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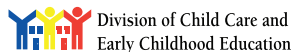
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4-H Pledge

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

In partnership with



Note From the Editor

Greetings, Readers:

As you read this newsletter, you will see what we, Arkansas 4-H Afterschool, have been doing. Bear with me readers, as this is my first newsletter acting as the editor in chief! I hope you enjoy the articles.



Happy reading!!

- TASHA RAINEY

New Programs on Board

The 4-H Afterschool team hit the road to forge new 4-H partnerships across the state of Arkansas. Hendrix College invited us to a volunteer fair on Aug. 31 to recruit students looking to make a difference in their communities. While at the fair, we connected with The Boys and Girls Club of Faulkner County, Family Ministries, The Bethlehem House and the Juvenile Probation Officers Volunteer group and have started communicating with these groups to set up partnerships. After lunch, we met with Dr. Carney Hall, vice president of student affairs and advisor of the group Campus Kitty. Campus Kitty raises and gives funding to local nonprofits in Conway. We discussed the possibility of getting funding for Faulkner County 4-H Afterschool clubs and possible state funding as well. Finally, we met with Dr. Alice Hines who is in charge of the Menifee tutoring group. After our discussion, we set a date to present more information to the parents.

We hit the road again on Sept. 1 headed to Conway County to visit the Nemo Vista school principal and Ms. Alicia Hugen, Conway County staff chair. Gina Robinson, one of the local 4-H eager volunteers, arranged for us to tour the school and talk to the principal about the possibility of reserving a small section of the day to teach the 4-H Afterschool curriculum. Our project director, Ida Collier, led the discussion, and the VISTAs chipped in when needed. We opened the doors to a potential partnership.

On Sept. 9, we toured the Delta. We met with Graffie Eldridge (Lee County) and Jackie King (Monroe County) to learn more about the history and issues that impact the area. Eldridge arranged for us to visit Sylvia Halliburton at the Whitten Elementary School to work on a potential partnership. We discussed the lack of funds in that area and decided that would be a major problem. With the promise of a new partnership, we began to search for grants.

We went a little further up the road to Helena to learn about the KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) School. This school is a 4-H'er's best friend. The teachers use nontraditional methods, and the kids are engaged in their learning. Each teacher develops a personal teaching style. The students follow a dress code that promotes positive image. At the end of our tour, we met with the director and the principal. After hearing about Brandon's experiences in 4-H and looking at the AmeriCorps* VISTAs, he decided this would be a worthwhile partnership.

Our final stop was in Cross County. We met with Fredric Smith, director of the Cross County Boys and Girls Clubs, to discuss how successful the Boys and Girls Club are and concluded that, if they were to enter into the 4-H world, they would be able to take their group to the next level. Linda Stegall, Cross County 4-H program assistant, prepared a nice meal for us before we headed back to Little Rock.

MLK Day of Service

January 16 is a monumental day in our history. It is the day we celebrate the late and great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On this day, volunteers are encouraged to participate in a MLK service event. AmeriCorps* VISTA volunteers will be committed to serving in Conway, Arkansas, this year with volunteers from Hendrix College and UCA for a carnival in honor of the day. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service



with leading this effort. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the **MLK Day of Service** is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a “day on, not a day off.”

The MLK Day of Service is a part of **United We Serve**, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a “Beloved Community” (mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php).

So, this year be willing to have an answer to Dr. King's question and show what you are doing for others by participating in a service event. This is a great way to start the new year.

Health Kit Drive

We need your help!

This year in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Service Day, the VISTAs are also collecting supplies for a Health Kit Supply Drive.

We will be collecting these items through January 13, 2012, in the VISTA office (formerly known as the Call Center) at the State Office.

We need the following items:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Band aids
- Soap
- Hair brushes
- Combs
- Nail files/nail clippers

These health kits will be given to local agencies – Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central Arkansas, Community Service, Inc., CAPCA/Head Start Program and many more – for distribution to individuals in need.

Meet Debra

Debra Johnson Joins AmeriCorps* VISTA

Debra Johnson is originally from Little Rock, but has resided in Ellenwood, Georgia, for the past 17 years. The mother of two young adults, Johnson is no stranger to volunteering. Throughout their elementary and junior high school years, she volunteered regularly in the schools her children attended. She also volunteered in her church food pantry as well as Hosea Feed the Hungry at various times throughout the year.

Johnson chose AmeriCorps* VISTA because she believes in the work of volunteering and helping where help is needed. Commenting on one of her favorite quotes from Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi: “We must be the change we wish to see...” Mrs. Johnson says that this quote speaks true to her desire to assist in any capacity she can, whether it is helping those in need or volunteering her time to such causes as mentoring children and young adults.



The VISTA Connection



members throughout the state of Arkansas. These members come from all streams of service, including AmeriCorps* State, VISTA, Foster Grandparents, RSVP, national direct programs such as City Year, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity and Goodwill International.

More than 550 AmeriCorps volunteers were recognized for their service in 2011. The members took the AmeriCorps pledge to commit to a year of service to Arkansas.



This year the ceremony was held on October 21, 2011, at St. James United Methodist Church. Governor Mike Beebe was the keynote speaker.

AmeriCorps Opening Day

The Arkansas Service Commission hosted the 17th Annual AmeriCorps* opening ceremony to recognize the service performed by AmeriCorps*

Let's Talk: Brandon



Tell me about your recent traveling experience.

The last place I visited was Albuquerque, New Mexico, for my AmeriCorps* Pre-Service Orientation training.

What is the theme song for your life?

My main theme song is the "Pink Panther Theme."

Which super powers would you like to have and why?

I think I would like to have instant teleportation, super strength and the ability to fly.

If you won an all-expense paid vacation to any place you chose, where would you go?

Asia, Brazil or a beach.

What is your favorite dish to cook?

I like to grill BBQ turkey legs or any pasta dishes. I also like to create new chocolate recipes because I have a good friend who is addicted to chocolate and smiles like a little kid when he eats it.

Let's Talk: Tasha

List three words that describe your character.

Fun, bubbly and sarcastic.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title should be?

"The Different 'Faces' of Tasha."

What would I find in your refrigerator?

Lots and lots and lots of CHEESE!!!

Who do you admire the most and why?

I admire my parents a lot. They are the people I look up to the most. They are a strong couple who love and

provide for their children, even if it is beyond their means. They are who made me who I am today.

Which ancient place would you like to go to?

I would like to go to Egypt to see all the ancient pyramids.





Arkansas 4-H Diamond Program – J. J. Pitman, 4-H Center program director, guides the girls through an initiative.



Jef Ferguson, program coordinator, participates in STEM and Arkansas State University Afterschool Best Practices Academy hosted by PromiseLand Ministries.



Delta District Director Martha Ray converses with Ida Collier, program associate - 4-H afterschool.

A View of 4-H With 4-H Afterschool

Agents and volunteers
uniting to make the
world a better place!



Pia Woods, Jefferson County 4-H agent, leads Communication Workshop at the 4-H Afterschool In-Service.



Welcome to Arkansas Southern Region Volunteer Forum.



Smile-Arkansas 4-H Diamond Program – Pulaski County 4-H agent Erica Harris smiles with Go Girls Director Gerry Stewart.



Former 4-H'er and now parent of three 4-H'ers Mary Sanders of Cross County with her daughter Rachel.



VISTA member Debra Johnson and Margaret Yancy, 4-H program assistant in IZARD County, listen intently as they learn about changes in the 4-H journal at the Ozark Region Volunteer Forum.



4-H Youth Development Program Director Noah Washburn talks with a 4-H volunteer at the Ozark Region Volunteer Forum.



Mary Crumley, 4-H volunteer leader, facilitates the Ozark Region Volunteer Forum opening ceremony.



Cross County administrative support supervisor Janet Beck, her son Jesse and husband Bruce.

Upcoming 4-H Events and Camps 2012

Arkansas 4-H Afterschool Provider Training

Day	Time	Location	Agent/Staff	Phone
January				
23	6:00p – 8:30p	Conway	Ida Collier	(501) 671-2270
26	6:00p – 8:30p	Conway	Ida Collier	(501) 671-2270
February				
18	9:00a – 3:00p	Monticello	Hazelene McCray	(870) 460-6270
18	8:00a – 1:00p	Lonoke	Shea Wilson	(870) 998-2614
24	9:00a – 3:00p	Helena	Graffie Eldridge	(870) 295-7720

Entrepreneurship Camp (Basic and Advanced)

February 10-12, 2012
C. A. Vines 4-H Center, Little Rock

Links

<http://www.facebook.com/ar4hafterschool>
<http://mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php>

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/>
<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge.cfm>

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4-H Motto

“Making the Best Better”