



For Immediate Release:

**5TH ANNUAL OHIO 4-H CELEBRATION OF YOUTH
KICKS OFF "WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION"
TO HONOR OHIO 4-H CENTENNIAL**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) - On Sept. 6, hundreds of 4-H members, supporters and volunteers will join together to kick off a "Weekend Celebration" highlighting Ohio 4-H's Centennial year of 2002 at the 5th Annual "Celebration of Youth - Reflections of the Past, Visions of the Future" fundraiser. The event will celebrate 100 years of 4-H and honor the program's founder, A.B. Graham, A.B. Graham members and all those who make the program a success, while raising funds to support the Ohio 4-H Foundation Endowment Fund.

An evening of dinner and entertainment will serve as the backdrop of the event. The festivities will be held at the Aladdin Shrine Center in Columbus, Ohio. The evening's activities will include youth project demonstrations, live and silent auctions, a home-style dinner and much more, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Sponsorships and tickets are now available for the 2002 "Celebration of Youth." The funds raised will support the Ohio 4-H Foundation Endowment which supports innovative and ongoing programs for Ohio 4-H at the county, district and state levels. The funds raised from the Celebration of Youth event will help ensure that Ohio 4-H programs and activities are meeting the needs and interests of youth today and tomorrow. For more information about this event or sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Ohio 4-H Foundation office at 614-292-6943.

Activities continue on Saturday, Sept. 7, with a ground breaking ceremony for the highly anticipated Ohio 4-H Center located at the corner of Lane Avenue and Fred Taylor Drive on The Ohio State University main campus in Columbus. Plans call for the ground breaking ceremony, which is open to all, to take place about three hours before the kickoff of the OSU-Kent State football game.

Following the ground breaking, a fun-filled "4-H Centennial Tailgate," complete with food and beverages, will begin at the Agricultural Administration Building located on Fyffe Road, across from the site of the new center. Reservations are required for the tailgate.

With or without football tickets you are invited to be a part of this festive occasion. Parking is "on your own" and these events will go on "rain or shine." If you do have football tickets, be sure to watch the OSU Alumni and Marching Band half-time performance which will spotlight and honor 4-H's Centennial year.

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Come be a part of this marvelous weekend of celebration. For ticket information for the "Celebration of Youth" event being held on Sept. 6 and/or the "Centennial Tailgate" being held on Sept. 7, please call (614) 292-6943.

This year more than 286,000 Ohio youth, ages 5 to 19 will be involved in a 4-H program. All 4-H programs focus on hands-on involvement and quality experiences, which stimulate life-long learning of values and skills. More than 25,000 adult and teen leaders serve as volunteers for the program. They are role models, leaders and friends with whom the 4-H members build relationships. 4-H builds the foundation that prepares young people for the future.

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