

# 4-H Youth Development Program



## WESTERN REGION

Summer 2016

### UPCOMING EVENTS.....

- July**
- |      |  |                                   |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 8-10 | Regional 4-H Horse Show  | 3-County Fairgrounds, Northampton |
| 9    | Hampshire County 4-H Fair  | Cummington Fairgrounds            |
| 12   | Berkshire County 4-H Fair Association meeting, 6:30 pm             | 4-H Fairgrounds in Pittsfield     |
| 12   | Massachusetts 4-H Foundation Golf Tournament                       | Holden Hills CC                   |
| 16   | Hampshire County 4-H Fair Square Dance                             | Williamsburg Grange Hall          |
| 21   | Franklin County 4-H Advisory Council Annual Meeting                | Montague Police Station           |
| 23   | Hampden County 4-H Fair and Horse Show, <b>Entries due July 13</b> | Big E, W. Springfield             |
| 26   | Berkshire County 4-H Volunteer Association meeting, 7:00 pm        | Location TBD                      |
| 31   | 4-H Day with the Pawtucket Red Sox                                 | Pawtucket, RI                     |
- August**
- |       |   |                             |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|
| 09    | Berkshire County 4-H Fair Association meeting, 6:30 pm                                | 4-H Fairgrounds, Pittsfield |
| 12    | <b>All entries for the Berkshire County Youth Fair must be postmarked by this day</b> |                             |
| 12-13 | Middlefield Fair  |                             |
| 18    | Fairgrounds set up  | 4-H Fairgrounds, Pittsfield |
| 19    | Berkshire County Youth Fair Exhibit hall entry drop off and judging                   | 4-H Fairgrounds, Pittsfield |
| 20    | 76 <sup>th</sup> Annual Berkshire County Youth Fair, 9-5                              | 4-H Fairgrounds, Pittsfield |
| 25-28 | Cummington Fair   | Cummington Fairgrounds      |
| 27    | Shelburne Grange Fair   | Shelburne Grange Hall       |
| TBA   | Berkshire County 4-H Volunteer Association meeting                                    | Location TBD                |
| 31    | Scott S. Robinson 4-H Scholarship applications due in Berkshire 4-H Office            |                             |
- September**
- |       |  |                                   |
|-------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | <b>4-H Year begins</b>                                 |                                   |
| 2-5   | 3-County Fair  | Northampton                       |
| 8-11  | Franklin County Fair                                   | Greenfield                        |
| 10-11 | State 4-H Horse Show                                   | 3-County Fairgrounds, Northampton |
| 13    | Berkshire County 4-H Fair Association meeting, 6:30 pm | 4-H Fairgrounds in Pittsfield     |
| 15    | Franklin County 4-H Advisory Council Meeting           | Montague Police Station           |
| TBA   | Berkshire County 4-H ALL COUNTY MEETING, 7:00 pm       | Location TBD                      |

**October**

11 Berkshire County 4-H Fair Association meeting, 6:30 pm  
25 Berkshire County 4-H Volunteer Association meeting, 7:00pm

600 Williams St., in Pittsfield  
Location TBD

**Western Massachusetts 4-H Staff**



**Thomas M. Waskiewicz,  
Extension 4-H Educator**  
*Franklin, Hampden, and  
Hampshire*  
Slobody Building, Suite  
A4

101 University Drive  
Amherst, MA 01002  
Phone: 413-545-0611  
Fax: 413-577-0760  
Toll Free: 800-374-4446  
Email: [waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu](mailto:waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu)

**Angelica J. Paredes,  
Extension 4-H Educator**  
*Berkshire*  
78 Center Street, Suite 206  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Phone: 413-448-8285  
Email: [angelica@umext.umass.edu](mailto:angelica@umext.umass.edu)



**Mary Phelon, 4-H Program  
Assistant**  
*Franklin, Hampden, and  
Hampshire*  
Slobody Building, Suite A4  
101 University Drive

Amherst, MA 01002  
Phone: 413-577-0759 Fax: 413-577-0760  
Toll Free: 800-374-4446  
Email: [mphelon@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mphelon@umext.umass.edu)

**Laurie Cadorette, 4-H Secretary**  
*Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and  
Hampshire*  
78 Center Street, Suite 206  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Phone: 413-448-8285 or 413-577-0754  
Fax: 413-577-0760  
Email: [lauriec@umext.umass.edu](mailto:lauriec@umext.umass.edu)



**Have a good  
Summer!**

## From Berkshire 4-H



### BERKSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

What's new at the Fair? At this year's 76<sup>th</sup> annual Berkshire

County Youth Fair people will be able to enter all the same things they could before, but a few little things were added: an "intermediate" class in ALL livestock", MODEL HORSES (look in crafts), photography added a photo to support our artistic Berkshire neighbors with a photo taken at the Faerie Festival, and a few more hidden gems! Last year a few changes were made that some people noticed, but not all: individuals, as well as clubs, can do educational exhibits, Cupcake decorating! ...be sure to look through the fair book carefully!

We hope EVERYONE comes out to make this event a huge success for the teens who have worked all year to put on this great Fair. This fair is a great event showcasing the amazing things that youth, 5-18, have done. Remember ANY youth between 5-18 can enter anything they have made, grown, created, raised over the last year – it doesn't matter if it was done in school, at a place of worship or for another youth program, all that matters is that THEY did it. Take pride in your accomplishments and show everyone (and maybe win some money in the process!).

The Berkshire County 4-H Fair Association is still allowing local artists to have tables at the fair as well. There is an application available for any local artisan who would like to have a table and sell their products to the fair goers. The conditions are that all items sold by the artisans have to be made by them and made in the Berkshires (there will be no selling of any food products allowed). This is an extension of all of the great things the youth are doing inside Robinson Exhibit Hall, brought to fruition as the artisans show off their work just as the youth do. Anyone interested in having a table should contact Annmarie Belmonte at [annmariebelmonte@gmail.com](mailto:annmariebelmonte@gmail.com).

This fair is the OLDEST fair of its kind: For Youth, By Youth. On August 20<sup>th</sup> the flags will rise, the pledges will be said and the fair will commence. For 76 years 4-H youth & volunteers have been meeting to organize a fair with three main purposes in mind: 1. To stimulate a competitive spirit in the older youth of the county, leading them in the production and exhibition of better agricultural and creative products. 2. To offer youth an opportunity to contribute to a public exhibition of youth talents thereby enhancing their sense of self-worth. 3. To offer teens opportunities to develop leadership and job readiness skills.

Who can participate in the fair? ANY youth between the ages of 5-18 as of 1/1/16.

What can you enter in the fair? Livestock of all kinds (be sure to check the health requirements), Hall exhibits ranging from photography to vegetables to sewing, or let the office know if you would like to show off a talent on the Art-About Stage.

How much does it cost to go to the fair? The fair is FREE, allowing for a fun, safe place for families to go and enjoy themselves while seeing wonderful exhibits, contests and entertainment.

See you at the Fair!

### BERKSHIRE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR BOOKS

The Berkshire fair books are online at [www.mass4h.org](http://www.mass4h.org) or call the Berkshire 4-H office to find out where to pick one up near you (413-448-8285). Don't forget that this fair is put on by 4-H'ers for ALL youth. This means that you **do not** have to be in 4-H to enter the fair. Spread the word so more people can enjoy the fun!



### ENDOWMENT 75

Berkshire County 4-H Fair Incorporated started an endowment last year with a goal to raise \$75,000 to assist with the development and maintenance of the fairgrounds property for 4-H programs for years to come. They are very close to reaching their goal, but need a bit more to get there. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping,

donations to the Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds Endowment can be made by mailing a check to:

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation,  
P.O. Box 400, Sheffield, MA 01257-0400

Make checks payable to:

**“Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation”**

\*Note the Berkshire 4-H Fairgrounds Fund or by going to their website and donating directly:

[www.berkshiretaconic.org](http://www.berkshiretaconic.org)

You may also donate directly by making a check out to **“Berkshire County 4-H Fair, Inc.”** and mailing it to:

Berkshire County 4-H Fair, Inc.  
C/o William Chandler, Treasurer  
600 Williams Street, Pittsfield MA 01201.

## FAIR BOOK COVER CONTEST

– **“Crafty, Creative Critters”**

The winner of the cover contest for the Berkshire County 4-H fair book is **Fiora Caligiuri-Randall of Lee!** People are getting very creative with their drawing; there is a lot of talent out there! Look for some of the runner-ups drawings in the fair book. Next year, who knows what the theme will be but the Fair Association will be looking for artwork! If you have any suggestions for a future theme, please send an email with your idea(s) to: [angelica@umext.umass.edu](mailto:angelica@umext.umass.edu).



## TECH WIZARDS UPDATE

For those of you who are unaware, the Tech Wizards program is a grant funded program through National 4-H Council with the funds originating from OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention). The focus of this program is a mentoring relationship between a caring adult and youth, it is amazing to hear some of the stories that have developed from these wonderful relationships. We have programming in North Adams, Adams, Pittsfield, and Great Barrington. Some of our partners are Mohawk Forest Housing, North Adams Public Schools, Youth Center Inc., Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires, and Railroad Street Youth Project. 4-H

happens in many ways: it can be in a barn with an animal, at a lake with a fishing pole, walking in the woods looking at bugs, sitting in a room working on a robot, or sitting around a table talking.

## AMBASSADORS ARE OUT AND ABOUT!

The Berkshire County 4-H Ambassadors are ready, able and willing to speak with groups about 4-H! There is no charge to have an Ambassador (or two) speak to a group. If you know someone, or maybe a group you are involved with, would like a guest speaker contact either the Berkshire 4-H Office at 413-448-8285 or the groups Advisor, Krista Mangiardi, at 413-652-2982. There will be training for new Ambassadors this fall...watch for the announcement!



## SCOTT S. ROBINSON 4-H SCHOLARSHIP

Many of you know Scott Robinson as the head of Berkshire County 4-H Fair Inc., (the group that owns the fairgrounds), the guy the exhibit hall is named after, or one of the guys you see every year in the food booth at the fair...but did you know that he has been a Berkshire County 4-H Volunteer for 43 years! Scott and his wife Joan became involved in 4-H when their four sons were young, over the years they had a local club, an exchange club and were involved with the fair. Last December, for Scott's birthday his son's surprised him with a birthday gift of a college scholarship for Berkshire County 4-H'ers in his honor. Scholarship forms can be obtained from the Berkshire County 4-H Office or from [www.mass4h.org](http://www.mass4h.org). Below is the information on the scholarship.

The Scott S. Robinson 4-H scholarship has been established by Scott's four sons to recognize their father's years of involvement in 4-H programs in Berkshire County. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to an eligible member of the Berkshire County 4-H program. The scholarship's objective is to reward a 4-H candidate who is seeking to better himself or herself with higher education. All eligible applicants may apply for this scholarship annually while enrolled in a higher educational program. Preference will be given to those who have not received the scholarship. The

award is presented at the discretion of the M4S (My Four Son's) scholarship committee.

**Scholarship Eligibility:**

- 1) Candidate must have been a 4-H member in Berkshire County for at least three years.
- 2) Candidate may also be a previous scholarship awardee.

**Scholarship Selection Criteria:**

- 1) 4-H involvement
- 2) Overall community and volunteer activities
- 3) Letter of recommendation from a leader or member of the 4-H community, teacher or employer

**Scholarship Applications:**

- 1) Applications must be received at the Berkshire County 4-H Office by August 31.
- 2) An E-Mail will be sent acknowledging receipt of your application.
- 3) The award presentation will be made at the Berkshire County 4-H Awards banquet in the fall.



**BERKSHIRE BOOT & BRIDLES MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE**

On Memorial Day the Berkshire Boots & Bridles 4-H Club took part in the Great Barrington parade. On horseback were Jazmine Bona, Allison Brazie and Kayli Smith. Carrying the banner were Darius Taliaferro, Brooke Decker and Logan Brazie. Thank you for showing so much respect on behalf of 4-H.



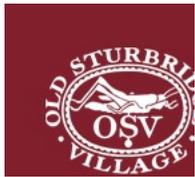
**GALAPAGOS ISLANDS TRIP 2016**

*Article & pictures submitted by Berkshire County 4-H member Bria Wells*

In April of this year Bria Wells, a Berkshire county 4-H member, was fully sponsored to go to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador provided by her school. The trip was a total of nine days. The first two days were spent in Ecuador touring the city Quito. In Quito she learned the diversity of the country and the uniqueness of their culture. The next five days were spent in the Galapagos Islands, where she traveled to the three different main islands. Which are San Cristobal Island, Isabela Island, and Santa Cruz Island. On these islands, Bria discovered the giant tortoises that are only found in the Galapagos. She also discovered one of the world largest volcano craters. Also, while she was there she was able to snorkel in the bluest, clearest waters and got the chance to swim with giant sea turtles, sea lions, and even penguins. The view from every island was so incredible; almost speechless. On the last day we went back to Ecuador and visited the Otavalo handicraft market. This is where the natives went to sell their things that they had handmade. Bria was given the opportunity to interact with the natives, while practicing her Spanish, and was able to learn more about their culture. This trip was once a once in a lifetime opportunity and an experience you can't get anywhere else.



## From Pioneer Valley 4-H (Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire)



### HAMPDEN COUNTY 4-H FAIR ASSOCIATION SPONSORING TRIP TO STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

Mark your calendars now! On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Hampden County 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to explore Sturbridge Village as part of a fun educational adventure sponsored by the fair association. The fair will cover the cost of a King Ward Bus. Participants are responsible for admission (youth and adults \$10.00 - \$5.00 for those who live in the eastern side of the county who prefer to meet us at Sturbridge). Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Watch for more detailed information at the end of August.

### SUPPORT 4-H FAIRS!

Franklin County 4-H Fair enjoyed a successful fair in Heath on June 25<sup>th</sup> but there are still three more fairs to go! All 4-H'ers are eligible to enter and the volunteers who plan and support the fair are anxious to have exhibitors participate. Fair Books are on the 4-H web site or available from the 4-H Office so save the following dates and exhibit or visit one of these fairs.

**Hampshire County 4-H Fair – July 9<sup>th</sup>** – Cummington Fairgrounds. Entries due June 15<sup>th</sup>. Late entry fee for entries received after this date.

**Hampden County 4-H Fair & Horse Show – July 25<sup>th</sup>** – Mallary Complex and outdoor horse arena. Entries due July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Berkshire County 4-H Fair – August 20<sup>th</sup>** – Berkshire County 4-H Fairgrounds. Entries due August 12<sup>th</sup>.



## SPECIAL AWARDS FOR HAMPDEN COUNTY YOUTH

Each year the Hampden County 4-H Fair Association offers several special awards to Hampden County youth exhibiting at their 4-H Fair. They include:

**Zoafia Demko Award** – This award is given to an exhibitor 13 years of age or older who is active in 4-H and community service activities. An application is available at the back of the fair book. The award is given in memory of Mrs. Zoafia Demko who dedicated her life to community service in 4-H and in her community.

**Bertha Tower Award** – Given in memory of a long time 4-H clothing and home economics leader, three awards are available to exhibitors showing clothing, food preservation, foods and/or needlecraft. An application is also available in the back of the fair book.

**Sweepstakes Award** – This award is given to the Hampden County exhibitor who accumulates the most number of blue Danish ribbons in hall exhibit entries. The fair secretary collects this information and announces the winner.

**Merritt Wright and Michael Demko Awards** – These awards are given to youth exhibitors who are active in their club and/or county program, assist in the set-up and clean-up of the fair and assist during the fair. Two awards are given to senior exhibitors and one to a junior exhibitor. These awards are in memory of two longtime supporters of our fair.



### COLLECT EGG CARTONS & 35MM FILM CANISTERS

## 4-H Embryology

Our 4-H Embryology Program reaches thousands of youth in area schools in the Spring. We are in need of clean egg cartons to package the fertile eggs which go out to teachers. We use approximately 150 to 200 each year. We also need 35 mm film canisters to place over the controls on the incubators so that they are not moved accidentally. If your club can help us collect these materials, we would be happy to make arrangements to get them from you. Contact Mary Phelon at the 4-H Office (413-577-0759) for more information. Thanks for your help!

## **EXHIBIT A PUMPKIN AT THE BIG E!**

Use your imagination and decorate a pumpkin and exhibit it in the Farmarama Building at the Big E. You may grow or purchase a pumpkin to decorate. Entries are due the end of August. Go to the Big E website for complete information (thebige.com then agriculture then Native Produce). Youth who have grown their own Big Pumpkins or Squash may also enter the Youth Giant Pumpkin Contest on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Pre-entry is required. Information is also available on the Big E website. Hope to see you there!



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BIG E** **SEPT. 16 - OCT. 2**

**4-H Milk Booth** – Two or three volunteers (adults or youth 12 and over) are needed to cover three shifts each day of the fair selling milk shakes and milk products. Shifts are:

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Proceeds from this fund raiser support the Hampden County 4-H Fair. Call Sue Wright (413-786-1432) or Donna Calabrese (413-575-0690) to volunteer. Volunteers receive an admission and parking ticket and are free to visit the fair before or after their shift. We welcome volunteer who are not in 4-H!

**4-H Apple Booth** – Youth and volunteers are also needed all seventeen days to sell apples, Indian Corn and gourds and answer questions on the native produce and giant pumpkin exhibits in the Farmarama Building. Proceeds from this booth support the Hampden County 4-H Program, camperships and scholarships and our County 4-H Awards Program. Shifts available include:

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Admission and parking tickets are also provided for those volunteers in we accept non-4-H volunteers as well. Contact Mary Phelon (413-562-3001). We look forward to hearing from you!

## **4-H WORKSHOPS A GREAT SUCCESS!**

Thanks to Valerie Morton (Quilts and Treasures), Janet Brown, Jeanne Tippet and Kim Buddington, the Hampden County 4-H Fair Association was able to offer workshops to 4-H'ers to offer new skills in areas of interest. Youth made pillowcases in the sewing workshop, apple pies in the foods workshop, canned strawberry jam and pickles in the canning workshop and made soap with goat's milk in the soap making workshop. A special thanks to the Southwick Parks and Recreation Department for the use their facilities and Denise Gliniak, Nancy Buddington and McKinley Magni for their assistance at the workshops.

## **POULTRY INSPECTIONS FOR FAIRS**

All poultry 16 weeks of age of older must be tested before they are allowed to show at any fair in Massachusetts. To schedule a date to have your birds tested, contact Kristin Godfrey, Animal Health Inspector, MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources – 857-319-5563 or [kristin.godfrey@state.ma.us](mailto:kristin.godfrey@state.ma.us). Plan to call soon so you will be able to have test done and get certificate before the fair.



## **3-COUNTY FAIR 4-H FOOD BOOTH**

The 4-H Food Booth at the 3-County Fair, September 2-5, is the largest Hampshire County 4-H fundraiser. Funds are earmarked for scholarships and camperships, as well as direct 4-H club support. Volunteers, parents and older 4-H youth are encouraged to work one, five-hour shift in the morning, afternoon or evening. To schedule your time, please contact Elsie Waskiewicz at 413-210-7700 or [elsieandjohnw@verizon.net](mailto:elsieandjohnw@verizon.net)

## **GREENFIELD FAIR 4-H FOOD BOOTH**

The 4-H Food Booth at the Franklin County Fair, September 8-11, is the largest Franklin County 4-H fundraiser. Funds are earmarked for scholarships and camperships, promotion as well as direct 4-H club support. Volunteers, parents and older 4-H youth are encouraged to work one, five-hour shift in the morning, afternoon or evening. To schedule your time, please contact Sally Klingener at 413-824-6246 or [agklingener@comcast.net](mailto:agklingener@comcast.net)

## SEEK & DISCOVER 4-H CLUB

The club is proud to announce the achievement of JenaRose Zawalski age 7, who recently received a fifth year perfect attendance trophy from Footlose School of Dance. She is also a member of the Northwest Junior Flyers Pigeon Club, Incredible Clovers 4-H Club, Belchertown 4-H Community Garden 4-H Club, a 4-H Military Buddy, and helps with Dakin Humane foster care.



The Zawalski family was invited to the Hitchcock Center on June 3, 2016, where Seek & Discover 4-H members Zackery, 11, and his 7 year old sister JenaRose shared their knowledge on Homing Pigeons. The Zawalski children have been building on their 4-H Pigeon Presentation, since they got their pigeons at the 2014 Hampshire County 4-H Fair. Sharing their pigeons with Seek & Discover 4-H Club and other 4-H Clubs to traveling to the Boy Scout Troop 275 in East Longmeadow and the 4-H Military Buddy event at the Worcester Armory to releasing pigeons at the Belchertown Fair and more.



Seek & Discover 4-H members blast into early summer fun with the Bottle Rocket launcher.



## From WMass 4-H

After 38 years of service to UMass, Paula Burgielewicz is retiring. Paula has worked with numerous Extension and 4-H Directors throughout the decades. Her professionalism and dedication to 4-H is legendary. She has been the "voice and face" of 4-H to all of us, shepherding us through countless changes of logistics. Paula's institutional memory of 4-H would fill volumes. We will miss her more than words can convey. Paula - we wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement, knowing that you will be as busy as you've always been. If you would like to drop Paula a note, her email address is: [paulab@umext.umass.edu](mailto:paulab@umext.umass.edu)



Welcome to Deb Comeau, who is beginning her tenure as the State 4-H Head Clerk with the Massachusetts 4-H Program. She will be working out of the Pioneer Valley 4-H office in Amherst. Deb is originally from Amherst and now lives in Belchertown. Previously, she worked with the

UMass College of Education the Computer Science Computing Facility. Deb has a BA from UMass in the area of Organizational Development. One of her references wrote "Deb's best asset is her good humor-based personality that lends itself to developing and maintaining strong personal relationships with co-workers, students, faculty, vendors and the public. She understands and is committed to the principals of customer service". Please introduce yourself to Deb when you stop by or call/email. Her contact information is [dcomeau@umext.umass.edu](mailto:dcomeau@umext.umass.edu) and 413-545-2646.

### **WESTERN MASS. 4-H FAIR HIGH POINT AWARDS**

Do you exhibit at two or more Western Mass. 4-H Fairs? If yes, consider applying for the 4-H Fair High Point Awards. These awards are offered to encourage 4-H members to support our 4-H fairs. Awards are offered in Dairy, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Beef, Working Steers, the Exhibit Hall and Dog based on showmanship placings. In the hall exhibit category, awards are offered in Arts & Crafts (including photography and poster art), Home Economics (clothing, child care, canning, needlecraft, quilting and foods) and Natural Resources (conservation, woodworking, fruits, vegetables and horticulture). A special jacket or vest is awarded to the outstanding 4-H members in the above categories based on their participation and placings at each of the fairs. For more information or to request an application, contact the 4-H Office at 413-545-0611. Applications must be submitted by September 1<sup>st</sup>.



### **CAMP HOWE UPDATE**

Registration is open for 4-H Camp Howe. You can register on-line, by fax or mail by going to [http://www.camphowe.com/register](http://www.camphowe.com/register.htm). Camp Howe is rich with international counselors who hail from Australia, Denmark, The Dominican Republic, England, France and Hong Kong.

### **LEGISLATIVE VISITS**

4-H clubs are encouraged to meet with their state representatives and senators to share their "4-H Story". Often, the representatives are invited to

attend a 4-H club meeting or event or some of the club members visit with the representative during her/his local office hours. For more information on setting this up, please contact Tom Waskiewicz at 413-545-0611 or [waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu](mailto:waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu).

### **MASSACHUSETTS 4-H FOUNDATION 2016 PUBLICITY PAYMENT FORM**

The Massachusetts 4-H Foundation offers an incentive program to any 4-H club or group that publicizes its activities in local newspapers. Upon receiving a newspaper clipping with your club or group's name, the Foundation will send the club a \$50.00 check. Payment will be for the first copy of each unique article received.

Limit of three per club per year. Mail the form found at <http://mass4hfoundation.org/index.php/programs/grants> and a copy of the newspaper article to the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, 1671 Worcester Road Suite 403, Framingham, MA 01701. Allow three to four weeks for payment. If you have questions, contact Laurie Flanagan at 508-881-1244 or [lflanagan@mass4hfoundation.org](mailto:lflanagan@mass4hfoundation.org).



### **4-H CLUB MATCHING GRANT**

The Massachusetts 4-H Foundation offers a matching grant program to 4-H clubs. If your club organizes a fundraising activity or event to raise money to benefit your club or community, the Foundation will match the amount of money you raise. The maximum amount to be matched is based on the number of members in your club. A club with 1 to 6 members will qualify for up to \$50, 7 to 15 members will qualify for up to \$100, and over 15 members will qualify for up to \$200.

In order to qualify, you must follow a twostep process. First, complete the bottom portion of the form found at [www.mass4hfoundation.org/index](http://www.mass4hfoundation.org/index) and send it to the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, 1671 Worcester Road, Suite 403, Framingham, MA 01701. You will be notified as to whether or not your application is approved. After you have completed the fundraising activity/event, send the top portion of the form to the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation to request payment. Only currently enrolled clubs are eligible for this program. Allow 3 to 4 weeks for payment. To qualify for the 2016

matching grant program, your request must be received by December 1, 2016 and the fundraising event must be completed by December 31, 2016. Contact Laurie Flanagan at 508-881-1244 or lflanagan@mass4hfoundation.org with questions. The request for approval must be received at least 2-3 weeks before the event.



#### **4-H AMBASSADORS**

Pioneer Valley 4-H is launching a region-wide 4-H Ambassador Program and is seeking 1-2 nominations/4-H club (age appropriate). Your nominee(s) should be age 13-18.

The purpose of the Ambassadors is to:

- To recognize 4-H teens who have achieved high standards of excellence in their 4-H program or project work, in citizenship, and in leadership.
- To provide Pioneer Valley 4-H teens who become ambassadors with opportunities and experiences to enhance their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations in leadership, citizenship, communications and public relations, scholarship, and related areas of interest and need.
- To enable teens who become ambassadors to serve as 4-H spokespersons in order to develop and strengthen 4-H partnerships with government officials, the media, state associations, donors, civic groups, parents, volunteers, and others.
- To provide meaningful opportunities for teens to be actively involved and valued as equal partners in defining, developing, implementing, diversifying, and improving 4-H youth development in the Pioneer Valley.
- To involve teens in expanding
- 4-H marketing and promotion efforts and in managing the Pioneer 4-H image to ensure compatibility with our vision, mission, and values.

The Pioneer Valley 4-H Ambassadors will meet on-line, with two face-to-face meetings, annually. The role and expectations of the Ambassadors are:

1. Complete 4-H Records by the October 1 deadline
2. Assist with 4-H Record judging (October/November)
3. Participate in Regional 4-H Visual Presentations (February)
4. Apply for the State 4-H Teen Leadership Conference (in Ashland) in October
5. Learn about and possibly apply for (these are optional):
  - a) National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Conference (this is very competitive, not all will be accepted)
  - b) Citizenship Washington Focus (a new group is forming in August)
  - c) the Hampshire County 4-H Exchange Club (a new cycle will begin this summer)
6. Complete all on-line tasks on topics related to public speaking and leadership
7. Serve as MCs at County 4-H Awards Nights
8. Assist with 4-H Promotional events in their communities
9. Serve as a role model for other 4-H'ers
10. Develop a traveling promotional display for "Window, Poster and Exhibit Week" (March)
11. Submit one news article to their local newspaper and/or school newspaper, annually
12. As a team, present one workshop at the W. Mass. Volunteer Forum in January (Hopkins Academy)

The name(s) of the 4-H'ers you nominate should be emailed to me by July 12, 2016. Please let me know if you have any questions.