

Enrolling in Your 4-H Club and Projects for 2011-12

We will be re-enrolling last year's members and enrolling new members in 4-H during the next couple of months. Here are a few things to remember and be aware of:

- ✓ The enrollment form for individuals who were members last year (i.e. 2010-11) will be pre-printed. Be sure to check all of the information on the form for accuracy. Make any changes in colored ink. Be sure to have your parent sign the enrollment form – especially as it pertains to 4-H Foundation, photo releases, and the youth behavior guidelines. New members will have to complete the information form and project list.
- ✓ Project enrollments don't carry over from year to year. You have to enroll in projects each year. So, you need to make project selections to enroll in for the current year (i.e. 2011-12). In order to be eligible to register for the DuPage County 4-H Fair, 4-H members must have submitted enrollment form and project selection form to the Extension Office by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012.**
- ✓ Youth may enroll and choose projects anytime throughout the 4-H program year, however, if submitting enrollment paperwork after the deadline (March 2, 2012), youth would not be eligible to exhibit projects in the 4-H portion of the Fair.
- ✓ We strongly suggest that parents verify their child's project enrollments with the 4-H club leader before the project enrollment deadline. This way you can be sure that your child is enrolled in the projects they wanted to be enrolled in as well as the appropriate project level. PLEASE don't wait until the last few days before the deadline to check with your 4-H club leader on the project enrollments.
- ✓ When selecting projects, be sure to watch the age recommendations on the level you are selecting. Projects are designed for specific age groups. They are written to support that developmental level of children. If it's time to move up a level, do so – especially if you have been in that project for several years. **You may not enroll in multiple levels of a project area (i.e. Woodworking I, Woodworking II, and Woodworking III). Pick the project level that best fits your age and abilities.**
- ✓ Read the directions on the enrollment forms and project selection form. There is important information on these forms, as well as ways to help your 4-H leader and our office know whether or not you need project books.
- ✓ To let us know which project books you need, clearly mark the circle on the project selection form. This should be done for each project you are enrolled in and want the book for. The 4-H/Extension Office submits book orders to the State 4-H Office, orders are filled on campus, and then sent to the local Extension Office to be picked up by a club leader.
- ✓ Enrolling in projects **does not** automatically sign you up to participate in the 4-H portion of the DuPage County Fair. In the spring, a pre-printed registration form will be distributed to 4-H members at a club meeting. The registration form will match your project enrollment (i.e. the exhibit opportunities you are eligible to sign up for are the ones related to the projects you are enrolled in). The registration form must be returned to the Extension Office by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2012.

- ✓ Information on fair exhibit requirements will be available in the 2012 DuPage County 4-H Fairbook. Please keep in mind that rules and exhibit guidelines may or may not change each year. The 2012 DuPage County 4-H Fairbook will be posted on the DuPage website during spring.
- ✓ It is the responsibility of the 4-H member (not the club leader) to complete the necessary paperwork to enroll in 4-H and projects and to meet the established deadlines. Please note, your 4-H leader may set earlier deadlines for the club so that they can meet deadlines at the 4-H/Extension office.
- ✓ We will continue the 4-H program fee for the current program year. That fee is for each 4-H and Cloverbud member and is \$20. The program fee must be paid when you submit your 4-H enrollment. Youth will not be officially enrolled until this payment is received. This program fee will help us cover the cost of medical insurance for members and volunteers and other items associated with 4-H program management on a countywide basis. It will not change the policy of charging for publications and other events and activities. The program fee would be assessed annually.

If you have questions, please don't be afraid to ask your 4-H leader or contact the Extension Office. There are no stupid questions. We would much rather you ask than be disappointed come fair time.