



State 4-H Honor Club *Newsletter*

September 1999

Volume 2, Number 2

Saving the Human Environment

By Eric Langford

We can't save the planetary environment if we don't save the human environment.

We need to preserve the human spirit. Look at the events at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado — guns, bombs, black trench coats, Marilyn Manson music and dead students and faculty.

We have to focus on creating positive production and well-adjusted citizens. How do we create these positive people? We involve them in positive activities. My preference for positive activity is 4-H. We learn how to help people, improve our environment and make a difference in our community.

Community service projects, such as visiting the elderly, make a difference in the lives of others and teach us how to be a real part of the community.

Keeping youth involved is really what it is all about.

By participating on a livestock judging team, we not only learn more about cattle and their environment, but we also learn how to work for a goal and be on a team. I'd rather be on a livestock team than on a trench coat team.

As members of 4-H, we are involved in other community services such as picking up litter, Earth Day and protecting our environment.

There is a project or activity for everyone no matter what your interests might be. 4-H is an organization that you cannot be excluded from no matter what race, religion or school age you are. All students are welcome.

So to save our planetary environment, we must first save our human environment. 4-H is one great way to start.



*Eric Langford is a high school freshman and 14-year-old 4-H member from Hartsville, Tennessee. He wrote this "Letter to the Editor" for **The Hartsville Vidette** to express his views on the issue of violence in schools. Eric has served as president of the Trousdale County 4-H Honor Club and is a member of the livestock judging team. His projects include beef, meat science and swine. Eric has attended 4-H Academic Conference in the veterinary*

science and meat science projects. He has been very active in initiating 4-H Honor Club projects such as nursing home visitations, working with the Help Center and a community Easter egg hunt. Way to go, Eric! Thanks for speaking out for 4-H!

Editor's Corner

The purpose of this newsletter is not only to make you aware of 4-H opportunities, but also to give 4-H'ers a chance to share stories and ideas. Each issue of the newsletter will highlight a county Honor Club or individual Honor Club member's project. This issue features the Madison County 4-H Honor Club and their commitment to community service. Please send your stories and suggestions to the Tennessee State 4-H Office at P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901-1071. The fax number is (423) 974-1628. The email address is ssutton2@utk.edu. (If you use the fax or email, be sure to put "Honor Club Newsletter" on the cover sheet or in the subject box.)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Learning the Value of Helping Others



“4-H and community service expose you to different needs and lifestyles. It lets you become more aware of the cultural diversity in your community.”

Holly Hardin
Senior
Madison County

Making a difference — whether it's in the life of one individual, a family, a group or the community as a whole — that is what the Madison County 4-H Honor Club set out to do. And, they accomplished it with overwhelming success.

John Mark Casey was a 4-H member in the 4th grade. He was diagnosed with leuko-dystrophy, a form of leukemia, and he needed a bone marrow transplant. No other organization had stepped forward to help the Casey family until the Madison County 4-H'ers “adopted” them and raised \$3,880. This money enabled John Mark's family to travel with him to the hospital in Minneapolis for the transplant and allowed his mother to stay with him during the long recovery. While in the hospital and through the recovery, John Mark was flooded with cards, gifts, well wishes and “care packages” filled with goodies sent from his fellow 4-H'ers.

John Mark's story is just one of many. Every month the Madison County 4-H'ers find another opportunity to make a difference. Their help takes many forms. Some examples of their service include helping families in Jackson whose homes were destroyed by tornados, collecting food for the county soup kitchen, giving gifts and

bringing cheer to the young patients in the pediatric wing of the Jackson/Madison County General Hospital, working at the Salvation Army gift and food distribution center and donating pet food to the local humane society.

Such good deeds do not go unnoticed. The Madison 4-H All Stars and Honor Club have twice won JCPenny Golden Rule awards for community service, with cash awards totaling \$1,250. True to their giving spirit, the 4-H'ers voted to use the monies to support additional service projects, such as building a memorial gazebo at the Ellington 4-H Center and creating a wildlife trail for the community.



The Madison County 4-H Honor Club members delivering ghost “suckers” to patients in the pediatric wing of the Jackson/Madison County General Hospital.

“4-H and community service expose you to different needs and lifestyles. It lets you become more aware of the cultural diversity in your community,” said Holly Hardin, 12th-grader and State 4-H Council member. “It [community service] makes you feel better about yourself and allows you to be a good influence in your community and hopefully a role model to others.”

Making the community a better place, making people happy, administering to special needs and becoming better citizens — that's making a difference! And... that's what 4-H and the Honor Club is all about!

This story was adapted from an article written for the **Tennessee 4-H Annual Report** by Lynne Scott, Assistant Communications Specialist, The University of Tennessee Agricultural Service.

A Memorable Experience

by Tonya Sitzlar, Roane County

State 4-H Roundup was held on July 19-23 at the UT-Knoxville Campus. It was a whirlwind week packed with activities. The opening assembly on Monday marked the official start of Roundup. Tuesday was project achievement day, (my 17th birthday) and also the night of the awards banquet. I loved the banquet, because everyone got dressed up — I wore a floor-length gown. Following the banquet, we had a dance.

At Wednesday morning assembly, I played the piano in front of nearly 500 people. Talk about being nervous! We went on college tours after the assembly and spent an afternoon of fun at Dollywood. That night we had the All Star campfire and each district competed in different challenges.

Thursday at Roundup is always set aside as All Star day. Our speaker at the Thursday morning assembly was Eric Chester from Lakewood, Colorado. His speech had us laughing within the first five minutes, but it was also inspirational. He motivated us and made us feel we could achieve anything if we tried. The All Stars enjoyed a special luncheon, and on Thursday night they participated in the Vol State ceremony. That night, 72 All Star members received the Vol State award, the highest award in Tennessee 4-H. The ceremony was beautiful, and it is something I will never forget. Then we danced the night away. Before I knew it, it was Friday morning and time to say goodbye to both new and old friends.

Roundup is a memorable experience. You can meet some amazing people from all over Tennessee, from other states and even from other countries! I plan to be at Roundup next year for the new millennium. Hope you can be part of it!

Honor Club Gets a Web presence

The Tennessee 4-H Honor Club now has a web site. The URL is <http://web.utk.edu/~srsutton/honorclub/index.html>. The site was designed for Honor Club members, potential Honor Club members and volunteer leaders and Extension agents working with Honor Club. It provides web surfers a place to explore Honor Club opportunities and share their ideas with others.

Visitors to the site can find out

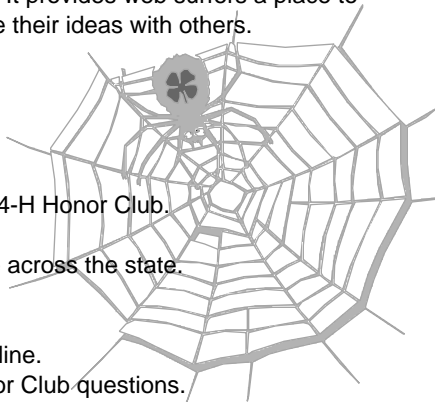
- what the 4-H Honor Club is.
- who is eligible to join the 4-H Honor Club.
- why they should want to join the 4-H Honor Club.
- how to join the 4-H Honor Club.
- how many new initiates there are across the state.

They can also get

- a 4-H Honor Club application online.
- online answers to their 4-H Honor Club questions.
- the latest edition of the Tennessee 4-H Honor Club newsletter.

The site features a guestbook. Visitors to the site can leave their comments and suggestions for others to see. Anyone landing on the site can view the guestbook just by clicking on the "view" button.

Be sure to check out our web site. Also, let your friends know about it. The site will always be under construction, so don't hesitate to let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions.



DATES TO REMEMBER . . .

Sept. 10-18	Tennessee Valley Fair Knoxville
Sept. 10-18	Tennessee Valley Fair Nashville
Sept. 23- Oct. 3	Mid-South Fair Memphis
Oct. 8-9	State 4-H Dairy Show Murfreesboro
Oct. 16	Fall Judging Events Martin
Nov. 8	State Land Judging Contest Greenville
Nov. 26-30	National 4-H Congress Atlanta, Georgia
Jan. 7-8	Lamb Leadership Retreat Crossville
Jan. 18-19	State Market Hog Show Murfreesboro
Jan. 21-22	State All Star High Council Columbia
Feb. 7	Senior Citizenship/ Leadership Records Due Knoxville
Feb. 19	State 4-H Horse Bowl/ Hippology Contest Cookeville
March 4	UT Block & Bridle Roundup Knoxville
March 18	Spring Judging Events Knoxville
April 9-15	National 4-H Conference Chevy Chase, Maryland
April 16-19	State 4-H Congress Nashville

4-H WANT ADS

WANT TO...

HAVE FUN?
MAKE A BUNCH OF FRIENDS?
HELP OTHERS?

Plan a service project in your community.

It's all part of the 4-H leadership program!

Wanted:

Young, talented artists to express their thoughts and ideas through the...

4-H Poster Art Contest

Get out your paints and brushes and show us your ideas about 4-H.

Ask your 4-H agent for details.

We want to see

YOU

recognized for your outstanding leadership and character activities!

Turn in your best work and receive a **FREE** trip to State 4-H Congress.

County Deadline: February 7 - State 4-H Office

Don't be **NERVOUS** in front of a crowd!

Develop your communication skills through the...

4-H Public Speaking Contest

Enter your local contest and improve your talents!

LOOKING FOR A CAPITOL EXPERIENCE?

Attend

STATE 4-H CONGRESS

as a senator or representative from your county.

April 16-19, 2000

Nashville, Tennessee

For more information on these and other exciting opportunities, ask your 4-H agent or contact the Extension offices in your county.



4-H'ers in the News

Jenny Reed, 4-H Honor Club member from Hamilton County, was selected to introduce Vice President Al Gore at the National Town Meeting for Sustainable America, May 4 in Detroit, Michigan. Jenny was chosen for this honor through her involvement with National 4-H Council's Youth Voices team.

Courtney Collins, Madison County 4-H Honor Club member, was recently crowned Miss Teen Tennessee and will compete in the national pageant later this year. Courtney credits her 4-H community service activities and speaking experiences with helping her win the title.

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