

Parents,

We are very excited this year that your child will be a part of our wonderful organization "4-H". This organization has been around since 1904 and serves over 150,000 youth in the state of Georgia. We are proud of our Jones County Program that serves Home School Families as well as children in Public Schools grades 5-12.



Some of you may be very familiar with 4-H because you yourself were a part of it or you have had other children involved. For 5th grade, we go into the classrooms at school and present an educational program each month (except Dec., April, May) along with informing them of upcoming activities. Middle school students have the option to participate in 4-H meetings during their Connection Classes and 9-12 graders meet after school.

4-H is a non-profit organization that operates strictly on donations from the community and from parents like you. Staff salaries are funded through UGA, Jones County, and the Jones County Board of Education. We also receive some money from the county for office supplies. Monies for 4-H activities such as Judging Team events, Quiz Bowls, District Project Achievement, community service activities, and school programming materials come from donations. We try not to charge students to participate in these events as long as we have donations to support them. With times being as they are, the money situation gets "tighter and tighter" each year (not just for us but for everyone) which means our donations have fallen off a bit. Below is a form for you to submit if you would like to donate to this fantastic organization. Mail checks (payable to Jones County 4-H) to Jones County 4-H, P. O. Box 400, Gray, 31032. No donation is too small. Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

<i>Frank Sears</i>	<i>Judy Livingston</i>	<i>Tammy Humphries</i>	<i>Kitty Oliver</i>
<i>County Coordinator</i>	<i>4-H Program Assistant</i>	<i>4-H Program Assistant</i>	<i>Secretary</i>

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Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Amount: (please check) ___\$10 ___\$20 ___\$25 ___\$50 \$_____ Other

FIFTH GRADE INFORMATION

AUGUST – Students will complete enrollment forms to join 4-H (there is no fee for this) and will learn the history of 4-H and about what opportunities are available for them. They will receive a flyer about the **Georgia National Fair** where there are many activities and competitions available for them to participate in and earn money. The GNF entry forms are due at the school no later than September 16. **The Presidents Volunteer Service Award** allows students to record their community service work beginning April of 2011 through March 2012. Students accumulating at least 50 hours will receive a certificate (signed by the President) and lapel pen at our annual awards program on May 6, 2012.

SEPTEMBER – During September, we will introduce students to **District Project Achievement (DPA)** where they will learn about researching projects, writing speeches, and about the DPA competition held at Rock Eagle on November 19. At DPA, they have the opportunity to present a demonstration (speech or performance) in their project and compete against other 5th graders from our district to earn 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. This is a wonderful activity that will help them learn how to get up in front of others and speak. 4-H staff and volunteers will work with them to help prepare the speech. There is no charge for this. Last year, Jones County had the largest percentage of increase in participation than any other county!! I hope we can do the same this year. This month the students will also **elect officers** for their clubs (President, Vice President, Secretary). Those elected will participate in officer training on September 28 after school until 4:30 at the Extension Office. Information about our **scavenger hunt** at Memory Hill Cemetery in Milledgeville will be given out.

OCTOBER – **Horse Quiz Bowl** training begins. Students who are interested in learning more about horses will participate in after school classes and then compete in a state competition at Rock Eagle in January. During our monthly club meeting, we will be learning more details about public speaking skills. We will also be giving out Christmas cards to color and to write notes to military personnel. This is our **military mail project** that has been a part of our program for over 10 years. This past Christmas, Jones County 4-H had the highest number of cards (over 7000) than any other organization in the nation!!! Our goal this year is 10000. It is exciting when students get responses from soldiers who receive their cards. Anyone can help color the cards and write notes to soldiers. We also ask for help in paying the costs to send the cards; it will cost over \$1000. **The Jones County 4-H Talent Show** at the Jones Count Fair will be held October 20 (this is not a competition) and auditions to participate will be October 4 from 6-7 PM at the Extension Office. The **GNF** starts Oct 6-16. **Scavenger Hunt** will be October 6 from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

NOVEMBER – Program for this month is “BUGGO”, a look into insects. **DPA** is November 19 at Rock Eagle. Information about **Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army** will be distributed. Sign up for **caroling at the nursing homes** begins.

DECEMBER – **Caroling** at the nursing home on December 1. **Stockings** due November 30.

JANUARY – During this month we will be promoting our **summer camping program**. Students will watch a video about camp and receive information for signing up. **Horse Quiz Bowl** competition held at Rock Eagle January 14. Information given about upcoming **Poultry Judging team**. Students participating in this activity will meet after school and learn information on candling eggs, grading eggs, grading carcasses, handling chickens, chicken parts, etc..

FEBRUARY – Club meeting program will be about Microorganisms. **Poultry Judging practice** begins. Sign up for **summer camp** will be February 16, 7 AM, at the Extension Office.

MARCH – This is our last club meeting of the year. Students will participate in our annual 4-H Jeopardy game.

APRIL – **Poultry competition** held. Date TBA.

MAY -- Our annual **4-H Awards program** will be held May 6 at the Jones County Civic Center. At this event, students who have participated in the different competitions throughout the year will recognized as well as recognizing volunteers. **Summer activity brochure** will be given out.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Frank Sears-CEC; Kitty Oliver-Sec.; Judy Livingston & Tammy Humphries-4-H Program Assistants
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