



National 4-H Volunteer Development Spring Update 2008

National 4-H Volunteer Development Strategy

A series of 10 focus groups held in early 2008 kicked off the National 4-H Volunteerism strategy effort. There were over 110 participants joining the focus groups including Extension Directors, state program leaders, state specialists and county educators from 40 states and territories, 1994, 1890 and 1862 LGU institutions, National 4-H Council, and National 4-H Headquarters. Thanks to everyone who gave voice to their ideas!

Thanks especially to the 12 excellent facilitators that conducted the telephone/Breeze sessions over a period of 3 weeks. They were: Rod Buchele, KS; Ken Culp, III, KY; Courtney Dodd, TX; Ben Gallup, MO, Chris Gleason, IA; Deb Jones, UT; Dale Leidheiser, CO; Marilyn Lesmeister, OR; Jen Loble, ME; Ginny Powell, NJ; Ryan Schmiesing, OH; and Cody Stone, MT.

The raw data from the group interviews has been reviewed for themes by a small group of subject matter experts. Their summaries will be compiled and a small group of thought leaders (both internal and external to 4-H and Extension) will be convened in April/May to review the analysis along with other key information.

The panel of volunteer experts, international volunteer consultants and 4-H leadership will recommend strategies, actions and promising practices for engaging volunteers in 4-H that will reflect and sustain the 4-H organization of the future.

State 4-H Program leaders, volunteer specialists and key county educators will all have an opportunity to provide input into the strategy beginning Summer, 2008. The national strategy will be introduced at the Galaxy conference in September 2008 and its implementation discussed in more detail at National Extension Volunteerism Conference in April 2009. Co-chairs, Harriett Edwards, NCSU, and Barbara Stone, National 4-H Headquarters, CSREES/USDA will lead the strategy effort.

Timeline for National 4-H Volunteer Strategy:

- Raw data from focus groups reviewed by subject matter experts, March 2008
- Thought Leaders convened, April/May 2008
- Input from 4-H volunteer specialists and other key stakeholders, Summer 2008
- National 4-H Volunteer Strategy introduced at Galaxy, September 2008
- Implementation Discussion and Next Steps, NEVC, April 2009

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SAVE THE DATE! National Extension Volunteerism Conference 2009

The 2009 National Extension Volunteerism Conference (NEVC) is scheduled for **April 27 – 30, 2009**. The conference will be held at the General Butler State Resort Park in Northern Kentucky, 30 minutes from the Cincinnati airport and major amenities.

Over the past decade, Extension volunteer specialists and professionals from the nation's Land-Grant University system have held a national conference for those that work directly with volunteers or administer complex volunteer management systems within the Cooperative Extension system.

The National Extension Volunteerism Conference (NEVC) is an opportunity for sharing and learning the latest research and trends in volunteerism, innovative ideas for reaching new volunteers, best practices for developing and keeping current volunteers, and strengthening volunteer management efforts.

NEVC welcomes anyone who has local, state or national responsibility for volunteer development; those interested in greater involvement of volunteers in extension programming or outreach education; and those who provide leadership for board development. Professional staff and key volunteers are encouraged to attend NEVC as teams to build capacity and to apply volunteer competencies to Extension programs.

The NEVC planning committee will send out a call for proposals, preliminary agenda and registration information soon! Contact: Barbara Stone, bstone@csrees.usda.gov

National 4-H Learning Priority 2007 -2012: Volunteers for the Next Generation

The Volunteer Development Priority Team is focusing on providing in-service education to 4-H professionals to assist them in creating and maintaining volunteer delivery systems, volunteer development and volunteer management systems. The team has conducted a gap analysis, reviewed existing materials and commercial volunteer development educational packages and created a plan for future directions on staff development in the area of volunteer development. As the National 4-H Volunteer Strategy unfolds, the priority team will look for ways to link the strategies to their recommendations for learning resources. They will also help provide some of the educational content at the National Extension Volunteerism Conference scheduled for April 27 – 30, 2009. Co-leaders, Sheri Siebold, IL and Sue Pleskac, WI lead the team.

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