

August 22, 2016

TO: Prince Edward 4-H Members, Parents, and Supporters  
Prince Edward County Families

FR:   
Jennifer Bowen, Sr. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development



RE: **Local 4-H Programs**

Once again, a busy summer has come and gone and a new school year is upon us! For those of you who have participated in our local 4-H programs previously, this year will be a little different. After nearly 16 years as the 4-H Extension Agent in Prince Edward County, I will be transferring to Mecklenburg County effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to an outstanding team of volunteers and my co-workers in Prince Edward, some 4-H programs will continue. In the meantime, the search is on for a new person to fill the 4-H position. **Stay tuned for exciting things to come!**

For those of you who are new to 4-H, you may wonder what makes 4-H unique? We are the youth development program offered through Virginia Cooperative Extension. We bring research-based information from our land grant universities – Virginia Tech and Virginia State University – to the youth in our community. The mission of 4-H is to develop leadership, citizenship, and life skills. We offer programs for youth ages 5 – 19 that are designed to meet the identified needs of Prince Edward County residents. Extension Agents are educators who provide hands-on learning experiences. Last year, our local program reached over 1500 youth. We want to continue growing our program as we move into a new school year and new 4-H year. **Read on to find out how 4-H is for YOU!**



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# Opportunities to Participate in 4-H during the 2016-2017 School Year

## 4-H After-School Programs

### Sewing Club

This group, led by FCS Extension Agent Caitlin Miller, will meet monthly to learn and practice basic sewing skills. At the first meeting, the group will decide on which project or projects to take on for the year. The cost for the program is \$15 to cover materials and snacks. In addition, each member will need to choose and provide his/her own fabric. The Sewing Club will meet in the Conference Room at the Prince Edward Extension Office from 3:45 – 6:00 p.m. on the dates listed below. Call 392-4246 to register.

- Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>



**Prince Edward 4-H after-school programs inclement weather policy:** In the event of questionable weather, Prince Edward 4-H follows the Prince Edward County Public Schools schedule. If Prince Edward schools are closed, we will NOT have after-school programs. We will make every effort to reschedule cancelled programs.

## Volunteer Led 4-H Clubs

### Riding Star 4-H Horse and Pony Club

This club, based out of GLC Horse Haven Farm, is Prince Edward County's longest standing 4-H Club. It is run by volunteer Cathy Duker. For more information on joining the horse club, please contact the Extension Office at 392-4246. *(GLC Horse Haven Farm also offers day camps for youth with*



proceeds going to the club. These camps are a wonderful introduction to horsemanship. For more information on youth day camps or to be include on the mailing list, please contact the Extension Office.)

## Prince Edward 4-H Archery Club

The Prince Edward 4-H Archery Club is led by George Schaefer. Focusing on safety and basic archery skills, this club is open to youth ages 9 and older. Monthly meetings are usually held on Saturday mornings with members carpooling to George's farm in Appomattox County (near the 4-H Center) for practice. **This club is actively recruiting new members.** For more information, please contact the Extension Office at 392-4246.



## Summer Programs

Prince Edward 4-H offers a variety of programs throughout the summer. Those planned for summer 2017 include:

- **Cloverbud Camp** – an overnight camping experience at Holiday Lake 4-H Center for youth ages 5 – 8 (usually a weekend in mid-June)
- **Junior 4-H Camp** – an overnight camping program for youth ages 9 – 13 held at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center; dates will be announced in late September
- **State 4-H Congress** – state level competitions and workshops for senior 4-H members (ages 14 – 18) held on campus at Virginia Tech, June 2017
- **Camp Loud and Clear** – a weekend camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing youth ages 8 and older held at Holiday Lake 4-H Center in July
- Other volunteer-led day camps may be scheduled. **Look for more information of summer offerings in March 2017**

## Programs Offered at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center

Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center offers a diverse menu of natural resources education programs for school groups from kindergarten through high school. They also offer teambuilding and high/low ropes programs for all ages. If you are interested in scheduling a program at the 4-H Center, please contact the NRE Coordinator at (434)248-5444.

The 4-H Center offers weekend specialty camps for youth throughout the year, in addition to a broad variety of adult educational programs. Adult programs include everything from outdoor survival weekends to decoy carving and banjo making workshops. For more information on any program that Holiday Lake 4-H Center offers, please visit [www.holidaylake4h.com](http://www.holidaylake4h.com).

## Upcoming Programs for Adults at Holiday Lake 4-H Center:

Banjo & Mandolin Building Workshop  
Decoy Carving Workshop  
Next Level Bowhunting Workshop  
Oil Painting Workshop  
Traditional Flintlock Rifle & Pistol Workshop  
Virginia 4-H Natural Resource Weekend  
Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend  
Virginia Water Fowling Workshop  
Weaving Workshop  
Women's Outdoor Weekend (WOW)



## Upcoming Programs for Youth:

CSI Camp – October 29-30  
Going Green Christmas Camp – December 3-4



## Volunteer Opportunities



**Without volunteers our 4-H program can't grow.** If you have a talent or an interest that you would like to share with local youth ages 5 – 13, please consider giving your time to 4-H. Volunteers can participate in many different ways with all levels of time commitment. Some volunteers lead short-term special interest after-school programs. Some will volunteer to lead a half-day workshop. Others lead clubs that meet once a month. We can always use extra eyes and hands for programs like cooking and sewing.

There is a significant movement statewide to bring back traditional **4-H community clubs**. These are clubs composed of families that live in the same part of the county. They elect officers and hold monthly meetings, often at a church or community center. Members of community clubs will generally choose their own projects and work on them with the support of parents and club leaders. Members will make a presentation to the club as they complete their work and qualify for district level contests. Community clubs often take on service projects and plan and work on them together. A successful community club requires a couple of people who are willing to commit to take the lead as well as a group of supportive parents. The value in a community club is that members often have long-term involvement, allowing them to advance to higher levels in their project areas and take on leadership roles in the club. **If you are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer, please contact the Prince Edward Extension Office at (434) 392-4246.**