State 4-H Council Newsletter

Cooperative Extension's Youth Development Program

February 2014 Edition

Quote of the Month

"If you organize your life around passion, you can turn your passion into your story and then turn your story into something bigger—something that matters."

~Blake Mycoskie

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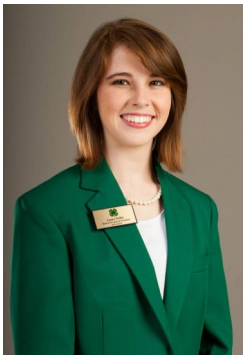
State 4-H Council President's Challenge



Hello, North Carolina 4-H'ers! I hope that each of you have had a wonderful New Year and have enjoyed the "NC Blizzard." I also hope that as you look back on this past year, you smile as you remember the memories from 2013. I was recently thinking about everything that has happened in the past year for me, personally. I mean, gosh! I was elected by my best friends to serve as the State 4-H President! I have the opportunity to hang out with 227,000 4-H'ers for a whole year, while inspiring others with a love of service, leadership, and citizenship!

While I'm happy when I look back at the past year, I also see room for improvement. 2013 may be in the past, but there is still today, tomorrow, and the rest of the future to prepare for!

I challenge you to take this year and make the very best of it, both in 4-H and in your personal life. Walt Disney said, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." For me, my dream was becoming the North Carolina State 4-H Council President. Whatever YOU have dreamed for 2014, *do it*. It is YOUR dream, YOUR 4-H year. Get in touch with other 4-H'ers, your agent, or the state officers; make a "Dream Team" if you want! We will do our best to be part of *your* dream and see it come to be a reality! When it comes to *your* dreams and *your* goals, you can overcome any disability, fear, or discouraging words from others. YOU can achieve your dream!

Laura Ashley Willis
State 4-H Council President
lauraashleywillis4h@gmail.com

District Reports

South Central

By Abigail Clark, SC District Reporter

Since State Council Conference, the South Central District held its annual Winter Enrichment at the Union County 4-H office on January 10-11. This year, the event included an overnight lock-in. We held workshops like Zumba, line dancing, "Reading Makes Cents," and a cooking demonstration, followed by midnight bowling and an all-nighter filled with games and movies!

The South Central district officers are currently planning our annual Teen Retreat at Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Camp, which will be held April 4-5, and are excited about the upcoming 4-H year!

North Central

By Madaline Jones, NC District Reporter

Hello, North Central District! I just want to extend a big "thank you" to all 122 people who came out and attended this year's North Central 4-H Winterfest! The district got together for a fun day of giving back to our local communities,

discussing district business, participating in fun group activities, and getting to spend time together. Thanks to all of those who attended and helped with this event!

Teen Retreat will be held at Betsy-Jeff Penn on March 22-23, and we have lots of great things planned! You don't want to miss out on the fun we are going to have this year!

Important Dates & Deadlines

District Activity Days

Northeast—March 22
Southeast—March 29
North Central—April 12
South Central—May 3
West—May 3

Be sure to check with your 4-H agent or district advisor for more information on your district activity day!

Officer Candidate Info

District Officer Nominations
February 17 (received by)

State Officer Nominations
May 15 (postmarked)

Please note that these are state deadlines, and that counties will have earlier deadlines. You must follow county deadlines in order for your nomination form to be accepted.

Event Recap

Volunteer Leaders Conference

January 31 - February 2

The annual Volunteer Leaders Conference was held in Durham, NC, where adult volunteers and county 4-H agents gathered from across the state to connect through a variety of workshops and activities designed to help them make the best better in their counties and clubs.

The State 4-H Officer Team had the opportunity to teach a workshop titled "Youth and Service Learning: Tying It All Together," where participants made "no-sew" blankets to donate to local organizations The team was able to not only share their service experiences as youth, but also get some valuable insight from the adult leaders.

We are so thankful for all of our *amazing* volunteers who work so hard to make our 4-H program the best in the country! We couldn't do it without you!

Looking Ahead

Betsy-Jeff Penn 50th Anniversary

Mark your calendars! Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Educational Center will be holding its 50th Anniversary Celebration on **Saturday, May 17th, 2014.**

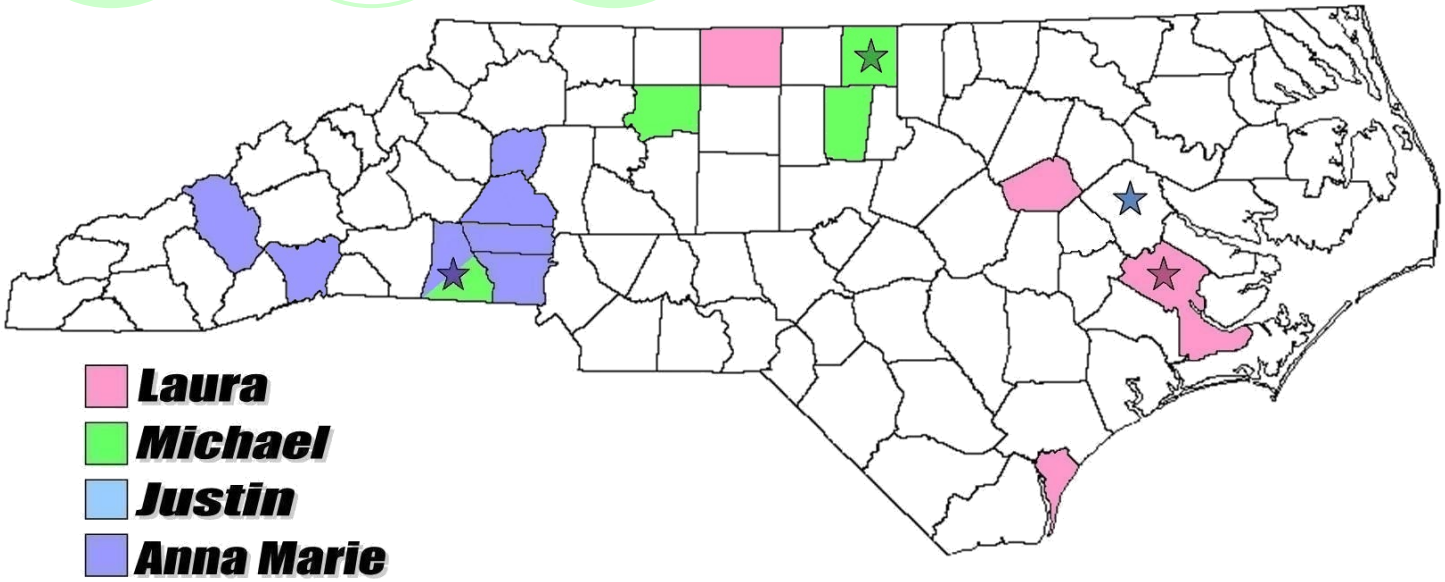
We hope that you will mark your calendar to come out, experience Betsy-Jeff Penn, and show your support for this great 4-H camp.

Stay tuned for more details!

Have something you'd like to see in the State Council Newsletter? If so, contact:

Anna Marie Vagnozzi
State 4-H Council Reporter
lifeisgreat772@bellsouth.net

Building the Leadership Pipeline



The year may have just started, but the State 4-H Officers have already been hard at work, visiting counties around the state in their efforts to "build the leadership pipeline" from the county level up! The team has been amazed at all of the accomplishments youth are making in their clubs and communities, and is enjoying the opportunity to connect with these amazing 4-H'ers and encourage them in their leadership journeys.

Want to add your county to the map? If you are having a county event where you would like a state officer to attend and bring greetings, speak, help hand out awards, teach a workshop, etc., please contact Sarah Kotzian prior to the event and she will work with the officer team to see if one of them can attend. While it may not be possible to accommodate every request, we will do our best! We hope to see many of you in your home counties soon!

Sarah H. Kotzian
Extension 4-H Associate

(919) 515-8480
Sarah_Kotzian@ncsu.edu

Counties Recently Added to the Map

Alexander County
Catawba County
Forsyth County
Henderson County
Orange County
Person County
Rockingham County

Alexander County Awards Night

Person County Achievement Night

Rockingham County Achievement Night