

4-H Alumni Spotlight

Donna Brewer

Donna Brewer can trace her passion for helping others back to her days as a 4-H member with the Cowlitz County 4-H Program in the 1980's. Today she serves as the Secretary for the Grays Harbor 4-H Council and is a busy 4-H parent to her kids.

- Q** How did 4-H prepare you for life?

My experience in 4-H helped me learn to co-exist and work with many types of people with completely different personalities. I also learned how to research needed information to work on projects of interest to me. I learned to dive deep and learn all that I could.
- Q** In 4-H, youth and adult volunteers often work together. How did that time influence your personal development?

As an adult member I have learned to value the opinions and knowledge of the youth members. They know so much more than most adults give them credit for. As a whole, they are smart, so smart. They want to be heard and respect those that listen.
- Q** What would you say to teens who aren't quite sure of their future path right now?

You don't have to know where you are going right now but you always need to keep striving for more. Continue to try new things on. I did not find my career path until well into my 40's. But every step I took along the way was a move upward.
- Q** Which 4-H life skills have assisted you most professionally?

The ability to get along with different personalities. The biggest asset I have is the ability to work with all types of people and personalities. Almost all other skills can be learned, easier, if you first have the ability to work with



others. I've learned that not everyone will be your best friend but that doesn't mean you can't still work together to achieve excellence.

Q What is one of your favorite memories of 4-H?

My best memory was my involvement when I had the opportunity to represent Cowlitz County 4-H in mid-1980's at the State Fair. I truly had no knowledge of what to do but I have always had good instincts with my horses. As I was exercising my horse in the warm-up area, a girl from another county kept telling me "wrong lead". I literally had no idea what she was talking about. No one had ever told me that before. I knew my mare and I had speed. We could run fast, stop suddenly and make all the right turns in the time frame needed. That was all I knew. It meant so much to me that another youth member who didn't even know me, took the time to teach me. Because of this experience, I have raised my girls to always reach out a helping hand and

share their knowledge when they see another member struggling, even if the member doesn't realize they're struggling.

Q What would you like to tell youth who are going through the 4-H program now?

To move outside of their comfort zone. Take on new challenges. Don't simply stay with what you're comfortable with but expand your horizons. Most of all, get involved. Also, take time to pass on the knowledge they have. EVERYONE has something to offer, that is unique.

Q What were your favorite 4-H activities?

My favorite 4-H activities have always involved horses. However, as I came back into 4-H as an adult volunteer, I have learned to love the camaraderie of meetings as well. Events and shows are wonderful, but the best event to date was 2016 Celebrate Our Kids recognition dinner, where we all ate, talked and visited.



GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY 4-H CLOVER CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2017

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4-H REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Community is part of the 4-H pledge, an oath that is recited at 4-H club meetings across the world. 4-H community outreach is a movement for positive change happening nationwide, including here in Grays Harbor County. Opportunities for local families to participate in activities vary from after-school science based projects, to overnight educational camps, career exploration, leadership, and so much more! Outreach activities are designed to give families a taste of 4-H by providing educational, engaging, and fun research based activities in a safe, healthy, inclusive environment. We are proud to offer an exciting line-up of programs where school-age youth engage in life skill development and learning, develop awareness and compassion while connecting with their community. Upcoming events can always be found on our website.



CELEBRATING OUR KIDS

Grays Harbor County's annual 4-H recognition event was held this fall at the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds. Special guests, families and 4-H members gathered to showcase the many accomplishments that 4-H youth achieved during the 4-H year. New this year was a lively silent auction fundraiser. After a brief welcome from the youth emcees, the room was filled with laughter as those present enjoyed dinner and took part



Commissioner Vickie Raines recognizes 4-H youth members for their learning and accomplishments during the 2015-2016 year



in the festivities. Throughout the evening 4-H youth members were recognized for excellence in many areas, including leadership, community service, public speaking, record keeping and more. Each year the Grays Harbor County 4-H community nominates individuals who have made significant contributions to the program during the year. Dan and Corree Downing received Leader of the Year recognition for their efforts on behalf of the Grays Harbor 4-H program.



Grays Harbor County

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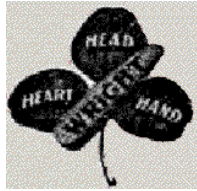
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History of the 4-H Clover

By Dan Teuteberg, 4-H Youth Development Regional Specialist

The first emblem design was a three-leaf clover between 1907 and 1908, introduced by O.H. Benson, a 4-H Club leader in Ohio who was working in Washington D.C. to advance a youth development program nation-wide. From the beginning, the three "Hs" signified head, heart and hands.



1907

In 1911, O.H. Benson referred to the need for four "Hs" - suggesting that they stand for "Head, Heart, Hands, and Hustle ... head trained to think, plan and reason; heart trained to be true, kind and sympathetic; hands trained to be useful, helpful and skillful; and the hustle to render ready service, to develop health and vitality..." That same year, 4-H club leaders approved the present 4-H design.



1917

O.B. Martin, also working in Washington D.C, is credited with suggesting that the "Hs" signify Head, Heart, Hands and Health - universally used since then.

The 4-H emblem was patented in 1924, and Congress passed a law protecting the use of the 4-H name and emblem in 1939, which was slightly revised in 1948.

The 4-H name and emblem remain highly valued within our country's history. As such, they were granted a unique protection status in 1948, similar to the Presidential Seal and the Olympic Emblem. The emblem became a federally protected mark, which supersedes the limited authorities of both a trademark and a copyright. The "18 USC 707" is the statement in the United States Code that outlines its protection.

The clover you see today is used across the nation for the 4-H Youth Development program. While each local 4-H program might have a unique feel to it, the values and foundational principles remain rooted in the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health... or was it Hustle?

Information gathered from: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/history-4-h>

Congratulations Chartered Clubs!



GH 4-H Council President, Cathy, awards Charter to Brady Bunch 4-H Club leader, Mary and 4-H youth member, M'Ryan.

The youth development mission of the 4-H Program is achieved through partnership with approved volunteers who are critical in providing high quality 4-H club experiences for youth. Volunteers also serve as role models, mentors, and guides for youth. Because youth develop over time, 4-H clubs that meet regularly can provide youth with a variety of age-appropriate experiences they need to thrive and reach their full potential. A 4-H Club Charter allows a group to use the 4-H Name and Emblem. The Charter documentation provides communication, education and accountability. Once a Charter is granted, the rights and responsibilities of 4-H partners (club members, volunteers and staff) remain consistent.

Congratulations to the Grays Harbor 4-H clubs who have completed the steps to receive a 4-H National Charter! Youth members and adult leaders were recognized with their official Charter Certificates at Grays Harbor 4-H Council meetings this year.

M. Lesmeister & M. Arnold, January 2016, *Chartering a 4-H Club in Oregon*. Contributions from 4-H Programs: Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin.

Gearing up for 4-H Summer Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means it's almost time for 4-H Summer Camp at Panhandle Lake! 4-H camp provides an environment where youth, under the guidance of positive role models, take part in a personal growth experience that emphasizes community building, positive social interactions, environmental awareness, skill building, and fun. Campers spend the week enjoying a myriad of activities, including swimming, hiking, arts, music, cooking, and making new friends! For many of the younger campers this is the first time away from home and family so the first couple of nights there may be a few cries to go home but by the end of the week they are "crying" because they don't want to leave. Our expert camp staff support, guide, and teach campers through new experiences. All counselors and adult volunteers are required to attend training sessions that provide them with the skills to confidently care for the campers. Many adult camp staff members attended 4-H camp as a youth and are now serving as volunteers and counselors to the next generation. The traditions and adventures of Panhandle run deep, be prepared to



The daily flag ceremony at Panhandle imparts a sense of tradition and respect as campers gather lakeside.

awaken to birds singing and fall asleep to the stars (or exhaustion). It's an adventure that kids look forward to each summer, for some it's their favorite place on earth! Please join us and bring your positive energy and your sense of adventure! Camp runs July 9-14.

4-H Robotics Team Heads to World Championship



Robotics Team 11121 Fishy Business Inc. with their robot

Great things are happening with a team of curious and creative students and adults in Ocosta! The 4-H Robotics Team 11121 Fishy Business Inc. (FBI) has spent the past few months preparing to meet the challenge set forth in this year's FIRST FTC challenge "Velocity Vortex". Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, robotics is the ultimate sport for the mind. After returning from a successful trip to the Interleague Tournament as 1st Seed Captain and receiving the Think Award,

the team went on to earn the Control Award and become the 4th Seed Qualifying team at the WA State Championship. Finishing as the Division Winner at the West Super-Regional event was a huge victory for the team, and qualified them to compete in the World Championship in Houston, Texas. Embraced by the Grays Harbor community the team raised funds and headed to Houston, Texas to compete with teams from around the world at the April 19-22 FIRST Robotics World Championship! With just six team members making the trip, Team 11121 found itself competing against teams many times their size, which is a reminder that every member is essential to the team and its success. Before the competition began, the team was lucky enough to meet the co-founder of FIRST, Dr. Woodie Flowers of MIT.

