

CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION

DISTRICT 8 4-H CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION



CELEBRATING 4-H VOLUNTEERS DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week is the perfect opportunity for 4-H club managers to recognize and appreciate the dedicated volunteers who make their programs thrive. This year's National Volunteer Week is April 20-26th, and is a great time to recognize those that serve in your club. Volunteers are the heart of 4-H, giving their time, energy, and expertise to support youth development. A little recognition can go a long way in showing gratitude and encouraging continued engagement.

Simple Ways to Celebrate Volunteers

1. **Personalized Thank You Notes** – A handwritten note, phone call, or email expressing appreciation for their specific contributions can be deeply meaningful.
2. **Social Media Shoutouts** – Highlight volunteers on your club's social media pages with photos and a short message of thanks.
3. **Small Tokens of Appreciation** – Consider a small gift, such as a 4-H pin, customized mug, or a certificate of appreciation.
4. **Feature Volunteers in a Newsletter** – Share stories of impact, recognizing the hard work of volunteers in your club's communications.
5. **Host an Appreciation Event** – A casual gathering, whether in person or virtual, allows club members to express their gratitude directly.

Recognizing volunteers not only makes them feel valued but also strengthens your 4-H community. Take time during National Volunteer Week to say "thank you" and celebrate those who help make a difference!

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District 8 4-H
Making the best better



Snap it! Working with the Photography Project

The 4-H Photography Project is an exciting way for youth to develop creativity, technical skills, and a new way of seeing the world. Whether capturing Texas landscapes, action shots at the county fair, or portraits of family and friends, this project helps members build confidence behind the camera while telling their unique stories.

Why Encourage Photography in Your Club?

Photography is a flexible project that fits all experience levels and can be done with a smartphone or professional camera. It teaches valuable skills such as composition, lighting, and editing while encouraging youth to express themselves. Plus, it aligns with other 4-H projects—members can document livestock shows, STEM experiments, community service projects, and more.

Ways to Engage Youth in Photography

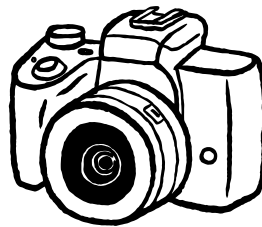
- Host a Club Photo Challenge - Set a monthly theme (e.g., "Texas Wildlife" or "Patterns in Nature") and encourage members to submit their best shots.
- Invite a Local Photographer - Arrange a workshop where members can learn photography techniques from an expert.
- Encourage Fair Participation - Many county fairs and 4-H competitions offer photography contests. Help members prepare their entries and learn about judging criteria.
- Create a Club Yearbook - Compile photos taken throughout the year to showcase club activities and achievements.

Photography is more than just taking pictures—it's about capturing moments and developing life skills. Encourage your club members to pick up a camera, explore their creativity, and share their perspectives through the 4-H Photography Project!

Resources from the State Photography Program



<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/photography/>



District 8 4-H Photo Rules



<https://d84-h.tamu.edu/events-and-activities/photography-contest/>



Confidence is Key! Public Speaking

Public speaking is a skill that benefits youth for a lifetime, and the 4-H Public Speaking Project provides the perfect opportunity to develop confidence, communication skills, and leadership abilities. Whether presenting at a club meeting, competing at a contest, or leading a community event, this project helps members learn to express their ideas clearly and effectively.

Why Promote Public Speaking in Your Club?

Strong communication skills are essential in all areas of life. The Public Speaking Project helps youth overcome stage fright, organize their thoughts, and speak with confidence. It also prepares them for future leadership roles, job interviews, and community involvement.

Ways to Engage Youth in Public Speaking

- Incorporate Speaking into Meetings - Encourage members to give short presentations on their projects or lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Host a Speech Workshop - Invite a guest speaker or former 4-H member to share tips on public speaking and presentation skills.
- Practice with Fun Activities - Try impromptu speaking games where members draw random topics and give a short speech.
- Encourage Competition - Promote participation in local, district, and state 4-H speaking contests to give youth a goal to work toward.

Public speaking is a valuable skill that will serve youth well in school, careers, and beyond. By incorporating this project into your club's activities, you can help members build confidence and find their voice through 4-H!

District 8 4-H Public Speaking Workshop



<https://youtu.be/tC4yaMkqKCc?si=VvUwILRZgc1aBtRM>

District 8 Rules



<https://d84-h.tamu.edu/events-and-activities/roundup/>

Project Resources

Upcoming Events for Volunteers

Be sure to save the date on these upcoming volunteer trainings!

VOLUNTEER BASIC TRAINING

DISTRICT 8 4-H 

CLUB MANAGER TRAINING

CHECK IT OUT ON
OUR YOUTUBE
PAGE!

~~February 20, 2025~~

Beyond the Basics: Taking Youth Engagement to the Next Level

September 25, 2025

Leveling Up Your Club Meetings: Essential Tips & Tricks

OTHER VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

March 20th &
November 13th

Serving as a Contest Judge: Learn the basics & receive a certification (online)

July 26th, 2025

Super Project Training: Foods, Fashion, Speaking, STEM (In-Person) Location TBD



FMI: Email Megan Shaffer @ megan.shaffer@ag.tamu.edu



RSVP for March 20th here!

Learn what it means to judge district & state contests, how to make sure that all parties have a quality experience, and why volunteers are so crucial as contest judges. RSVP by March 18th.



MARCH 20TH
7:00PM
VIA ZOOM

ATTENDING THIS TRAINING WILL CERTIFY YOU AS A CONTEST JUDGE. ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION.

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/SVISJGED8FEIF4GG9](https://forms.gle/SVISJGED8FEIF4GG9)

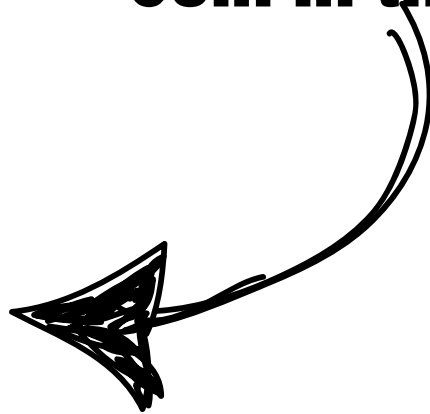
Upcoming Trainings

MINUTE WITH MEGAN

We have a new video series just for you! Check out our short videos each month to gain a fun tip to help you better manage your club!



Join in the fun!



<https://youtu.be/ESZDALNXfng>

Be sure to check out these resources in our Club Manager Google Drive!

REMINDERS & LINKS TO REMEMBER

