

4-H is a community of six million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. Some of the life skills learned through 4-H are decision making, problem solving, goal setting, social skills, accepting differences, self-esteem, character, personal safety, and many, many more. Lincoln Parish celebrated National 4-H Week on October 7th - 13th. Each year during National 4-H Week, local and parish 4-H clubs have the opportunity to showcase what they have gained from their 4-H membership through activities and events at the local and parish level. We encourage our 4-H members and volunteers to recognize National 4-H Week at their schools and in their communities. Some of the great ideas that were suggested for this event are listed here:

- Ask local churches to acknowledge 4-H Sunday (October 7) and 4-H members who are present.
- Get 4-H balloons. Distribute them everywhere!
- Distribute a list of celebrity 4-H alumni. Scramble the names or have those fill-in-the-blanks.
- 4-H'ers write thank you notes.
- Make clover-shaped cookies to deliver to shut-ins.
- Advertise a wear-green day. Distribute green and white mints to everyone who wears green that day; or distribute tickets to a fun 4-H event.
- Send sticks or packs of gum with notes attached *Thanks for sticking with 4-H!*
- Have a 4-H pizza party for 4-H'ers caught wearing green during 4-H Week.
- Create a media event by getting a commitment from every 4-H'er for individual service projects during National 4-H Week. Print their pledges in the newspaper and encourage the members to supply photos of their work. Better yet, send the newspaper photographer to catch the 4-H'ers at work.

Lincoln Parish 4-H celebrated National 4-H Week by offering many opportunities that youth, as well as the community, could be involved in throughout the week of October 7th – 13th.

- We hosted a reception for National 4-H Week on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the LSU AgCenter Office. We had a good group that helped us celebrate with cake and punch.
- One of our most popular events, the Annual Lincoln Parish 4-H Pet Show took place October 11th at Railroad Park beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- The Lincoln Parish 4-H Talent Contest was held October 13th at The Methodist Children's Home Chapel beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Last year, in Lincoln Parish, more than 800 4-H members and volunteers were involved in 4-H. During the month of September, Lincoln Parish 4-H agents held enrollment meetings at each school throughout the parish and are excited about the number of youth and volunteers who are expected to be involved in 4-H this year.

The fundamental 4-H ideal of practical, "learn by doing" experiences encourage youth to experiment, innovate and think independently. 4-H programs are offered through school-based clubs, project clubs and camp settings.

You can join the 4-H community today. To learn how to become a 4-H member or volunteer leader in Lincoln Parish, contact **Amanda Simmons**, Associate Extension Agent/4-H Youth Development, at LSU AgCenter, Lincoln Parish by calling 318-251-5134 or by e-mail to asimmons@agcenter.lsu.edu.