in as a club on top of the already planned County framework.

As 4-H Staff, we have seen the importance of providing **County 4-H Club Support** to help take the burden off of our selfless volunteers/leaders. The bulk of this 'Kick-off packet' contains the details on each of our 4-H Family Challenge opportunities being held in lieu of club educational programs and activities for participation credit. Follow the directions listed on each of the challenge flyers to earn one entry into the 4-H Family Challenge Prize drawing each time you complete a challenge. First county drawing: December 15; second county drawing: March 15. last date to enter: March 5.

- Road Trip Challenge; This is a multi-county/multi-state collaboration providing the opportunity to visit new or old places as a family. For each location, there is a set of scavenger hunt questions to be answered as one of the steps toward completing this challenge.
- Geocaching Challenge; Experienced or not, set out to find hidden geocaches carefully chosen around Walworth County and filled with 4-H Swag! Be sure to take a pen so you can sign your family's name and #4hFamilyChallenge to the log inside the cache.

- Service Project Challenge; Part of being a 4-Her is about giving back to the community and completing community service projects. Doing traditional community service poses some challenges at the moment. Complete a service project that is listed on the challenge sheet or one that your family comes up with to give back to our communities.
- Monthly Interactive Program Challenge; Theme-based monthly virtual program with an at-home activity component that will allow us to connect with 4-H members from around the county as we complete an activity, learn from professionals, or mingle together as a community. Each month will have a different theme and activity allowing us to meet the many diverse interests of our members.

Project work is key to the success of being a 4-H member. As staff, we plan to offer **County 4-H Project Support** to assist project members, youth leaders, and project leaders to ensure everyone has educational project experiences. We hope to be able to provide various project-based Educational Offerings with hands-on, home-based learning activities supported by virtual workshops and Multi-Session IN-A-BOX Series exploring different project areas such as Arts & Crafts, Cloverbuds, Photography, Nature Science, etc. Additional support will be provided by individual County Project Committees.

And there's more! **Additional 4-H Staff Efforts** will keep communication fluid and up to date through our ongoing 4-H News Blog, a monthly message to 4-H families, monthly feature posts showcasing the hard work of different 4-H members on our Facebook page, monthly 4-H challenge packet mailings (these are the packets you will receive monthly with all of the updated and new challenge information), virtual leadership training, and the creation of the "4-H Find-Out Series" video clips (sharing different information families and leaders might find important).

Again, thank you for being with us. Will **YOU** accept the challenge(s)? We look forward to all the pictures and stories that come from participating in the many challenges we have developed for you. You will find supporting details for all of the information in this packet. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

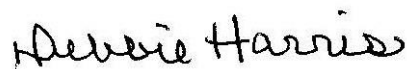
Sincerely,

Janel Heidelmeier



4-H Program Educator

Debbie Harris



4-H Youth Development Educator

P.S. Don't forget, if you would like to purchase a Walworth County 4-H t-shirt, please complete the order form and return it with payment in the self-addressed envelope provided.