Get “Technical” with 4-H GPS/GIS Training!

Want to reach a new audience in your county or be more involved in the 4-H SET National Initiative? Well, here’s your opportunity! There will be an in-service training for faculty, program assistants and volunteers on how to get started in the 4-H GPS/GIS project. The training will be in Defuniak Springs at the Walton County Extension Office, on January 16th, from 9:30AM-2PM.

Suzanne Wilson, who has been involved in this program for the last 4 years, will be teaching the training. Suzanne got involved in GPS/GIS technology while serving on the CCS Curriculum Development team.

Her GPS/GIS program has helped community professionals see that they need to be involved if they want to recruit future employees.

“The most significant impact this program has had on my county program is introducing youth to a new career opportunity. Youth are excited that they can have a job doing something that is so much fun.”
~ Suzanne Wilson

Suzanne currently serves on the National 4-H Engineering Challenge Steering Committee.

Getting this program started in your county can have multiple benefits: not only does it attract a new set of clientele that you may not be reaching, but it is an opportunity to attract new volunteers who use GPS either for their job or for recreation.

Multi-State Update

Save the dates—March 10-12th for our 4-H/FCS Multi-State Meeting in Panama City. The meeting will be held once again at the Majestic Beach Resort, Panama City Beach FL www.majesticbeachresort.com.

Why multi-state? It is an opportunity to network with agents from other states, share programs, and work together on future programs. Multi-state is also linked to Federal funding for Extension, so it is important to all of us. Look for registration details in next month’s newsletter!
You CAN Publish and Present!

It’s never too early to begin thinking about your next promotion! Publishing and presenting at state and national conferences is a big part of the process, so schedule some time on your calendar for submitting a proposal for at least one of the following:

- **NAE4-HA**—Deadline to submit an abstract for a poster or seminar is January 15th. Proposals are submitted online at: [http://georgia4h.org/nae4hacallforproposals/login/login.cfm](http://georgia4h.org/nae4hacallforproposals/login/login.cfm)
- **Florida 4-H Volunteer Leader’s Forum**—Deadline to submit proposals for workshops is January 9th.
- **4-H State Congress**—Look for workshop proposals in March.
- **EPAF**—Abstracts are due in June. Look for a call for proposals this spring.
- **NW District Volunteer Forum**—Look for a call for workshop proposals this summer.
- **Rock Eagle Volunteer Forum**—Call for workshop proposals is usually in March or April.

4-H Online Updates

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, the RSA’s will be offering 1-hour sessions to update faculty or staff on the 4-H Online system. As this program is still a work in progress, these updates should be very valuable to whomever is responsible for inputting your county’s data. Sessions will be available via polycom, from 11AM-12PM Eastern Time. Here are the dates for 2009:

- January 21st
- February 18th
- March 18th
- April 15th
- May 20th
- June 17th

Grant Opportunities for 4-H Programs

**Internal Funding:**
Florida 4-H Foundation: Energizing Florida 4-H. The foundation is accepting proposals that support multi-county, district and state programming for up to $3,500.00. Proposals are due January 12th, 5PM Eastern. Applications can be found at: [http://florida4h.org/foundation/](http://florida4h.org/foundation/).

**External Funding:**
Christopher Columbus Awards: Innovation Generation. This grant program combines science and technology with community problem solving. Middle school age youth work in teams with the help of an adult coach to identify an issue they care about and, using science and technology, work with experts, conduct research, and put their ideas to the test to develop an innovative solution. Maximum award: $25,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World to attend the program’s National Championship Week. Deadline: Feb. 9, 2009. For more information, visit: [http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/](http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/)
Techie Tool of the Month– Turning Point

Turning Point is a tool that can be used during PowerPoint trainings to poll your audience and get feedback. Jennifer Heady, 4-H Agent in Okaloosa County, and Elaine Courtney, FCS Agent in Okaloosa County, have been using this technology in their 4-H Money Adventures programs as end of program surveys. They have also used it in their Teen and Money Focus groups, a research project to determine the financial education needs of teens and their parents. “The kids love the technology. It’s easy to use and lots of fun for the kids - also, it does a lot of the “math” work for you!” says Jennifer.

If you would like to learn how to incorporate this technology into your county programs, then plan on attending one of the Turning Point Trainings offered by Louise Ryan, our IT Specialist. The dates for 2009 are:

- January 15th– Jackson County Extension Office, 9-11AM Central
- February 17th– Wakulla County Extension Office, 9-11 Eastern
- February 18th– Okaloosa County Extension Office, 1-3PM Central.

All FNEP counties received a set of the hardware, and there are several sets in the district office. A new hardware kit costs about $1,150.00.

4-H Club EIN FAQ’s

Any club or county using the 4-H Name to raise funds, open a bank account, or apply for state sales tax exemption must supply EIN information to the State 4-H Office. This information is then forwarded to the National 4-H headquarters. National 4-H coordinates this information with IRS.

What if my club leader does not want to use his/her social security number to get an EIN online?
Then submit a hard copy to IRS without the social security number. It will take 6-8 weeks.

If my club accounts are run through a county 4-H account, do I have to submit EIN information?
Yes– submit the EIN number, address, and name of account for your county, and make a note that your club accounts are run through this one umbrella account.

For more EIN FAQ’s, visit our Northwest District 4-H PIT SharePoint site.

Preparing for Affirmative Action Reports

Affirmative Action reports are due in March to the state office. That deadline will be here before you know it, so January is usually a good time to start preparing and making sure that if your clubs are not in parity, then they need to conduct “All Reasonable Efforts.” A helpful worksheet for clubs needing to conduct All Reasonable Efforts, as well as a sample letter to club leaders is posted on our NW 4-H PIT SharePoint Site.

You do not have to submit these forms to the state office, but you definitely will want to keep them in your affirmative action files. Remember, if you are audited, you will need documentation!
Happy New Year! Each month, I would like to highlight a program of interest to our district. Please share your ideas and tips for making the best better. Any educational articles you submit can be part of your annual ROA, under “Newsletters, edited.” Deadline for February articles is January 26th. We also need to include any dates for 4-H events that are district-wide, as well as district agent’s meetings. *I am interested in your constructive feedback for suggestions to make this newsletter something that is practical and helpful to you!*

Sincerely,

Heather C. Kent
Regional Specialized 4-H Agent, Northwest Extension District
hckent@ufl.edu

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**January 2009**

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<td>District III Agent’s Meeting, 10AM Eastern, Polycom</td>
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<td>District III–Ag Adventures Meeting, 10AM, Quincy</td>
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<td>Counselor Certification Weekend, Camp Timpoochee</td>
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<td>Camp Cherry Lake Advisory Meeting</td>
<td>4-H Online Update Polycom, 11AM Eastern</td>
<td>Camp Timpoochee Advisory Committee Polycom, 10AM</td>
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<td>NW District Stakeholder’s Meeting, 9AM</td>
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