



INDEPENDENCE

4 - H

September 2023

**1st Meeting: September
8th @ the YAL Center
5:30pm
See email for details!**

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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

President's Message

Clay McDonell

Dear Independence 4-H Members,

I am honored to be your incoming club president in my 9th and final year in Independence 4-H and grateful for the many experiences the club has provided for me. As we begin a new year, I am filled with excitement for what lies ahead! Last year we were once again successful in our fundraising efforts, which will allow us to provide even more opportunities for our members this year.

We have a great executive board filled with capable people of different ages and an inspiring club leader, who I am excited to work with. During this past summer, we've been planning the year and each of us has a new project to offer to you. Our new club leader, Lindsay, has also been very busy working all summer to support our club in the coming year.

Change is in the works; and I, along with our club leaders have big plans to enhance our club even further with your help. Our top priorities are FUN and connection. As always, we are committed to providing memorable experiences along with growth, leadership and achievement opportunities for all members.

My goal for the club this year is for us all to learn everyone's names and get to know each other better.

This year, I am excited to work together to make meetings interesting, create new projects (I will be starting a rabbit project.) and to increase participation in fun events, like the Apple Blossom Parade.

I can't wait for the incredible year to come, and I can't wait to see everyone at the general meeting! Find the word "embers" in this newsletter and get a prize at the meeting. Make sure you print out the page with the word and bring it to the meeting.



Community Club Leader's Letter

Lindsay Maddocks

Hello Independence 4-H Families,

I hope you all have had a spectacular summer break enjoying outdoor adventures, time with family, and doing things you love. A 4-H summer is filled with camp, fairs, and the wrap-up of record books. It was wonderful recognizing so many of you in the fun photos from Camp 1 & Camp 2. I am so glad you enjoyed your time away at camp, and happy to see you connecting with your larger 4-H community. Fair time is fun time and the highlight was seeing you all participating in fair exhibits, poultry competitions, and dog shows. Congratulations to all of our club members who worked so hard completing the time-consuming task of wrapping up record books. Your club is so proud of you for your commitment, hard work, and accomplishments throughout the summer.

As summer comes to close, I welcome you to a new and exciting 4-H year. As your Community Club Leader, I look forward to supporting the club in creating new experiences, opportunities to learn, and in having fun. The Executive Board has taken your survey feedback from last year and is hard at work creating goals and activities for the year ahead. A very special thank you to Chelle McDonell for guiding the Executive Board this year.

In the month ahead, **keep an eye out for enrollment and project information on our club website.** Maria Casey has so generously offered to be our Volunteer Enrollment Coordinator this year, while Jennie Harriman will be assisting with project coordination. To all our Project Leaders, thank you for your continued commitment to our club and the learning opportunities you so generously give our youth. I greatly appreciate all the wonderful volunteers who support our club and help it flourish.

In the year ahead, I encourage all of you to have the courage to step up and try something new. From projects, to presentations, to fundraising, and community service there will be many ways that you can participate. Parents, your child does not need to do this all alone, be a role model for your child and let's show them what it looks like to step-up, contribute, learn, and have FUN!

I look forward to seeing you all at our 1st 4-H general meeting ~ Friday, September 8! **Specific meeting information will be distributed by email and available on the website prior to the meeting.**

Record Books

By Ash Hobbins

Making a Record book is the perfect way to document all of your projects through the years. I've been doing record books for a few years so I know that making a record book can definitely be a very tedious process. It can be difficult and time consuming. So it's best to never procrastinate working on it. It is best to work on it throughout the year as you go through your projects. The 4-H record books are very beneficial, they encourage organization and they also look really great on college applications.





Community Service Corner

Leo McDonell

Hi, my name is Leo McDonell and I am your Civic Engagement or Community Service Officer. This means that I am responsible for bringing fun and engaging community service activities to you every month.

Everyone has really enjoyed volunteering at the Redwood Empire Food Bank in the past, so this year we are trying out something new by making it a monthly activity where everyone has the opportunity to go to the Redwood Empire food bank and volunteer on the date we choose. For example, it could be the 3rd Wednesday each month. We can decide at the club meeting in September. These volunteer dates will not be mandatory but are recommended and appreciated.

The Redwood Empire is a nonprofit organization helping people with hunger issues by providing healthy and nourishing meals for those in need. We do different things there but we usually choose weighing and bagging produce. It is always fun to volunteer and I hope you will consider coming out with your family and friends for one of them.

I'm also very interested in knowing what kind of community service activities YOU are interested in doing. Please let me know! Or maybe you are already doing something you would like to tell the club about. Please let me know about that too! See you soon.

Arts and Crafts Report

Claire Pederson

In our final meeting of the craft project, we came together and made knot blankets as a community service act. Our knot blankets were made of fleece, some of us worked in groups while others worked individually. First we cut squares out of each corner. Next we cut strips and then cut slits in each strip, and inserted each strip into each slit. After we picked out cute ribbon and tied bows around each folded blanket. Everyone worked so hard and put so much effort into each one of the blankets. In the end we had made 15 blankets to be donated to the Living Room, which provides services for homeless women and families. This project was truly amazing!





Dog Agility Project Reports

By Wyatt Jones

This year I was in the Independence 4-H Dog Project and I showed my dog at the Petaluma Fair. My dog's name is Walla. Showing a dog is like presenting your dog. You give the dog commands such as, down, sit, jump, stay, tunnel and recall. What I like most about the dog project is competing with other 4-H members and their dogs. The dog project leader is Lenore. Lenore is a great project leader because she shows you how to do the obstacles and she helps you if your dog doesn't want to do the obstacle. Thank you to Lenore for being our project leader.



By Camille Maddocks

Independence 4-H would like to recognize two very special people in our club who went above and beyond at the Petaluma Fair. Youth member Yitong Wang and Project Leader/Adult Volunteer Lenore Ryan made the Petaluma Dog Show happen.

Yitong is a member of the dog project who has been especially helpful at all the events. She chose not to show her dog in Petaluma, but she still stayed for the whole day, provided support to Lenore, and cheered on her fellow 4-Hers. Thank you, Yitong!

Lenore, our long-time leader, put so much work into this show along with all the dog events this past year. From setup, to judging support, to awards, and cleanup - Lenore did it all. Thank you Lenore for your decades of commitment to 4-H, our club, and our community!



GENERAL MEETINGS

Regular Meetings*

Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, March, April & May.

2nd Wednesday of each month
from 6:30-7:30

Sebastopol Center for the Arts /
Veterans Building

282 S High Street, Sebastopol

*September & December at YAL
Center in Rohnert Park



Interested in submitting your
articles/photos to the newsletter?

Email

chellemc@sonic.net

and

georgiaholland849@gmail.com





4H Camp Report

Jojo Holland



4H camp is only a week but with how many friends you make it seems much longer. Every year there's a new theme for 4-H camp and this year's theme was "Alice in Hopland," which was fun. There are enough activities and games at camp for everyone to enjoy including the night hike, crazy olympics, and the bean carnival. Some of the best parts of camp are the traditions like singing embers at campfire and the dance on the last day. Even though camp has moved from Las Posadas to Hopland the traditions have stayed and have only been changed slightly. I will be able to be a staffer next year which is an experience I looking forward to. I've only gone to camp for 2 years but with all of camp's activities, people, and even the food, I think every 4H member should go at least once.

State Presentation Day

Abbey Casey

On Saturday, May 27th, Davis held our State 4-H Presentation Day. It was divided into two sessions, morning and afternoon, and contained only members that had gone through their County and Regional Presentation Days with either a blue or gold ranking. People were traveling from all around the state to complete their final presentations, and everybody was sporting their green and white.

It was an even more special day though, because in the same area, we were having 4-H Field Day. There were games, food trucks, music and more. It was quite nice for those who were presenting because after their hard work in the judging rooms, they could come outside and have some fun.

This incredible day was quite the score for Independence 4-H because we had three people drive down to State Presentation Day, and they all came back with a gold or platinum ranking on their performance. These two who scored gold were Clay McDonell, and myself, Abbey Casey. The amazing presenter who scored platinum, or a perfect score, was Camille Maddocks!

Overall, State Presentation Day was a blast, and taking a presentation all the way to that level is so worthwhile and fun. So, next year, I would highly recommend that you try Presentation Day because you never know how far it will take you.

Sonoma-Marin Fair

Jeffery Balich-Shaw

- I had a lot of fun showing my chicken, Snickers, at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in June. This was my second time showing my Silver Laced Sea Bright. She got 2nd place in her class.
- I entered a poster board with pictures of my honeybees. It was my first time entering a still exhibit. I got 1st place and Best of Show. I was so happy!
- I will be entering a Lego exhibit, my Honeybee Board and Snickers in the Sonoma County Fair in August. I am very excited to see what happens.
- Phoenix and Thor Heartt-Johnson also entered items in the stills competition at the fair and Phoenix competed in the dog show.
- Congratulations to all the Independence club members who entered in the fair! Thank you for representing our club.





Independence 4-H 2023-24 Officers



Newsletter Editor: Georgia Holland

Prize Bin: Antonia Cerniglio

Open Positions

- Junior Project Leader
- Teen Project Leader
- Club Reporter
- Song and Rec Leader
- Sergeant-at-Arms & Host
- Photographer
- Historian
- Store Manager

Executive Board

Clay McDonell ----- President

Camille Maddocks ----- Vice President of Programming

Joey Harriman ----- Vice President of Membership

Abbey Casey ----- Treasurer

Sierra Hobbins ----- Recording Secretary

Claire Pederson ----- Corresponding Secretary

Leo McDonell ----- Civic Engagement Officer

Aidan Hobbins ----- Healthy Living Officer

Message from the Editor

Hey, I'm Georgia Holland, and your 2023/2024 monthly newsletter editor. This will be my 4th year of Independence 4H and I am excited to take on this position. If you have newsletter suggestions, questions, or submissions feel free to email me at georgiaholland849@gmail.com.



Important Dates

September: Club Enrollment

September 8: 1st Independence 4-H General Meeting

October 1: Record Books - Due date for Intent to Submit Form, for members planning to submit their record books to State Competition.

October 15: State 4-H Record Book Due

Members must complete the State Record Book Competition Cover Sheet once their book is ready to submit.

October 1st - 7th: National 4-H Week

October: Achievement Night (exact date/time to follow)

October: Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser (exact date/time to follow)