

## A Wizard at Work

Chris Boleman, Texas 4-H Program Director

I once heard Dr. Peter Witt say that some people are just wizards.....kid wizards. In the back of mind, I always wondered if I had ever worked with one.....well, now I know.

I was the first one on the bus to introduce myself to our bus driver a couple of weeks ago in Washington DC. She introduced herself as Monique and promptly (and firmly) shook my hand. Before I could say anything else she said, "Chris, I need your phone number." I replied, "Sure, but why?"

"Well sir, if I am going to help chaperone these kids, I may need to find you." With that, she jumped off the bus and quickly loaded every suitcase the kids had. Once back on the bus, she looked at me and asked, "where to?" I was a bit taken aback by this because we sent a schedule and I figured we would just stick to that. So, I asked her, "Do you have the schedule?"

"Yes sir, but is that what they want to do?" pointing and nodding towards the kids on the bus. It was that exact moment when I figured out that we were dealing with a servant leader and she was going to be awesome! A quick wink and a nod from me and we were off and running. She grabbed the microphone and spent the next few minutes describing Washington DC to the kids. And just like that, she grabbed their attention and never lost it until we unloaded off the bus for the last time two days later.

She went with us everywhere. She protected us in the "big city." As a matter of fact, during one meal in a mall food court, a homeless man was asking for change and before he could even get close to approaching our kids, Monique turned him around telling him to not mess with these kids. As we toured the city, she would ask the kids what they wanted to

see. As they hollered things like the White House, Watergate, Arlington Cemetery, Embassy Row, Georgetown, she made a note and before the tour ended, we saw every single thing they wanted to see. In addition, if there was a line or we were stuck in traffic, she would ask the kids trivia questions about the city or the tourist attraction we were about to see. She captivated them, she inspired them, she challenged them, and she respected them. It was one of the coolest things I have ever seen in my career!

It was just another reminder of the difference each of us can make when people know someone cares. For the majority of these 27 kids, this was their first trip to our nation's capital. Some were nervous and some

were even scared, but Monique made them feel at ease. It was remarkable to watch. I will never forget Monique. She was a difference maker or better said.....she was a KID WIZARD.

The saddest and lowest point of the trip was when we had to say good-bye to Ms. Monique. As the kids exited the bus, every single one of them said thank you and gave her a big hug. When the adult chaperones exited, we were all trying not to cry. It was truly that emotional. Her final words to me

that night were also words I will never forget. She said, "Mr. Chris....those are the best kids I have ever toured."

Very proud I thanked her and said, "And you are the best tour guide I have ever had." She was AWESOME!

*One follow-up note. Monique will be receiving several Texas 4-H items next week. On the last night, we made her a life-long member of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program.*



Seasons



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## 4-H FCS Project Toolkit

Courtney Dodd, Extension Program Specialist

The 4-H & Youth Development Program is pleased to announce the release of the 4-H FCS Project Toolkit! This toolkit is a web-based resource for volunteers to use when managing and leading 4-H FCS projects at the county level. General project information is provided as well as project resources, lesson plans, activities and videos for each of the seven 4-H FCS projects. The toolkit is located at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/volunteers/fcs/>

## 2012 4-H Volunteer Conference

Courtney Dodd, Extension Program Specialist

The dates for the 2012 4-H Volunteer Conference have been set! Mark your calendars – and share the date with others – for July 27th – 29th in San Antonio. If you, or someone you know, is interested in sharing your ideas by teaching a workshop at the conference, we invite you to submit a proposal to present a conference workshop. All proposals may be submitted online at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dGlsUXFFekxFRWg3N3dKZ3VVRmdSVXc6MQ>. All proposals are due by February 1, 2012.

As conference plans are finalized and details are set, more information will be provided on the volunteer conference webpage: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/volunteers/conference/>

## 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Invitational

Courtney Dodd, Extension Program Specialist

The classes and resources for the 2012 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Invitational Contest are now available at: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/healthy\\_lifestyles/](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/healthy_lifestyles/). Previous contest classes are also posted on the web site. The contest is held during Texas 4-H Roundup and is open to intermediate and senior 4-H members. Youth may compete as teams or individuals.

## Share the Fun 2012!

Laura Huebinger, Extension Program Specialist

Do you have a talent to share with your fellow 4-H members? Singing? Dancing? Playing an instrument? Acting? Then sign up for Share-The-Fun! Guidelines have been released and you can plan on the same six categories as last year: Celebrate 4-H, Choreographed Routines, Musical/Instrumental, Solo/Band Performance, Poetry/Prose, and Vocal. An entry can be an individual or in teams up to 9 4-H members.

Check out the Texas 4-H Roundup webpage for the rules and more information!



## MASH Camp

Courtney Dodd, Extension Program Specialist

The Medical, Athletic Training, Safety & Health Camp provides youth an opportunity to learn about nutrition, physical activity, health and safety, as well as explore a variety of careers available in the health and medical fields. Activities include tours and hands-on experiences of Texas A&M College of Medicine, Health Science Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, A&M Athletic facilities, and TEEX Disaster City. The camp is scheduled for **June 27-29, 2012** and is open to youth ages 13-17 (at the time of the camp).

## Texas Youth Saves

Angela McCorkle, Extension Program Specialist

Join the hundreds of Texas youth who are making a difference with their money by becoming Savers. Young Texas Saves is a community based effort to empower youth to increase their saving and become more financially capable. Through Young Texas Saves, young people are challenged to take the first step in reaching their financial goals by making a savings commitment.

In the month of February every 4-H club in Texas is challenged to present the Young Texas Saves program at their monthly meeting. The presentation includes a short PowerPoint with real life examples of the impact of saving and investing at a young age, handouts for members and parents with tips on saving and investing and provides 4-H members the opportunity create a saving goal and commit to making it happen.

Young Texas Saves program materials will be available January 1, 2012. For more information about Texas Youth Saves contact: Angela McCorkle 979-845-3850 or by e-mailing [armccorkle@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:armccorkle@ag.tamu.edu)



**JOIN US ON OUR  
SOCIAL NETWORKS**



For the latest news between newsletters from the Texas 4-H and Youth Development join us on Facebook and Twitter. These two networks are our way of keeping you up to date and informed on the latest news, information, and happenings from the state level.

## Two New FCS Project Trainings Available

Angela McCorkle, Extension Program Specialist

We have two upcoming Centra trainings that we would like to share with you. The trainings are recorded and you can view them at any time from your home computer.

The first is 4-H FCS101 Consumer Education conducted via Centra Symposium (Event ID: PSP364796 ). During this Centra training you will have the opportunity to look inside the 4-H Consumer Education project, develop an understanding of the project objectives, be aware of the project curriculum that is available, review the Consumer Decision Making contest and look at youth consumer education activities that can be done with all youth in your communities. With financial literacy being named as one of the top issues facing Texas it is important to that each of us have a good understanding of the resources that are available to help increase the financial capabilities of the youth in our state.

The second training is 4-H FCS101 Clothing and Textiles conducted via Centra Symposium (Event ID: MLL328140). This Centra training will provide an overview of the project, discuss clothing and textiles project activities, look at the future of the clothing and textiles contests and review the current contests and opportunities.

To watch a pre-recorded Centra, get started by logging in to Centra. Then, do the following 4 steps:

1. Click on Public Recordings (3rd link on the left)
2. In the search box enter the exact title from listing below or the event ID number (a combination of 9 letters and numbers in Event ID Number column)
3. Click on the Playback link
4. Finally, click the Playback in Browser button or the Download button to view the training.



## 2012 Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge

Derrick Bruton, Extension Program Specialist

Are you up for a challenge? Do you love the great outdoors? If so, mark your calendars for June 30-July 1, 2012 for the 4th annual Texas 4-H Outdoor Challenge to be held at the Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood.

Grab a friend. Learn, practice, and train to compete in a series of ten outdoor events that will challenge you physically and mentally. Are you the ultimate Texas Outdoor Challenge team? Join us next summer to find out!

Stay tuned for further contest details and announcements next spring. Visit our website at: [www.tinyurl.com/tx4hoc](http://www.tinyurl.com/tx4hoc) If you have questions, please contact Derrick Bruton ([d-bruton@tamu.edu](mailto:d-bruton@tamu.edu)).

## 2012 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application Now Available On-Line

Toby Lepley, Extension 4-H and Youth Development Specialist

The 2012 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Application, Instructions, and Examples are now available for download on the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website.

Many changes have been made for the 2012 scholarship process. Please download and review all applications prior to beginning the scholarship application process. Below are just a few highlights:

- The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be awarding scholarships to public, private, and home school youth starting in 2012.
- Courageous Heart applicants cannot be considered for other Opportunity Scholarship categories.
- Grade Point Average can be submitted based on how high school currently is calculating. This allows advanced placement and dual credit courses to count accordingly. However, application must reflect on what value scale GPA is being calculated.

Visit <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu> to download all necessary instructions and applications.

## 2012 Texas 4-H Scholarship Centra Workshop Scheduled

Toby Lepley, Extension 4-H and Youth Development Specialist

On December 12th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm an on-line scholarship training will be hosted via Extension Centra. This workshop is limited to the first 125 participants and will be focused to those planning on applying for a 2012 TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP. To participate in the Scholarship Centra you will need to be at a computer that has a good Internet connection and has speakers. You will be able to ask questions via microphone (if you have one) or by text chat. Attendees may enter the event up to 15 minutes prior to the start by going to the URL below, and entering the event ID.

**URL:** <http://webconference.tamus.edu/main/tce/>

**Event ID:** LLP258281

# Wildlife and Fisheries School Enrichment Program 2010-11 School Year

Billy Higginbotham, Extension Specialist

Wildlife and Fisheries School Enrichment Programs extend natural resources information to elementary school students across Texas. Lesson activities meet TEA-mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements for four module scenarios available to third, fourth and fifth grade teachers. A total of 26 module duplicates are utilized consisting of four different modules including "The White-Tailed Deer" and "Wildlife Success Stories and Endangered Species" for third grade, "Something's Fishy" for fourth grade and "City Critters" for fifth grade. Each module consists of various teaching components including free standing displays, interactive computer programs, lesson plans, videos and testing materials.

A total of 2,346 students participated during the 2010-11 school year. Males made up 51% and females comprised 49% of the total. Ethnically, the student sample was Caucasian (34%), African-American (10%), Asian (1%), Hispanic (54%), American Indian (< 1%), Middle Eastern (< 1%) and other (< 1%). During the 2010-11 school year, students exhibited statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) knowledge gains (%) based on pre/post test evaluations for all modules: White-tailed Deer (70%), Wildlife Success Stories and Endangered Species (57%), Something's Fishy (52%) and City Critters (32%). Although provided at no charge to the 143 teachers participating from 58 different elementary school campuses in 14 counties, teachers estimated a cumulative value of having access to these research-based school enrichment programs at \$35,451 for the 2010-11 school year.

For those CEAS that utilized one or more of these modules during the last (2010-11) school year, the data summaries by module and by county are available at the following website: <https://eit-data.tamu.edu/FourH/menu1011scanned.asp>.

Special thanks to Rey Santos, Paul Pope and Jean Suh for providing data management and analyses services for this program effort.

## 4-H Hunting/Wildlife Coach Training

Larry Hysmith, Extension Program Specialist

An action packed training for adult volunteers interested in leading a group of youth in this dynamic project area. Gain all the required training to coach a team in the Hunting/Wildlife Shooting Sports discipline and more. Participants will come away with instructor certifications in 4-H Shooting Sports, Texas Hunter Education, and Leopold Education Project. In addition, topics will include information about the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), Texas Youth Hunting Program, and many more opportunities available through hunting and wildlife programs and activities.

## 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) Updates

Larry Hysmith, Extension Program Specialist

WHEP State Contest Announcement - New information on this contest is now on the website!

- June 16-17, 2012
- Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX
- Registration open on 4-H Connect May 1-25, 2012

**\*\*Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program is excited to be hosting the 2012 National WHEP Contest!! Spectacular plans are in the works! More details will be announced soon!**

## Natural Resource Training Opportunities

Larry Hysmith, Extension Program Specialist

**January 21-22:** Headquarters Natural Resources Leader Trainings  
Caldwell, Texas

*Topics:* Shooting Sports Coach Training  
WHEP Leader Training & Practice Contest

**February 4-5** Hunting/Wildlife Coach Certification & Training  
College Station, Texas

**February, 2012** Floating Natural Resources Leader Training  
Location TBA

*Topics:* Shooting Sports Coach Training

**March 24-25** North Region Natural Resources Leader Trainings  
Lubbock, Texas

*Topics:* Shooting Sports Coach Training  
Wildlife Education Leader Training

**May 19-20** East Region Natural Resources Leader Trainings  
Tyler, Texas

*Topics:* Shooting Sports Coach Training  
Sportfishing Project Leader Training

**August 11-12** West Region Natural Resources Leader Trainings  
San Angelo, Texas

*Topics:* Shooting Sports Coach Training  
Wildlife Education Leader Training

**September, 2012** Floating Natural Resources Leader Trainings  
District 12, Location TBA

*Topics:* Shooting Sports Coach Training  
Sportfishing Project Leader Training

**October 13-14** South Region Natural Resources Trainings  
Victoria, Texas

*Topics:* Shooting Sports Coach Training  
WHEP Leader Training & Practice Contest

*Check the website often for additions and changes to the training schedule!*

For all the latest on 4-H Natural Resources Project information, visit the website at:

[http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/natural\\_resources](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/natural_resources)

You can still make a difference to our military serving overseas this holiday season!

## OPERATION BIT OF HOME

### **DONATE NEW AND USED DVD'S AND HELP THE MORALE, WELFARE, AND RELAXATION OF OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OVERSEAS**

Join Texas 4-H in supporting Operation A Bit Of Home, a non-profit organization helping bring a little bit of "home" to deployed US Service members by establishing video lending libraries in Afghanistan and Iraq. Donate new or used DVDs and make a difference to men and women protecting our country (no children's movies please). Donations accepted at County Extension Offices through December 31, 2011.

Please mail DVD's to either of the following addresses:

OPERATION: A Bit of Home  
Attn: Ken Meyer  
324 N. 10th St. Unit B  
Nolanville, TX 76559

Bell County Extension Office  
1605 North Main, Rm 102  
Belton, TX 76513

Please include 75 cents per disk to help with shipping costs. Throw a few extra quarters or dollars extra in the box! Tax deductible checks are always welcome and can be made out to "Villa Park Rotary Club."

## 2012 Filmfest 4-H

Missouri 4-H is pleased to officially announce the second annual FilmFest 4-H, a national film festival open to all 4-H members ages 11 and up! For many of you, planning for your next state film festival is already underway. Our hope is that FilmFest 4-H can serve as an additional opportunity for your youth that compliments your state's existing efforts. This event is sponsored by the National 4-H Communications and Expressive Arts Task force, Missouri's 4-H Center for Youth Development, and the City of Branson.

### WHAT IS FILMFEST 4-H?

Like any other national film festival, this event connects participants to professionals in the film industry and celebrates the work of the filmmakers. The difference is that our filmmakers are 4-H youth! The event includes film screenings, industry-related tours, and workshops lead by professionals in the film industry who have been attached to projects the youth recognize.

Last year's workshops included "Lighting on the Set" with David Houle, owner and operator of Sight & Sound Productions, who has worked on such films as "Up in the Air"; "Documentaries and Television Programming" with Russ Weston of Weston Productions, whose work ranges from National Geographic and Dateline to Ice Road Truckers and Deadliest Catch; "Acting for the Camera" with Scott-Arthur Allen, Director of the Creative Actors Workshop, who has coached actors such as Heather Locklear, Tea Leoni, Sela Ward, and Lisa Hartman Black; and more!

### DO YOU HAVE TO BE A FILMMAKER OR TIED TO A STATE 4-H PROJECT TO ATTEND?

Absolutely not! In fact, most FilmFest participants are 4-H families, Volunteers and youth with an interest in filmmaking or the film industry.

### WHAT ARE THE COMPETITION CATEGORIES?

The categories planned for 2012 include Narrative, Animation, Documentary and 4-H Promotional. Other categories may be added as the youth-adult planning team continues its work.

### WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREPARE?

NOW is a great time for:

- adults to spread the word, ensuring the opportunity reaches all levels of your 4-H program
- adults who work with film events to factor this opportunity into your event planning
- youth to begin working on films they may wish to submit
- youth fundraising to help cover the costs of the trip
- asking all the questions that come to mind!



For more information, visit:  
<http://4h.missouri.edu/filmfest>

# Texas 4-H Conference Center Let's GO TO 4-H Camp

# Lake Brownwood

## Up Coming Events:

*Kick up your heels and learn some new dance moves!*

We all know that 4-H camp is often "all about the dance" – here's your chance to step it up a notch. In addition to workshops on Outdoor Challenge, SET, Leadership and Service Learning – the Texas A&M Aggie Wranglers will conduct a workshop teaching 4-H members some of their signature Jitterbug and Polka moves! Check out their promotional website at <http://aggiewranglers.tamu.edu/> Granted, you may not all aspire to be Aggies – but we all love to dance!

## Teen Retreat January 6-8, 2012

Youth Registration \$105, includes four meals, lodging and program fees; Adult Chaperones \$70

The purpose of Teen Retreat is to prepare senior level 4-H members as Teen Leaders for 4-H projects and opportunities on the county and/or district level by showcasing new and current 4-H project offerings.

Register at the 4-H Center website, <http://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/> click on the "REGISTER NOW" link.

Registration deadline: December 30, 2011



## Center Events for Your Calendar:

- Jan. 6-8, 2012
  - April 23-27, 2012
  - July 9-11, 2012
  - July 9-11, 2012
  - July 11-14, 2012
  - July 16-18, 2012
  - July 18-21, 2012
  - July 22-25, 2012
- 4-H Teen Retreat
  - Spring Fling
  - Mission Possible
  - County Camp I
  - County Camp II
  - County Camp III
  - Prime Time I
  - Prime Time II

Check out the 4-H Center website for registration information [texas4hcenter.tamu.edu](http://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu)

TO DOWNLOAD COMPLETE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE PROGRAMS, VISIT: <http://texas4hfoundation.org/texas-4-h-alliances/>

**Need a 4-H T-Shirt?**



[www.barefootathletics.com/categories/Texas-4%252dH](http://www.barefootathletics.com/categories/Texas-4%252dH)

**KICK IT UP! IN A NEW PAIR OF ANDERSON BEANS!**

Right now, the folks at National Ropers Supply (NRS) are offering a 10% discount for registered 4-H members, just use the code 10OFF4H at their online checkout using this link:



<http://www.nrsworld.com/istar.asp?a=6&id=HP1057!ANB&referrer=ratepoint>



**Eat a World's Greatest Hamburger and Support 4-H!**

Fuddrucker's in Beaumont, College Station, Corpus Christi, Killeen, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Temple, and Waco are teaming up with Texas 4-H to support Texas 4-H on **December 20, 2011** "4-H Day at Fudds!" Just drop your receipt into the box at the cash register. 15% of all receipts dropped will return back to the 4-H Scholarship Program and local 4-H Programs.



**TRAVELING AROUND? SAVE 15% FOR BEING A 4-H SUPPORTER AT LAQUINTA**

LaQuinta Inns & Suites is proud to be a part of an Alliance Agreement with the Texas 4-H Program. Supporters can enjoy a 15% discount at any of the 700 plus locations. Visit LQ.com (code TX4H) or call 800-SLEEPLQ. Ask for the "TX4H Youth Discount."



Need a special piece of jewelry for the 4-H member in your house? Visit Lone Star Silversmith for the latest in unique 4-H jewelry and fashion. Pieces include money clips, pendants, tie tacks, bail pendants, as well as bracelets, rings, earrings, and a custom made knife. Ten percent of your purchase helps supports the Texas 4-H Program and its programs.

**Kick Up Your Heels In a New Pair of AB Texas 4-H Boots!**

Anderson Bean Boot Company proudly announces a new line of boots just for Texas 4-H! Visit them on-line and at Facebook to check-out the photos of the boots. Find your local AB retailer to order your pair today! A portion from each pair supports the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation.



**Friends & Alumni Association Announces Alliance Opportunity for ALL Counties!**

Jana Barrett, Coordinator - Texas 4-H Friends & Alumni

*"My County doesn't have a TSC store", no problem.*

*"Stripes Convenient stores are not located in my County", no problem.*

*"Arlington is a bit of a far drive for my county to attend a Texas Rangers Baseball game", no problem.*

The Texas 4-H Friends & Alumni Association is here to assist all 254 Counties across Texas with raising funds for their local 4-H programs. All your county has to have are 4-H Alumni and Friends of 4-H within your county lines to be a part of this new fund raising endeavor!! Texas 4-H Friends & Alumni Association will be hosting "Roundup Former 4-H'ers and Supporters Across Texas" membership drive. A significant portion of the funds raised through this campaign will be returned to the local 4-H Club or County 4-H Program by the Friends and Alumni Association.

<http://texas4hfriends.org/alumnialliance/>

