



Mendocino County 4-H President's Message

from Stacey Anderson



6/30/09

Dear 4-H members, leaders, parents, and supporters,

What a busy year! I hope you have all had a great year, and are looking forward to the summer activities. I know that many of us have been affected by the economic downturn. Now is the time that we need to pull together to help protect our children!

Not only are home lives being affected, but the impact on our local schools and after-school programs has been drastic. Here in Fort Bragg, our school district is cutting our libraries, arts programs, music programs, and so much more. What are our children going to do without the extra curricular education, especially those children who are not being enriched through enrollment in the 4-H program? What a scary thought!



Even though many of us are going in so many directions and do not have another second to spare, I'd like to ask you to find just a minute each day both for your own children and those around you. Please try to make the time to help give your child the opportunities they need and should be given. It does not have to cost money, just your time. Take a minute out of each day to teach them something new, bake with them, take a hike, or learn a new skill together.

4-H is a great way for parents and children to be given the opportunity to learn new skills that will last a lifetime. The 4-H program is not immune from the hard times; it, too, is being dramatically affected by the budget cuts and the weak economy. Now more than ever, 4-H would greatly benefit if each and every person reading this committed to helping with at least one new task. That could mean helping your child do research on their projects; or helping your local club with one of the endless day-to-day tasks before them. If every member and parent were to step up and help out, we would be able to keep our Mendocino County 4-H program going strong! Please ask your local community leader or project leader, or the Ukiah Office, what you can do to help keep 4-H alive! Please, do your part. In doing so, you'll make a major contribution to seeing 4-H through these hard times.

Currently, the Mendocino County 4-H County Council is working on the 2009-2010 calendar of events for 4-H and related activities. Please mark you calendars: **The dates for all leaders enrichment training classes, officer training, and annual events are going to be set at the July 25 County Council meeting in Fort Bragg.** Our goal is to set the calendar of events well in advance to facilitate the best possible planning. The number of events will be limited, along with any and all other training programs. Due to budget cuts at both the county and university, including mandatory staff “furloughs” (days off) at the 4-H office, we are trying to cut back on some of the work load of Linda and other 4-H staff members.

For the foreseeable future, all event planning will be done by adult volunteers. That not only means that we need help figuring out the schedule of events to best suit all of your needs, but also that we'll need lots of help throughout the year to make the events happen. Especially if you were not happy with the way some things happened this year, please step up and help out. We need your help and would love to get to know you. Please join us on July 25th and help with the planning process.

Cheers to a fun summer!

Stacey Anderson