

To: Hampshire County 4-H Families

Re: 2017 4-H Fair Challenge Classes

Once again, the Hampshire County 4-H Fair Association will sponsor Challenge Classes. These classes are a fun way to try some new activities and prepare some exhibits for the 2017 Hampshire County 4-H Fair. In challenge classes everyone starts out with the same materials and instructions and the challenge is to complete your classes and exhibit them at the Fair (July 8th).

To sign up for challenge classes, use the registration form at the end of this letter. There are classes for youth and for adults, so the whole family may participate. Registrations are due by May 10th.

Challenge materials will be distributed at two locations:

Wednesday, May 17th 5:00 - 7:00 pm at 550 Amherst Road, Belchertown (corner of Route 9 and Gulf Road)

Thursday, May 18th 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Michaels Craft Store, Mt. Farms Mall, Route 9 Hadley

Following is a listing of this year's Challenge Classes. This list includes several community service classes. Each participant must participate in at least two community service classes. After the 4-H Fair, all community service items will be donated to local hospitals, shelters, etc.

2017 4 - H Youth Challenge Classes

1. Book Tree Transform an old paperback book into a decorative tree. Add paint, flowers or any items to make your tree unique.

2. Picture Pillow You will receive a pre-made canvas pillow. Decorate your pillow however you choose, Stuff the pillow and add a photo in the special spot.

3. Design a Cap Choose from a wide variety of colored baseball type caps. Decorate your cap to make it a one of a kind.

4. Hot Plate Transform the tile you receive by decouping your choice of picture/s to it. Add the felt backing and you will have a hot pad to keep or use as a gift.

5. Plaster Craft You choose a plaster plaque from several designs, paint and add other embellishments if you like.

6. Small Flag You will receive a small pre-sewn flag to decorate.

7. 3-D Scene Transform a plastic tray (provided) to create a scene such as farm, outer space, forest circus, zoo, etc.

8. Fabric Pony You will receive fabric, yarn, pattern and directions to sew a simple stuffed toy. Some simple machine stitching is necessary.

9. Egg Art Use two real blown eggs to create whatever your imagination comes up with.

10. Coloring You will choose from several pre-printed pictures to color.

11. Wooden Snake Participants will receive a jointed, wiggly, wooden snake. You can finish your snake to look like a real snake or create a snake with fantasy markings.

12. Pinecone Critter Transform a pinecone with cotton balls to make a fluffy critter. Add felt features to make a one of a kind critter.

13. Tee Shirt Bag Recycle a used tee shirt into a handy tote/shopping bag. One straight seam on a sewing machine is the only required sewing.

14. Picture Frame You will receive a wooden picture frame to decorate as you choose. Do not forget to insert a photo in your finished frame.

15. Decorated Wood Craft Select a wooden item from the variety offered and finish as you like.

16. Thank You Card Put your artistic skills to work to create a 4-H Thank you card. Your design must include the 4-H clover. One of the entries will be reproduced to be our 4-H Thank you card for 2017.

17. Bug House Convert a jar in a comfortable, temporary home for some creepy, crawly friends.

Classes 18 - 24 are community service classes. All entries will be eligible for ribbon and premium awards and after the fair they will be distributed to various hospitals, shelters, etc. All challenge participants must do at least two community service classes.

18. Dog Bed You will receive instructions on how to make a cuddly bed for a shelter dog.

19. Cat Bed Instructions will direct you on how to use a box and a recycled tee shirt to make a hide-a-way resting place.

20. Cat Toys You will receive fabric and catnip to use to sew (by machine or hand) toys to keep shelter cats entertained. Participants will make two cat toys)

21. Pillowcase You will receive fabric to sew (by machine) into a colorful child friendly pillowcase. Your finished pillowcase will add a little brightness to a child's hospital stay.

22. Totes for Tots Decorate a small tote bag and then insert a few items such as crayons, coloring books, small toys and stuffed animals. Shelters will share finished totes with children who are in transition.

23. Personal Care Holder Some simple machine sewing will transform a washcloth into a convenient way to keep care items together. Washcloths and ribbon will be provided; - you add a few items such as small shampoo, comb, toothbrush, etc.

24. Ornaments Although the holidays are 6 months away, the Cancer Connection is collecting handmade felt ornaments. A hilltown tree farm sells the ornaments and all profits come back to provide services and support to people with cancer. Instructions and felt will be provided - class participants will each make two ornaments.

25. Tomato Plant Participants will receive a started tomato plant. This is a container project so plants can be transported to the 4-H fair.

26. Marigold Plant This is also a container project. Your plant should be big and blossoming at fair time.

27. Sunflowers You will receive peat pellets and seeds for dwarf sunflowers. As your sunflowers grow they will be transplanted, but will still be of a size to bring them to the 4-H fair.

28. Petunia Plant This is a wave petunia known for its growth and many blossoms. By Fair time, you will have a container full of bright blossoms.

29. Cookies All participants will receive the same recipe and will bring a plate of six of their cookies to exhibit at the 4-H fair.

30. Muffins You will receive a basic muffin recipe. Add additional ingredients (nuts, berries, chocolate chips, etc.) if you choose. You will exhibit a plate of six muffins at the 4-H fair.

Adult Challenge Classes

Adult classes 1 - 8 are community service classes. After the 4-H Fair, these items will be donated to local charities. As with youth participants, adults must also sign up for at least two community service classes.

1. Lap Blanket These small blankets bring comfort and color to patients. You may sew, knit, crochet or any method to make your blanket. After the fair, blankets will be donated to Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

2. Pillowcase Brighten the hospital stay of a child by sewing a colorful pillowcase.

3. Totes for Tots Decorate a pre-made tote bag and add some fun activities to occupy a boy or girl.

4. Hospital Bears These bears are simple to sew (machine) and offer security to children facing medical issues.

5. Dog Bed Provide a comfortable bed for a shelter dog.

6. Cat Bed Recycle a tee shirt into a cuddly hide-a-way for a shelter cat.

7. Personal Care Holder Some simple sewing will turn a face cloth into a helpful organizer for people in transition.

8. Ornaments You will receive felt and instructions to sew ornaments that will be sold to benefit the Cancer Connection. Adults are asked to craft three ornaments.

9. Petunia Plant You will receive a started wave petunia to grow and exhibit at the fair.

10. Marigold Plant This is another opportunity to have your "green thumb" work its magic.

11. Tomato Plant Your started tomato plant will produce yummy, fresh tomatoes for you to enjoy.

12. Sunflowers You will grow sunflowers from the seeds provided. This is a smaller container type of sunflower.

13. 4 - H Poster Poster board will be provided so you can create a poster that will encourage other adults to volunteer for 4-H.

14. Photography Display a mounted and/or framed photo that you have taken. Your photo should show people, activity, etc. related to 4-H.

15. Coloring Relax and return to your childhood as you color a pre-printed picture.

16. Cookies You will receive a cookie recipe to bake and then exhibit a plate of six cookies at the fair.

17. Muffins Create a special muffin from the basic recipe supplied.

Club Challenge Classes

1. Club Banner

2. Club Scrapbook

3. Club Collage

Your registration must be postmarked by May 10th. Include the registration fee - checks made to "Hampshire County 4-H Fair" Your fee covers all the classes you sign up for. You may sign up for as many classes as you choose, but you must include at least two community service classes. Please indicate on your registration form your choice of location for picking up your challenge materials.

Are you ready to take the 4-H Challenge?

2017 Hampshire County 4-H Challenge Registration

Name _____ Age _____

Street _____ Town _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Entry Fee:

____ \$5.00 1st child ____ \$2.00 additional child ____ \$1.00 adult ____ Club- free

____ Yes, I want to take the 4-H Challenge - please sign me up for the classes checked below.

I understand that participating includes exhibiting my finished work at the July 8th 4-H Fair in Cummington.

____ I will pick up my Challenge supplies in Belchertown on Wednesday, May 17th 5:00-7:00pm

____ I will pick up my Challenge supplies at Michaels in Hadley on Thursday, May 18th 5:00-7:00pm

Youth Classes

____ Book Tree ____ Picture Pillow ____ Design a Cap ____ Hot Plate ____ Plaster Craft

____ Small Flag ____ 3-D Scene ____ Fabric Pony ____ Egg Art ____ Coloring

____ Wooden Snake ____ Pine cone Critter ____ Tee Shirt Bag ____ Picture Frame

____ Decorated Wood Craft ____ Thank You Card ____ Bug House ____ Dog Bed

____ Cat Bed ____ Cat Toys ____ Pillow Case ____ Totes for Tots

____ Ornaments

____ Personal Care Holder ____ Tomato Plant ____ Marigold Plant ____ Sunflowers

____ Sunflowers ____ Cookies ____ Muffins

Adult Classes

____ Lap Blanket ____ Pillow Case ____ Totes for Tots ____ Hospital Bears
____ Dog Bed ____ Cat bed ____ Personal Care Holder ____ Ornaments
____ Petunia ____ Marigold ____ Tomato ____ Sunflowers ____ 4-H Poster
____ Photography ____ Coloring ____ Cookies ____ Muffins

Club Challenges

____ Club Banner ____ Club Scrapbook ____ Club Collage

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "HAMPSHIRE COUNTY 4-H FAIR"

Mail by May 10th to:

Nancy Searle
550 Amherst Road
Belchertown, MA 01007

