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Paint Your Own Pottery

Everyone got a little creative at this month's Federation meeting. We met at Artful Designs in Bloomington and everyone started looking around the brightly colored room to see what they were going to paint. As the meeting got started we all were looking forward to painting our pieces.

Federation is getting really busy this time of year! We have so many projects on our plate that we are asking everyone in the county to participate in at least one project we have going on. Our first big event is the Walk for Wishes 4-H Walk-a-Thon for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. On June 17 we start walking at 9:00 at the IWU outdoor track next to the Shirk Center at 302 E. Emerson. Many prizes will be awarded to individuals and 4-H clubs. Prizes for individuals include: 5-7 year olds – Toys Prize Package, 8-10 year olds – Outdoor Prize Package, 11-14 – Movie Prize Package, 15-18 – Electronic Prize Package, Adults (19-up) – Night on the Town Prize Package. Clubs can participate as a team too! Talk to your leader about your club participating. I look forward to a great turnout at the event!

Next on our list of things to do is the Shoe Collecting. We are working on finding places in the community that will allow us to have boxes collecting shoes for a month. We still need tons more shoes so keep up the good work.

Finally, the Canned Food Scavenger Hunt is here! Packets have been sent out to your leader and hopefully your club has started collecting. There are so many items on the list this year. This is a great way to give back to our community. Also, we have cash prizes again this year for the club with the most points. Thanks so much in advance for participating, 4-Hers.

The fair is coming and Federation has started planning some awesome events this year. But we need 4-Hers willing to help out with the events if they are going to be really great! If you are 12 – 18 we would love to have you on a fair committee. We need volunteers with new ideas for anything from Green Hair Day to the Teen Dance. I look forward to a wonderful fair this year and with your help, we can truly make it a fair to remember.

As our business meeting ended we all picked out the perfect piece of pottery. Many picked projects for their mom's for Mother's Day. Others picked projects just for their own use. Allison Parks from the Home Spun 4-H club painted a cute little cup with hearts on it. Our very own Tina Veal also got into the painting spirit and painted a platter. We all had fun and look forward to returning some time in the future! Next month's meeting is an old favorite, bowling. More details are on the way. See you there!

Calendar of Events

May 11

Timeless Clover
Alumni Meeting

May 23

Federation

May 29

Memorial Day Parade

For more information on any of these events please call the Extension Office at 663-8306.

April Meeting Update

The April Federation Meeting was the business meeting of all time!! Our agenda was filled and was made up of two pages. We started the meeting off with a change as Vice President Aaron Phillips of Home Spun called the meeting to order. We had introductions and played the game "I never" before sitting down for our long meeting.

There are so many activities Federation is involved in this year! One of our greatest events has been our involvement with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We have raised over \$1400 to help them with one of their wishes but we still need more to reach our goal of \$5000! We brainstormed last month about having a carnival to raise money but after much thought and consideration we decided we needed an easier fundraiser. Mr. Randy Mattoon and Mr. Carl Olson came to our meeting and talked to us about having a Walk-a-Thon to raise money. We decided to host a Walk-a-Thon and challenge every 4-Her (and their families too) in McLean County to come out and walk! We are hoping to raise the money we need and maybe even raise more! Look for more details to come on the 4-H Make-A-Wish Walk-a-Thon.

Our goal to collect 1200 pairs of shoes for the McLean County Health Department for a display at the fair is also in need for support! We have only about 100 shoes and we NEED more. Please bring this up at your Club's monthly meetings! We would like any kind of shoes. Please make sure that they are still in good condition because after we use them at the fair we are donating them to less fortunate in our community.

The fair is quickly approaching! Did you know that there are only 4 more months till August? How are those projects coming? I'm sure that you have them all done or your working on it, right?!?! At this month's Federation meeting we felt the fair pressures coming on. We had to finalize the dates for all our awesome fair events. Many of your old favorites are coming back like the Teen Dance and some newer events like Green Hair Day. Make sure you check your fair book when you get them for when all these events will take place. We also need help putting on these events so if you are 12 years or older come to the next Federation meeting and sign up to help us.

The Back to School Drive is also just around the corner. We along with Junior Federation are handling this event a little different than last year. This year we are only collecting the supplies from the community at the fair and the club donations will be collected and tallied up on a later date. We are also taking 3 days after the fair to assist Kathy Johnson stuff all those back pack! So look for the 5 cents folder deals at Wal-Mart next time you go shopping and stock up for your club!

As our meeting came to a close we discussed our next meeting. We're heading over to Artful Design to paint ceramics. Look for more details to come. Finally we finished our really long meeting. The Federation Traveling Award was given to Aaron Phillips for handling the meeting so well. Thanks Aaron!

Federation Board Members of the Month

Erin Dirks from the Ellsworth Tip Toppers 4-H club is one of four directors on Federation Board this year. Erin has been involved in Federation for two years now. Her goal this year for Federation is to bring more people to the meetings and have more variety of people at the meetings as well. She had the most fun at the Fall Cookout meeting

when she was able to hang out and talk with many people.

Erin has been a great addition to the Board. She believes that her greatest accomplishment in 4-H has been helping out more at the fair each year. Thanks for volunteering and giving back to 4-H, Erin. Keep up the good work!



This year is Kathryn Shallenberger's 4-H first year to be involved with Federation. She is from the Ardent Tillers 4-H club. Her goal for Federation this year is to have a great walk for the Make-A-Wish Walk-A-Thon.

Her accomplishment has been to become a Junior Leader in her Ardent Tillers club. She enjoys her club meetings and the Federation meetings as well. Her favorite meeting was when Emily Parks of the Home Spun 4-H Club taught us all how to Disco dance!



Even though this is her first year in Federation Kathryn has been very successful in her 4-H club. Her greatest ac-

We Need YOUR Help!

Hey 4-H members in McLean County. Are you bored with just helping out on your club level? Where's the excitement you say? You want something a little more challenging! If you really want to become involved on the county level now is the best time. If you are 12 or older, please consider coming to one of our Federation Meetings. This time of year we need people like you to help us make our fair and our county the best it can be. There are plenty of committees and jobs we need done. Maybe you're great at organizing! Help with the Canned Food Scavenger Hunt. Are you good at making money? Try the 4-H Make-A-Wish Walk-A-Thon. Or you see all those fun activities we have at the fair and you want to give back for all the fun times you have had. Join one of the fair committees! Contact the Extension Office at 663-8306 or come to our next Federation Meeting on May 23. Please help us out and you never know, you might even have a little fun too! Thanks from the McLean County Federation Board.

McLean County 4-H Federation Board Members

President

Heather Miller

Downs Top Notchers

Vice President

Aaron Phillips

Home Spun

Secretary

Sarah Rutledge

Old Town

Treasurer

David Shier

Space Age Pioneers

Reporter

Laura King

Home Spun

Historian

Michae Jacobs

Home Spun

Sentinel

Kathryn Shallenberger

Ardent Tillers

Program Manager

Alyssa Bane

Ellsworth Tip Toppers

Directors

Erin Dirks-Ellsworth Tip Toppers

Emily Parks – Home Spun

Jon Clary – Home Spun

Taylor Dirks – Ellsworth Tip Toppers



4-H Walk for Wishes

Mark your calendar for June 17 at 9:00 and get ready to start walking. Details are now being finalized for the Make a Wish Walk-a-Thon for 4-Hers and their families to help raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The event is open to any 4-H member and their family and the minimum donation to participate is \$25. You can either ask friends to sponsor you or raise the money yourself by helping mow lawns or clean your room. The possibilities are endless and this is a great cause. For more information about the event, prizes, and team opportunities visit the 4-H Walk for Wishes website. Please consider walking with us. For details contact the Extension Office at 663-8306 or visit the online at: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mclean/walk4/index.html>



Back to School Drive Is Back!

We are helping with the Back to School Drive again this year! We are changing our procedure just a little though. We will only be collecting the supplies from the community at the fair this year and we will be collecting from clubs on a later date. So start buying those supplies and get involved!

We NEED Your Shoes

Do you have an old pair of shoes just lying around? They're still nice but just too small to wear. What are you going to do with them you may ask? Please give them to us! We are hoping to collect 1200 shoes for the McLean County Health Department and we only have around 100. The Health Department will be having a display at the fair depicting how many people die from smoking each year. After the fair the Health Department will be donating these shoes to the less fortunate in our community. So please help us out with both these great causes.



Attention Clubs

Does your club need a community service project? Maybe your club is running short on cash? Or you all need to just get out and walk off some of that energy! Whatever your club needs we have the answer! It all starts with your help. Federation is hosting many community service projects this summer; starting with the Canned Food Drive and the Back to School Drive. Both of these great community activities pay too! The top three clubs with the most "points" win cash prizes from Federation. Your club could also participate in 4-H Make-A-Wish Walk-a-Thon! You can all run off some energy and help out in a very positive way! Please bring up any or all of these events at your next meeting. Thanks.



Car Wash

Does your car look pretty dirty in the summer? You want that shine, right?! Well Junior Federation will be hosting a car wash on July 8 at Auto Zone to benefit the ?. Please support our young federation members by coming out to this fun event! See you there.

University of Illinois Extension

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We are on the web:

[http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/
mclean/4hfederation/index.html](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mclean/4hfederation/index.html)



Who is Eligible for Federation?

All 4-H youth ages 12-18 are invited to attend the McLean County 4-H Federation Meetings and activities. Each club may elect 2 voting members to the 4-H Federation, however more members may attend.

Meetings

Meetings are normally held on the 4th Monday of the month. Locations vary. Board Meetings are held at 6:30pm. Federation Business Meetings are held at 7pm. - unless otherwise noted.

Meetings are followed by an activity, speaker or program. This is a great chance to get to know 4-H youth from across the county.

2005-2006 Federation Calendar



May 23 - Bowling

June 27 - Grady's Family Fun Center

July - New Board/Old Board/Teambuilding

** Meeting held on different day than 4th Monday

Mark your calendar for
4-H Federation!