



Mendocino County C.E.O Report
4-H Youth Development Program
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Introduction

The 4-H program has experienced a steady and positive start this year. Since the enrollment period opened in July, we currently have **356 active youth members** and **98 adult volunteers** participating as of February 11th, with additional individuals pending enrollment.

National 4-H Week Celebration

We celebrated National 4-H Week back in October from the 7th to 12th by joining the Board of Supervisors during their October 8th meeting. This platform allowed us to highlight the significant impact of the 4-H program on members after their participation and into adulthood. Three teen 4-H members representing the Ukiah Shamrocks, Redwood Valley-Calpella and Potter Valley Clubs, were also given the opportunity to present their individual experiences and goals for the year, further showcasing the program's value.

Organizational Developments

In the 2024-25 program year, we have made considerable progress in adjusting to the new volunteer management model, known as the **Mendocino County 4-H Leadership Unit**. This unit comprises three key sections:

1. **Administrative Oversight**
2. **Incentives and Recognition**
3. **4-H Grows Committee**

These components are essential for the effective functioning and growth of the 4-H program and are in the process of outsourcing more membership from 4-H youth, volunteers and community members.

Introduction of the 4-H Zones Project

A significant initiative launched this year is the **4-H Zones project**, developed under the 4-H Grows Committee. This project serves as a comprehensive resource for Mendocino County, analyzing critical factors such as geographical distances, town and city locations, school districts, and population demographics. The zones have been established to provide program staff, adult volunteers, and 4-H members with valuable resources aimed at enhancing programming both now and in the future.

We are actively seeking zone leads and their respective subcommittees to help implement this initiative. We encourage all members and volunteers to review the designated zones and consider participating in areas where they can contribute to educational youth enrichment through 4-H program resources and events. Your involvement is vital to the success of this initiative, and we look forward to your engagement in fostering positive experiences for our youth.

4-H Events

The 4-H Presentation Day is a public speaking event that will take place at Blosser Elementary in Willits on Sunday, March 2nd, from 9 AM to 2 PM. This event provides 4-H members an opportunity to showcase their communication skills by presenting on topics they are passionate about. Participants will have the chance to deliver informative, educational, or persuasive presentations to an audience, helping to build confidence and public speaking abilities. The event is open to the public, and local community members are encouraged to attend and support the 4-H youth as they demonstrate their knowledge and hard work.

Future Focus

Looking ahead, we will prioritize partnerships with the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) and other educational organizations. These collaborations aim to expand 4-H programming through a variety of delivery modes tailored to meet the needs of youth projects.

Conclusion

In summary, the 4-H program in Mendocino County is off to a promising start this year, characterized by increased participation and innovative initiatives. We appreciate the commitment of our current members and volunteers and look forward to a prosperous and exciting year!

