



# Lafayette 4-H Hotline

## Severe Weather Safety

Louisiana is no stranger to severe weather. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, thunderstorms, lightning, ice storms, strong wind, and extreme heat are all examples of severe weather that we commonly experience in Louisiana. If you are unprepared, severe weather can trigger emergency situations and cause damage to property and buildings, and may even result in a loss of life.



Stay informed about weather developments in your area by watching your local television station or listen to the radio for accurate, timely storm updates in your area. Stay alert by observing current weather conditions are expected in your area. Use your best judgment to take cover when necessary from lightning and tornadoes. Remember when you approach flooding to seek high ground, and "Turn Around, Don't Drown." Most importantly, always heed evacuation orders issued by local officials.

February 2009

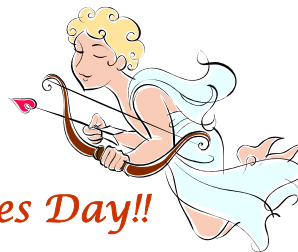
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### Points of interest:

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- ☺ Records
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- ☺ Character Counts
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- ☺ Camp News
- ☺
- ☺ Important Dates
- ☺ 2009 Hoops & Clover Night

## Telephone Book Recycling

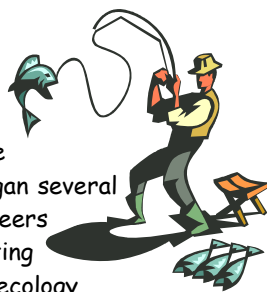
In our efforts to try to "Keep it Green" this year we are still encouraging 4-Her's to try to collect as many phone books as possible for our annual Telephone Recycling Drive. Keep up the hard work!



*Have a Happy Valentines Day!!  
And a Safe Mardi Gras!!*



## Let's Go Fishing



We are very excited about the 4-H Fishing Sports Program that began several years ago. Many agents and volunteers have learned lots of fun and exciting things about fishing, casting, water ecology, and tackle making. This will be an educational workshop for both the experienced and inexperienced fisher. It will be held on April 14, 2009.

Only twenty-four, 4th-9th grade members will be able to participate in this intensive training program. Members who participated in the past are not eligible for this clinic. Those who are selected will receive additional information through the mail.

If you are interested, please submit the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Grade and School. This information should be mailed to: Fishing Sports, Charles Hebert, 1010 Lafayette Street, Suite, 325, Lafayette, LA 70501, by February 27, 2009.



## Records

How are those Record Books coming along? By now they should be close to completion. Here are a few things to remember:

- All records are due February 27.
- You must DO something in order to RECORD IT.
- The contests you entered and the awards you won from last March to today should be entered in your book.
- 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders- Don't forget to put the record sheets or book behind **Section 2**, the Project Summary.
- 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders-Put the entire project book and a 4-H story behind Section 2.
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders-Complete your entire booklet and turn it in to your leader.
- Also, ribbons will be given to those who place and \$10.00 will be given to 4-H'ers in each Division who have outstanding Record Books.
- Summary Sheets should be included on the top cover these are available from you leader or online

## Club of the Month

To view a list of the winning clubs, go to: [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our\\_offices/parishes/Lafayette/Features/4-H/Contest\\_Results/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/parishes/Lafayette/Features/4-H/Contest_Results/) and click on Club of the Month Results.

## News from MDA



Everyone should be getting ready for the upcoming Bowling Against Dystrophy. This event is a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This event will take place at Lafayette Lanes on Wednesday, April 14 beginning at 12:30.

Packets will be given out during the March meetings. All 4-H'ers should plan to attend and participate. Let's make this our best bowl ever.

## Livestock Time



Late January, early February is livestock time in Lafayette Parish. Many 4-H'ers have been working long and hard with their projects in preparation for the livestock shows. Let's recognize these members and congratulate them for their efforts.

Also, meetings will be conducted after all of the livestock shows are over to take recommendations for next year. Contact one of the members of the Livestock Advisory Board if you would like to make a recommendation about the 4-H Livestock Program.

## Character Counts

As we celebrate this month's pillar, Fairness, let's concentrate on the words of the week. Patience, Justice, Equality and Fair Play, are all associated with Fairness. A fair person is a just person; a person who treats others equally. We should make decisions without favoritism or prejudice.

A person who follows the pillars of character is an open-minded and impartial person. This is a person who does not take advantage of others or blames others unfairly. Let's all work hard to be fair in all we do. Be fair to ourselves and be fair to others. Together, we can make a difference.



## Candy Sale Update

Our annual 4-H Foundation Candy Sale has been another success thanks to the hard work of so many of our leaders and 4-H members. Of our 50 clubs, 12 clubs took part in this fund-raiser. In some cases, if a club did not participate, individual members sold.

We do not have final numbers as some clubs have not yet turned in their money. We will give you the final results next month. Thanks to everyone for making this a success.

## Vegetable Garden Contest



Attention all green thumbs! All Lafayette Parish 4-H Club members have the opportunity to participate in the annual 4-H Vegetable Garden Contest this Spring. This must be a vegetable garden grown primarily by the 4-H'er.

If you are interested, please submit the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Grade, School, and Directions to your home. This information should be mailed to: Gardening Contest, Angie Arnould, 1010 Lafayette Street, Suite, 325, Lafayette, LA 70501, by April 15, 2009.

## Achievement Day



It is not too early to start making plans for the upcoming 4-H Achievement Day. Saturday, April 4, 2009 is the date set aside for our big contest day. All 4-H'ers should receive a copy of the rules this month and start preparing. Don't forget to get a copy of the Clothing Contest rules if you are interested in entering the Fashion Review. These were given out to interested members and leaders last month.

We will emphasize the importance of Safety practices. Our Achievement Day has been modified to include more educational workshops in the afternoon. Many of the contests will focus on Safety issues as they relate to us.

We will continue our community service efforts with the collection of pop tops to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charity. Please read the following article for details.

Make plans now to participate in Achievement Day and earn points for Outstanding 4-H'er of the year.

## Junior Leader News

If you are in the 8th - 12th grade, we want to remind you about joining the Parish 4-H Junior Leadership Club. It is never too late to join. Fees are \$10.00.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19 at 6:00 pm at the 4-H office. Come and bring a friend!



## Continual Steps



Continuing where we left off last month, we highlighted how you can begin with your plans and preparations of your project. This month we will discuss the importance of three steps that are continual or ongoing throughout the process. They include the youth voice, problem solving, and reflection. When you begin a project these need to continually be brought up to address each of the steps to refocus on what you are doing and what you have learned each step of the way.

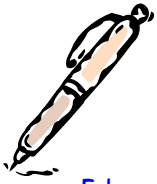
"Youth voice" means the inclusion of young people as a meaningful part of the creation and implementation of service opportunities. Youth voice enables young people to build upon service-learning and to act as catalysts for social change. In the partnership each group must clarify their feelings about the level of youth participation each group is prepared for.

Problem solving is used when youth are engaged in a project that requires critical thinking skills. A skill is an ability that one has learned and can do well. Life skills such as decision making are the abilities one can learn that will help them to be successful in living a productive life. When youth complete the experiential learning process, they internalize what they have learned and gain the ability to apply those decision making skills.

These activities are potentially wonderful textbooks that involve complex problems, real life situations and exposure to people who possess a wide expertise and resources not found in schools. A five year study with the Search Institute found that young people are more likely to report positive outcomes when their service-learning experience includes intentional reflection. "Reflection" is a strategic, engaging, ongoing process of examining the experience. Debriefing the experience is what moves an experience beyond "learning by doing". It gives meaning to the experience.

Next month, we will highlight the importance of meaningful service.





## Important Dates



### February

- 2 First Day of Club Meetings
- 4-7 Acadiana District Livestock Show, Blackham Coliseum
- 5 Junior Leader Officer Meeting
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day**
- 14-21 State Livestock Show, Gonzales, LA
- 19 Junior Leader Meeting
- 24 Mardi Gras Holiday, 4-H Office Closed**
- 26 Livestock Advisory Mtg., 4-H Office
- 27 Challenge Camp Application & Scorecards Due, 4-H Office
- 27 Parish 4-H Record Books Due, 4-H Office
- 27 Junior Wildlife Tour Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 27 4-H Night with the N.O. Hornets, New Orleans, LA
- 27 National 4-H Conference Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 27 Citizenship Washington Focus Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 27 4-H Scholarship Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 27 4-H Camp Applications Due, 4-H Office

### March

- 2 First Day of Club Meetings
- 3 Horse Advisory Meeting, 4-H Office
- 3 Showing Character Meeting, 4-H Office
- 7 Mudbugs Centennial Game, Bossier City, LA
- 5 Jr. Leader Officer Meeting, 4-H Office
- 13-15 State 4-H Leadership Conference, Camp Grant Walker
- 13 Clothing Garments Due 4-H Office
- 19 Junior Leader Meeting, 4-H Office
- 25 First Year Horse Exhibitor's Meeting, Blackham Coliseum
- 25 Grade Horse Clinic, Blackham Coliseum
- 25 Regional Commodity Cookery
- 26 4-H Fashion Review
- TBA Strawberry Sale

## Camp News



Attention all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, now is the time to start getting ready to go to Summer 4-H Camp. 4-H'ers from Lafayette Parish will be attending camp the week of July 20 - 24, 2009. The theme for this year is "**Camp Grant Walker-It'll Grow on You!**"

If you are interested in going, get a copy of the camp letter and application from your 4-H leader. The letters and applications are being handed out at the February club meetings. The applications are due to the 4-H office on February 27. If you have not completed it and are interested, please do so immediately. All applications should be submitted through your 4-H leader at each school.

Camp letters will be mailed to campers in mid to late March. We are looking forward to another fun week at 4-H Camp. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

*Angie Arnould*

Angie Arnould  
County Agent, 4-H Youth Development  
Lafayette Parish

*Charles Hebert*

Charles Hebert  
County Agent, 4-H Youth Development  
Lafayette Parish

*Nikki Mouch*

Nikki Mouch  
Assistant 4-H Agent, 4-H Youth Development  
Lafayette Parish

It is the policy of the LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age or disability. If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in any aforementioned activity, please contact the Lafayette 4-H office at 291-7090.