

State Honor Club Newsletter

June 1996



Volume 1, Number 1

Editor's Corner by *Deric McClard*

Hello, my name is Deric McClard, and I am the editor of the new state 4-H Honor Club newsletter. I am a former 4-H'er from Macon County and now work as a student staff assistant at the state 4-H office located at The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. In 4-H, I was active in the leadership, health, wildlife and public speaking projects. I also raised lambs and market hogs. As a result of my early 4-H experience and through my work now as a volunteer and alumni member, I realize the importance of 4-H and the many life-skills it teaches.

The purpose of the Honor Club is not only to recognize 4-H members who have developed good leadership and citizenship skills, but also to encourage 4-H members to continue with their 4-H club work. I hope this newsletter will give 4-H'ers across the state the opportunity not only to learn about exciting up-coming 4-H events, but also to share stories and good ideas about project work and Honor Club activities.

Part of being a good Honor Club member means being a good leader and citizen. In this first edition of the state 4-H Honor Club newsletter, Travis Wright, a former 4-H'er from Hamblen County, writes about the importance of community service, and Joseph Donaldson, a former 4-H'er from Clay County, shares 10 good ideas how Honor Club members can get involved during this election year.

Giddyap!

State 4-H Horse Show - Shelbyville
June 25-29
Ask your Extension agent for details.

Where's the Beef?

It is in Nashville, July 16-18
State junior Beef Expo
Ask your Extension agent for more details.

Community Service

by *Travis Wright*

Travis is currently a junior Whittle Scholar at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville, majoring in college scholars. He served as the 1995 YES Ambassador for the Points of Light Foundation and worked to promote community service and youth leadership in Tennessee and throughout the nation. As a 4-H'er, Travis served as state All Star Big Chief and was a national winner in the dog care and training project.

What an exciting time to be a young person! With computers, television, CD-Rom, the internet and a thousand other items of

technology at your fingertips, it would seem that you might have all you need to take on the world. But what about the needs of others? As Honor Club members, it is time for you to take the responsibility of helping those in need. In other words, it is time for you to become a service leader.

Before becoming a service leader, however, you first must have an understanding of community service. Many think community service is a punishment for committing a crime. Actually, it is just the opposite; it is a fun and meaningful way to make a difference in your community. Service leaders are very important people. They are responsible for "making the best better." But what does a service leader do? How can I lead a successful service project? Consider the following five steps:

1) **Community Voice** is necessary if you want to solve problems and to make changes. A community service leader should be sure that both the voice and the needs of the community are considered when a service project is being planned.

2) **Training** is an important first step for any community service experience. Information should be provided to volunteers about the community, the issue and the group or agency with which you are working.

3) **Meaningful Action** means that the service being done is necessary and valuable to the community. Meaningful action makes people believe that what they are doing is really making a difference and that their time is being well spent.

4) Reflection is an important part of the community service. After the service has been completed, the volunteers should discuss the experience and share reactions and feelings about what they have done.

5) Evaluation measures the effectiveness of the group's service. Volunteers as well as those assisted should evaluate the service project. Evaluation gives direction for improvement, growth and change.

By following these five critical steps you can create meaningful service opportunities for others and become a more successful Honor Club member and service leader. Remember: work hard, have fun and create a vision. In the words of Jesse Jackson, "If you can conceive it and believe it, you can achieve it!"

Wanted!

Senior 4-H'ers looking for a week of thrills, chills and spills -

State 4-H Roundup at UT Martin,
July 22-26.

Ask your Extension agent about this week of excitement.

10 Ideas for Your Honor Club During this Election Year

by Joseph Donaldson

Joseph is a graduate at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville where he received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Extension Education in May 1996. Among his many accomplishments, he has served as Collegiate 4-H Southern Regional secretary/newsletter editor for colleges and universities in 12 states, organized a 4-H club for 4-H'ers at the Tennessee School for the Deaf and has worked with UT Dance Marathon, the Ronald McDonald House and the PECE Program at the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency in Cookeville. In 4-H, Joseph served as vice president on Tennessee State 4-H Council and was in the leadership and public speaking projects.

Young people do not have to be left out of the election year excitement. In fact, 4-H members can be an important part of our

democracy through community service. This election year provides many opportunities for fun learning activities for 4-H Honor Club members. Why not organize your Honor Club to plan and conduct its own "democracy in action" project? Here are 12 suggestions to get you started:

- 1) Survey students in your school or county. Work with other 4-H Honor Club members to present your findings in a "State of Youth" report to your county school board, commission members or agricultural committee. Policy makers often need information like this to make good decisions.
- 2) After the election, volunteer to remove campaign signs from your community.
- 3) Invite the chairman of each organized political party in your county to a discussion.
- 4) Hold a voter registration drive!
- 5) Host a question and answer session for candidates at a public place such as a library, school, community center or courthouse.
- 6) Host a political rally for all candidates and political parties.
- 7) Have a "Get Out the Vote" campaign to encourage citizens to vote on election day. Go door to door in your community to promote participation, prepare store window displays or host an election parade through your town.
- 8) Prepare "4-H goody bags" for poll workers. Feature nutritious snacks.
- 9) Have an Honor Club party during each political convention. Watch the conventions together on television and learn about the nomination process for president.

10) Construct historical exhibits about politicians and political events in your county's history. Display the events at a community festival.

Calling All Shepherds!

The State Junior Sheep Expo will be held July 31-August 3 in Cookeville.
For more information ask your Extension agent.
It's a Baa-last!

What's In A Name?

One of the first things 4-H'ers do when they start a new 4-H club or begin to care for a market lamb is to consider a name. For the club, they want to choose a name that explains what the club is. Perhaps, a "catchy" or memorable way. For the lamb, they search for a name that describes the animal such as "Champion" or "Beautiful;" I named my first lamb "Moron!"

Speaking of names, when I first began planning this first edition of the state Honor Club newsletter, I realized that it needed a name. Like a new 4-H club or a market lamb, it needs a name that will both explain what it is and describe it in such a way that the title will stick with you.

Considering the name, **I would like to hear your suggestions.** I would also like to know what your Honor Club is doing. Have you been involved in an outstanding service project? What has been your most exciting experience in 4-H? What does being an Honor Club member really mean to you? This newsletter is about Honor Club members and all the many wonderful things that they do. If you have an idea or a story that you would like to share or you have a newsletter title to

suggest, please send it to the Tennessee State 4-H Office. I would like to know "what's happening" in your county and to be able to share that with other Honor Club members across the state. You may share your correspondence with your Extension agent or send it directly to the Tennessee State 4-H Office/ P.O. Box 1071/ Knoxville, TN 37901-1071.

Ben T. Powell

Ben T. Powell,
Professor & Leader, 4-H

Check It Out!

- ✓ Aug. 19-25 -
Appalachian Fair - Gray
- ✓ Sept. 6-15 - Tennessee
Valley Fair - Knoxville
- ✓ Sept. 6-15 - Tennessee
State Fair - Nashville
- ✓ Sept. 21-29 - Mid South
Fair - Memphis



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Agricultural Extension Service Billy G. Hicks, Dean

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