



GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY 4-H CLOVER CONNECTIONS

FALL 2013

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Showcasing a Stellar 4-H Year!

By *Tracie Hanson, Grays Harbor County
4-H Program Coordinator*

Grays Harbor County's annual 4-H Achievement Program was held on November 3rd at the Sharon Grange in Oakville. Special guests, families and 4-H members gathered to celebrate the many accomplishments that 4-H youth achieved during the 2012-2013 4-H year.

The event began with the Presentation of Colors and pledges, led by 4-H members. After a brief welcome from the youth emcees, the room was filled with laughter as those present selected snacks and took part in the festivities.

4-H programs.

New this year was an opportunity for youth to share where 4-H has taken them during the past

year by reading their 4-H stories from their record books.



Thank you to the 4-H clubs of the east district for hosting and assisting with the program!



Throughout the evening 4-H youth members were recognized for excellence in many areas, including leadership, community service, public speaking, personal development, record keeping and more.

Each year Grays Harbor County 4-H members and volunteers nominate individuals who have made significant contributions to the program during the year. Volunteer extraordinaire, Denise Schupbach received Leader of the Year recognition for her contributions to Grays Harbor County



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What Makes 4-H Youth Development So Special?

By Dan Teuteberg, 4-H Regional Specialist

Have you ever been asked the question: “What makes 4-H Youth Development so special?”

This is one of the harder questions to answer.

Do you share the research pieces around 4-H Youth Development?

According to the latest research findings from Tufts University, young people in 4-H are:

- nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college
- more likely to pursue future courses or careers in science, engineering, or computer technology
- shown to have had significant lower drug, alcohol and cigarette use than their peers
- over two times more likely to exercise and be physically active
- over three times more likely to actively contribute to their communities when compared with youth who do not participate in 4-H.

Do you talk about the wonderful role adult volunteers play in the 4-H program? Adult volunteers play an important role in the 4-H program. They mentor 4-H youth, coordinate local community clubs, and help plan and run educational events and activities. All this is done to educate and teach valuable life skills in an experiential way – learn by doing.

It all boils down to this: 4-H is so special because effective youth development requires intentional educational experiences of sufficient intensity, duration, and frequency. 4-H works because of the 4-H community clubs, project meetings, contests, shows, club meetings, gatherings, and events. 4-H is so special because of you! You provide tremendous support to the youth in the 4-H program. This support is tailored to the individual and that relationship is what is so special. Volunteers make the program so great!

Thank you for being such an important part of the 4-H program. The next time someone asks about 4-H, talk about the passion of our volunteers. That’s what makes 4-H so special.

Have a wonderful Holiday with family and friends! Thanks for the making the best better in 4-H!

4-H Café Brings Volunteers Together

By Kathy Fuller,

Mason County 4-H Program Coordinator

When you invite wonderful, caring adults who happen to be 4-H club leaders and volunteers for an evening of delicious food and meaningful conversation you can’t help but have a great time.

The 4-H Café events were held on three evenings during September in both Mason and Grays Harbor counties. Over a meal of hearty soups, salad and breads, 4-H volunteers and staff shared two hours of meaningful conversation centered around 4-H Youth Development.

The roundtable discussion provided opportunities for volunteers to share ideas, learn new skills, and strengthen their relationships with fellow 4-H volunteers. The evening’s conversations were



centered around six questions, including, “What draws us together as 4-H?”, and “What drives and motivates you to be active in the 4-H program?” It was no surprise to hear the words passion, wholesome, learning, world-changers, pride, opportunities, communication, and personal growth throughout the night.

“4-H provides a sense of family and belonging for youth,” said one

Grays Harbor County volunteer. “Youths’ successes are not measured in ribbons; success is based on setting and reaching individual goals.”

The input, comments and ideas that were shared during the evenings have been compiled and will help to provide needed support to volunteer leaders and keep the 4-H program moving in a positive direction.

2013 4-H LEADER OF THE YEAR: **Denise Schupbach**



By *Tracie Hanson, Grays Harbor County
4-H Program Coordinator*

Each year, the 4-H community of Grays Harbor county has the opportunity to recognize an outstanding volunteer. Once selected, this individual is also recognized at the annual state-wide 4-H Forum in October.

Fellow 4-H volunteers who nominated Denise said: As a fairly new leader in our county, Denise has shown tremendous leadership wherever she is involved.

She has taken leadership of the

Best of Times 4-H Club and has been an officer of the Grays Harbor 4-H Horse Council and 4-H Council.

An example of how Denise encourages 4-H'ers to "Make the Best Better" through community service is the impressive club project of completing "26 Acts of Kindness" in memory of Sandy Hook Elementary.

Denise shares her enthusiasm for the 4-H Youth Development Program throughout the county.

THANK YOU for everything!

4-H Group Completes 26 Acts of Kindness Project

By *Denise Schupbach,
Best of Times 4-H Club Leader*

The Best of Times 4-H Club successfully completed a goal of performing 26 Acts of Kindness after hearing Ann Curry tweet, "What if? Imagine if everyone could commit to doing one act of kindness for each precious life lost. An act of kindness big or small. Are you in?"

She was referring to the 26 people who lost their lives in the Sandy Hook Elementary shootings. The club voted to spread some positive youth development throughout our local community after the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

The members, Alexis and Madison Schupbach, and Payton Terrell, all of Elma; Corby Taggart, Winlock; and Jake Davis, McCleary, performed at least 35 good deeds, which included opening doors, delivering flowers, helping friends and family, sending cards

and care packages and adopting a platoon for Valentine's Day.

The club met February 13th to celebrate the conclusion of a month-long campaign.

Each member designed a small card identifying the act and made a colorful collage that has been displayed in a few locations in Grays Harbor and Lewis counties.

Taggart, the youngest club member, said, "it was fun putting it (the collage) together." He added that the acts of kindness made him feel good inside and he likes doing good things for people.

The campaign finished with an emotional final tribute with Taggart reading the 26 names of those who perished on December 14, 2012.

This article was originally printed in the March 16, 2013 edition of *The Chronicle*, Centralia/Chehalis, WA.



Photo caption: Members of the Best of Times 4-H Club share the collage they made in connection with the 26 Acts of Kindness project.



4-H Alumni Spotlight Taylor Sample

Taylor Sample has always had a passion for environments where learning and fun happen at the same time. He joined 4-H and began attending summer camp when he was 8 years old.

Now a college student, Taylor's days are still filled with learning and teaching. He remains passionate about 4-H, serving as an active volunteer.



Q How did 4-H prepare you for life?

4-H taught me independence, respect, teamwork, leadership, and most importantly how to be myself, whether that is with my friends, family, or at work. 4-H has influenced my life in a huge way. It helped me understand that I wanted to help create an environment for youth that helps them be themselves and realize their potential.

Q What were your favorite 4-H activities?

I started out 4-H by attending Panhandle Lake 4-H camp, that was 12 years ago. Since then I have only missed one year of camp, and have moved on from being a camper, to being a counselor, and now I am a chaperone. 4-H camp is such a great place it has fun games, silly songs, new friends, and great counselors. All of those things are awesome, but what they create is even better. They create an environment where an individual can be themselves without worry of the judgment of others, and that is when the greatest learning can occur.

Q What would you like to tell youth who are going through the 4-H program now?

G E T I N V O L V E D !

I would tell them to try out any club that interests them. 4-H has almost every type of club you could imagine from Livestock to Robotics. If there isn't a certain club in your area get a few friends together and make one!

Q Which 4-H life skills have assisted you most for your education and career?

I think that the communication skills I learned have helped me the most. I am going into education, and being a part of 4-H camp has helped me learn effective ways to communicate, and work with youth.

Q What would you say to teens who aren't quite sure of their future path right now?

Think of a hobby you love to do. Now think of a job in that area. What requirements do you have to meet to obtain that job? Go after anything you want. It may seem like a long shot, but if you break it down into smaller goals you can eventually achieve it.

Q In 4-H, youth and adult volunteers often work together. How did that time influence your personal development?

As a camp counselor I worked with Rhonda, the director for Panhandle 4-H camp, but she wasn't the adult barking orders. She taught us the skills we needed to work as a team, and to run the camp. She was always there to ask questions, or give advice. Now I am putting the same techniques to use in my own 4-H group.

Q What is one of your best memories of 4-H?

During my second year as a counselor at 4-H Camp, we had a camper who didn't want to participate. He would wander off on his own and keep to himself. At one point he was sitting against a tree crying, so we came up with a plan. The boy counselors were going to take him on a hike around the lake. During the hike we laughed, told jokes, and had great time. After that he changed his attitude completely. He played games, sang songs, and at the camp dance he showed off his great dance moves. That is one of my favorite memories from being a counselor.