



# VIP



Volunteers' Ideas in Practice

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### Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association Mission Statement

*To provide a collective voice to promote youth and adult development through teamwork, support, leadership opportunities, and motivational encouragement in partnership with the Mississippi State University*

## Message from the MVLA President

*Greetings volunteers!  
 The planning committee for this year's State 4-H Club Congress met and exciting things are being planned. Some changes are being made and some new ideas will be used to give an interesting and challenging twist to the week.*

*A new year has arrived, and we hold some precious memories of 2002. As we look to the future, keep in mind the challenges of providing our children positive directions.*

*4-H offers a world of opportunities for our children, teens, and adults. We all learn together as we strive to "make the best better."*

*Volunteers, talk with your agents, and other leaders about what is available for you. Many have joined ranks with the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association and if you haven't, I encourage you to join now.*

*Our Annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Conference will be February 21-23, 2003 at Wesley Pines Conference,*

*Retreat ,and Camping Center in Gallman, Mississippi. Make plans now to attend and let's start the new year together!*

**Sharon Davis**

## Officer Nominations Due

Greetings Volunteers:

It's time once again to elect new officers for Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association. The deadline for nominating volunteers is February 1, 2003.

This year the following officers will be elected during the annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference: President Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer and Parliamentarian. To run for either of the above mentioned offices, the candidate must be a current member of MVLA and be present on February 21, 2003 at the annual meeting to make a campaign speech. The enclosed form should be returned to the State 4-H Office. With your help, we can put together an excellent slate of officers to serve MVLA. Please step forward and say "I'll Do It!!" and help make the best better.

**Patrick Morgan**  
**Past President-MVLA**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is time to renew your annual membership to Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association. In order to increase the number of annual members in 2003, we need you renew your membership with your state association. The Annual Membership fee is \$5.00. Lifetime memberships are \$100.00. Our goal for 2003 is to increase the number of lifetime members to 200.

Fill out the enclosed membership form, and return your check payable to MVLA, and form to Harvey Gordon, Box 9641, Mississippi State, MS, 39762.

Thanks for helping us to reach a milestone in Association membership last year. We are counting on you to help us exceed last year's numbers. JOIN TODAY!

**Debby Carnathan**

## **Legislative Page Program Applications Available**

The Center for Governmental Training and Technology (CGT) and the Youth Development Program (4-H) are pleased to announce the 2003 Legislative Page Program. As in the past, this program provides an exciting experience for 4-H members interested in leadership, and governmental functions.

Four 4-H youth will be selected to serve as pages during the week of March 10-14, and will serve in either the Mississippi Senate or the Mississippi House of Representatives or in the offices of the Governor or Lt. Governor.

The CGT has been a leader in providing technical assistance, specialized publications, and educational programs for local government officials for 30 years. The CGT assists these officials in efforts to improve government and delivery of services, to the citizens of Mississippi. The 4-H encourages thinking and decision-making skills in young people through participation in educational programs and activities. Caring volunteers help young people learn the importance of establishing and maintaining healthy lifestyles. More than 125,000 youth, ages 5-19, are involved in 4-H programs and activities each year in Mississippi.

Applications and requirements are available at the local extension office. Please encourage all eligible youth to apply for one of the four page positions. Serving as a page will be an experience remembered for a lifetime. If you have any questions about the program, contact Kyle Touchstone by email or telephone at (662) 325-3141 or see your agent with 4-H responsibilities.

**Kyle E. Touchstone**

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

It's time to start planning to attend the Annual Volunteer Leaders Conference that will be held at the Wesley Pines Conference and Retreat Center in Gallman, MS on February 21-23. **Registration is due in the State 4-H Office by February 1.**

Join your fellow Volunteer Leaders for a weekend full of workshop, funshops, comraderie, and plain old fun!

Workshops include: Technology Training, Using Graphics in Microsoft Word, Exploring Communications, Grant Writing, The Funny Side of 4-H, Nutrition Extreme, Achieving The Goal of 4-H, Work Force Preparation Skills, Wood Working For Fun, Rules and Regulations of Livestock Shows, Fruit and Vegetable Art, Changes In The Mississippi 4-H Record Program, Simple Approaches to teaching Nature, Using the Compass, Introduction to Shooting Sports, How Can I Get A Handle On My Club, Chillin With The Children, The Outer Limits of Leadership In 4-H, Training Poultry Judging Teams, Plant Collecting and Identification, Handling 4-H Money, Communicating Effective With Youth and Adults, and Youth Safety Day Programming. Funshops include: Waste not - Give a lot, Candle Decorating, Rose Petal Votives, Cups and Nuts Crafts, and Square Dancing.

Eight volunteers will be presented the 2003 Outstanding Volunteer Leader award. Applications are due in the State 4-H Office by February 1.

### **MVLA Choir Ready to Sing**

The 4-H Volunteer Leader's Choir held their first practice at the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond on Saturday, December 7. There were 12 members present.

They were each given the new music for our up coming performances. There is still time for you to become a part of the 4-H Volunteer Choir. Just contact Harvey Gordon at Box 9641, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or by calling 662-325-3353, or via e-mailing harveyg@ext.msstate.edu. He will send you the music and a practice tape.

Our next practice will be Saturday, January 18, from 10AM till noon in Jackson at the Hinds County Extension Office. At least three of the songs will be sung in harmony (Parts) so Practice, Practice, Practice!

We look forward to entertaining at the Annual 4-H Volunteer Leader's Conference, February 21-23, in Gallman.

We were also informed of an opportunity to perform at the 2003 Governor's Conference on Volunteerism, which will be held March 4, 2003 in Jackson. These are great opportunities to lift our voices in song-- so come along and join us!

**Sharon Wilcox**  
**MVLA Choir Director**

## **Fitts Receives Volunteer Award**

Charlie Fitts has been named as a recipient of the 2003 National 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries Adult Volunteer Leader award. This prestigious award is presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary support for 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries programs.

Charlie has been a diehard supporter of the 4-H Field and Stream program, serving most notably as a state-level archery instructor and range officer. Charlie's receipt of the Adult Volunteer Leader award is particularly special because it is rarely given to Extension employees...however, the strength of Charlie's contribution was deemed unique and deserving of recognition.

In March, Charlie will travel to Winston Salem, North Carolina, and be presented the award as a part of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Congratulations, Charlie!

**Ben West**

## **Gold Medal Record Books Due**

The tentative date for the Gold Medal Ceremony is Wednesday, June 25 in Washington, DC. All Gold Medal Record Books must be received by **February 20, 2003**.

The Gold Award Ceremony is a four-day event, during which the participants (and at times their parents and Advisors) are entertained with special dinners, galas, outings, and tours of monuments, federal agencies and museums.

Hotel rooms, meals and bus transportation must be planned far in advance because the Gold Award Program is set for June, Washington's busy tourist season. Thank you for your understanding.

For more information, see your 4-H Agent.

**Linda Mitchell**

## **Poster Art Contest for 2003**

The 2003 4-H State Poster Art theme has been decided! The theme for the poster art contest is, 4-H – Taking YOUTH to the Limit. There is also an open theme category that encourages 4-H members to use their own creativity. Only one poster per 4-H member can be submitted.

Entries for junior and senior 4-H members must be submitted on the first day of club congress (June 3, 2003). Each winning poster will receive a cash award. Enter now!

**Larry Alexander**

## **Summer 2003 Caribbean Expedition**

The Congressional Award has an opportunity to send three Bronze or Silver Medal Earners and one adult leader to St. Vincent for a Gold level Expedition. This event will take place from July 26 - August 13, 2003. The Registration Fee will be approximately \$200 per participant. Participants will also be responsible for their own flight to and from St Vincent.

The event will include a Community Service Project as well as a 4-day Expedition or "Adventurous Project." Since only three participants can go, there will be an application process. The application deadline is **April 1, 2003**. If you are a Gold Medal alumni or Adult Volunteer and have Expedition experience, please see your 4-H agent if you'd like to attend as an adult leader.

**Linda Mitchell**

## **Congressional Award Summer Internship**

There is an opportunity for Congressional Award participants to apply for a summer internship position in the Congressional Award National Office in Washington, DC for this summer.

Congressional Award Interns will work with Program Managers to promote The Congressional Award with Members of Congress, youth organizations, schools, Congressional Award Advisors, and state and local media. He or she will assist in program operations and Gold Medal Ceremony preparations.

A Congressional Award Intern will be an innovative thinker and team player. Excellent writing and interpersonal skills are required to function effectively with The Congressional Award team. Please submit letters of interest with resumes and writing sample to Linda Mitchell at P.O. Box 1690, Verona, MS 38879.

**Linda Mitchell**

## **Bronze and Silver Washington Ceremony**

The ceremony for the Bronze and Silver recipients will be held in Washington, and is tentatively set for the week of March 25. Record books should be received by Monday, February 3, but anyone interested in participating should contact Linda Mitchell by January 15.

The cost for the trip should be around \$500.00 and will include roundtrip airfare, Amtrak ticket from Washington to New York, and hotel accommodations ( 4 to a room) in Washington and New York. The cost is the same for adults and youth.

For more information, see your 4-H Agent.

**Linda Mitchell**

## Harvey's Tips

### BUILDING A VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP SYSTEM

(NOTE: This is the second in a series of three articles on this subject.)

In the last issue of the VIP Newsletter, I discussed the importance of creating and maintaining awareness of the mission of 4-H youth development, building the team by sharing leadership roles, carefully defining leadership jobs, and recruiting an adult to consider a job. In this issue, I will discuss the next four functions, which involves placement, involving, and training of volunteers and providing necessary resources for volunteers.

1. *Match the person with the job.* A person is more likely to enjoy, perform well, and grow in a job, which matches personal needs and interests. When a person has indicated interest in a leadership role, it is wise to talk about the job, the interests and skills of the person, and the time the person can give to the 4-H club program.  
-A job description written ahead of time can be used to clarify what the club needs to have done.  
-The potential volunteer leader should be encouraged to think about personal skills and choose which is comfortable, and which makes sense to the volunteer.
2. *Plan together to accomplish the job.* The person who says "yes" needs to join the team as soon as possible. Bring the new volunteer into the team process while interest is high. The new volunteer can help with planning, can 'understudy' the person who is completing the job for the current year, and can begin to get acquainted with team members and resources.
3. *Providing necessary training.* The most valuable form of training takes place among members of the team. A person who has performed a job will help to orient a person taking the job for the first time. The retiring leader from the job may remain 'on call' for guidance and assistance as needed. A great deal of the wisdom about leadership in 4-H is shared by experienced volunteer leaders who continue to work with the program.

Training for 4-H leadership skills are provided by county Extension faculty, state 4-H faculty, and subject matter specialists. Your 4-H agent or Program Assistant will tell you when these training sessions occur. Be sure that new members of your team are especially encouraged to attend. A new team member may ride to the training with an experienced volunteer or the person responsible for 4-H in the county. 4-H agents or Program Assistants may also meet with your club team, if requested, for a local training session.

4. *Provide necessary resources.* The new leader will need to know where to turn for personal support, and where to find resources with which to do the job. Bulletins and printed information are available from the county Extension office.

In the next issue of the VIP Newsletter, I will discuss the final four functions necessary for Building a Leadership System.

**Harvey Gordon**  
**State Volunteer Leader Coordinator**

## 2002 MVLA OFFICERS

President – Sharon Davis  
Past-President – Patrick Morgan  
President-Elect – Virginia Whittington  
Vice-President – Linda Clayton  
Secretary – Kathleen Smith  
Treasurer – Debby Carnathan  
Parliamentarian – Brenda Crawford  
Historian – Renetta McMillan  
Reporter – Lisha Hopper

### District Coordinators

Northeast District – Patty Tucker  
Northwest District – Sherry Sanders  
Southeast District – Angie Williams  
Southwest District – Edna Smith



## 4-H Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 23-25 Northwest District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Batesville, MS
- 23-25 Northeast District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Verona, MS
- 24-26 Southeast District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Hattiesburg, MS
- 27-27 Delta District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Greenwood, MS
- 27-30 Southwest District Livestock and Dairy Show and Judging Contest – Jackson, MS
- Jan. 30 – Feb. 6 Dixie National Junior Livestock and Dairy Show – Jackson, MS

### FEBRUARY

- 1 *Deadline: State 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association (MVLA) Officer Nominations due in State 4-H Office*
- 1 *Deadline: Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum (SLRF) Workshop Proposals due in State 4-H Office*
- 1 *Deadline: 4-H Legislative Page Applications due – MSU*
- 10 4-H Foundation Board Meeting – Jackson, MS
- 11 4-H Legislative Day – Jackson, MS
- 21-23 Master Naturalist Association Meeting – Gallman, MS
- 21-23 *Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Annual Conference – Wesley Pines Conference and Retreat Center – Gallman, MS*
- 28-Mar. 2 Youth Leadership Team Training – MSU

### MARCH

- 1 *Deadline: 4-H All Star Applications Due in State Office*
- 1 *Deadline: Community Pride Grant Applications Due*
- 1 *Deadline: Livestock Symposium Registration*
- 1 *Deadline: County 4-H Advisory Council Reports Due to District Director*
- 4 TEAM Volunteer Training – MSU
- 10-14 4-H Legislative Page Week

### MARCH (cont)

- 15 *Deadline: Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) Registration Due in State Office*
- 18 TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class – MSU
- 20 State 4-H Land Judging Contest
- 21-22 Congress Planning Meeting – MSU
- 22 MVLA Board Meeting – MSU
- 24-27 National Volunteer Conference – Arkansas
- 25 TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class – MSU
- 25 Mississippi Junior Livestock Council Meeting – MSU
- 29 – April 5 National 4-H Conference – Washington, DC

### APRIL

- 1 *Deadline: State 4-H Scholarships Due in State 4-H Office*
- 1 *Deadline: 4-H Honor Club Applications Due in State 4-H Office*
- 1 *Deadline: Powell Gray 4-H Scholarship*
- 2 *Deadline: Marilyn Purdie Scholarship*  
*Deadline: Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leader's Association Scholarship Application Due*
- 1 TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class—MSU
- 4-5 4-H All Star Spring Conference—MSU
- 5 South Livestock Symposium—Laurel, MS
- 12 North Livestock Symposium—Pontotoc, MS
- 12 National Youth Service Day
- 14 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting—Jackson, MS S.
- 15 4-H State Advisory Council & 4-H Club Foundation of Mississippi, Inc. Meetings—Jackson, MS
- 15 *Deadline: National 4-H Conference Applications Due in State 4-H Office*
- 15 *Deadline: State 4-H Awareness Team Applications Due in State 4-H Office*
- 15 *Deadline: State 4-H Council Officers Applications*
- 15 TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class—MSU
- 22 TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class—MSU
- 26 South Field & Stream Event—Collins, MS
- April 27-May 3 National Volunteer Week
- 29 TEAM Therapeutic Riding Class—MSU

*The VIP newsletter is published by and for 4-H Volunteers and Mississippi State Extension Staff.*

*Send story ideas to Harvey Gordon, 4-H Volunteer Coordinator, Mississippi State University or Lisha Hopper c/o Mississippi State 4-H and Extension Office, Mississippi State University.*

