**National 4-H Congress Delegates**

South Carolina delegates leave the day after Thanksgiving to represent our state at National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. Each year, delegates are announced at State 4-H Congress in July from applications and portfolio submissions. Under the chaperoned care of Dr. Pam Arden, State 4-H Leader, and Mrs. Stacy Goff, Kershaw Co. Volunteer, our 2015 National Congress delegates are:

- Katherine Ellig – Kershaw Co.
- Allison Harman – Saluda Co.
- Carey Herndon – Bamberg Co.
- Rae’L Jackson – Chester Co.
- Marti Leake – Anderson Co.
- Micah Metts – Saluda Co.
- Mackenzie Riley – Saluda Co.
- Joseph Sheets – Charleston Co.

We are very proud of our delegates and wish them the best at National Congress! For more information about National 4-H Congress, visit: http://national4-hcongress.com

**South Carolina Flood Relief**

Through generous donations from people in our local communities, Dr. Meghan Wood and Clemson Collegiate 4-H were able to coordinate the delivery of THREE truck/trailer loads of supplies to flood victims through the Red Cross and Harvest Hope Food Bank.

**4-H Grows at South Carolina State Fair**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 4-H presence at the South Carolina State Fair very strong this year!!! From displays, demonstrations, and competitions in the Livestock Arenas and Moore Building to the 4-H Exhibit in the Ellison Building, we had a very strong showing of Volunteers, Youth, and Agents! The 4-H Clover could be seen almost anywhere you looked. Fair season can be a lot of work to prepare and manage all the events. We could not have done it without our volunteers! We appreciate the teamwork and dedication everyone showed throughout the two-week event!!!
Monthly 4-H Club Activity Idea  written by C.H. Holland, UPIC Intern

The Importance of Service Development

Objective: Encourage creativity in youth and giving back to their communities during the holiday season.

Age Range: All ages, there are ways for everyone to participate and contribute in the completion of these crafty service projects.

Hands-on Activities: Creating and decorating gifts for the holidays (clothespin wreaths & mini-trees from evergreen trimmings). Deliver items to shelters, assisted-living facilities, children’s homes, etc. as a way to enrich the lives of others during the holiday season.

Life Skills: HEAD = use of resources, service learning; HEART = sharing, empathy, concern for others; HANDS = community service, contributions to group effort, teamwork, responsible citizenship; HEALTH = self-esteem, character.  (Hendricks, P. A. 1998. Targeting Life Skills Model. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Extension)

As the holiday season approaches, it is a great time to reflect and show our compassion for others by giving back to our community. Reaching out to those in need around you encourages youth to grow in their character through a desire to help others. The intent of this activity is that you will create these crafts and distribute them throughout the community to those who may need a little extra holiday cheer.

Reflective Questions:

• How does it make you feel when someone else does something to help you?
• How does it make you feel when you help someone else?
• What do decorations around the holidays mean to you? How do they make you feel?
• What are some additional ideas that you have about giving back in our community?
• How would you teach someone to do this activity?
• What are some decisions you had to make when doing this activity? Did you decide alone or did you work as a group?
• What did you learn about yourself by doing this activity?
• What did you learn that will help you in the future?

Clothespin Wreath

Materials needed:

- Pack of clothespins (~50/wreath)
- Circular wreath form*
- Spray paint &/or decorative paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paint brushes or q-tips for glue
- Ribbon or decorative bow
- Beads (optional)

This craft was featured at the Volunteer Conference of Southern States at Rock Eagle 4-H Center this year. There are a lot of possibilities and options for assembling this project. Be creative!

Step 1:
Choose a circular wreath form. It can be a flat board, wire form, or hand-made ring from soft, fencing wire or a wire clothes hanger.

Step 2:
Decorate your clothespins with paint, paper, or both!

Step 3:
Attach clothespins to the wreath form. They can be threaded onto the wire using beads as spacers, hot glued, or simply clipped in place. (Note: If the clothespins face outward, they can be used to hold holiday cards!)

Step 4:
Add a bow and/or a ribbon to hang the wreath.

Image Resource Links:
http://dollarstorecrafts.com/2012/12/make-a-clothespin-christmas-wreath/
http://blog.diynetwork.com/maderemade/2012/10/29/holiday-card-display-wreath/

Don’t forget to have your 4-H’ers design and decorate cards to deliver along with their holiday crafts!
Minature Evergreen Tree

**Materials needed:**
- Floral Foam
- Water
- Container for tree*
- Evergreen Cuttings**
- Decorations

**Step 1:**
Use a cone-shaped piece of foam OR cut a rectangular block of floral foam into a rough cone shape with a knife, leaving the top flat. (Use caution when handling sharp objects.)

**Step 2:**
Soak the foam in water until it is thoroughly saturated.

**Step 3:**
Place the foam upright in a watertight container.

**Step 4:**
Tear or cut the evergreen trimmings to 1-3" pieces

**Step 5:**
Begin at the bottom with the longer pieces and circle around the foam, pushing the evergreen pieces securely into the foam. Taper it as you reach to top.

**Step 6:**
If necessary, you can use a rubber band to help shape the tree, as in image #4 to the right.

**Step 7:**
Decorate!!! The sky is the limit when it comes to decorating. You can be as minimal as a star or berries; Or, you can put all sorts of holiday decorations on it!

**Footnotes:**
The finished tree should keep for several weeks. It will do especially well in a cool spot. Drizzle the tree with water to keep the foam moist as needed.

*This container can range from a fancy store-bought dish/pot to a recycled plastic container that you decorate by hand with foil, paint, paper, etc.

**You can expand upon this service project by performing landscape work and pruning activities for a local business, school, or community center. Keeping the trimmings from any number of evergreen shrubs and trees will work well for this project.