



Sitka Spruce Tips 4-H

Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2021

Important dates:

- Summer Camp registration opens **Mon., March 15** until filled
- Herring Harvest, **Thurs., March 25, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.**, All Ages, Location TBD

Update from the Office

By Jasmine Shaw, 4-H Organizational Leader

Well we finally got our winter play in Feb.! We hope you were able to enjoy the frozen lakes and snow as much as some of our 4-H members.

We are nearing the one year anniversary of operating under a COVID-19 mitigation plan. Like everything else in the world, 4-H programming has had many versions over the past year and we continue to adapt to what we can safely do at this time. That being said, we



look forward to putting out our summer camp registration as usual mid-March. While groups will be smaller for camps as per our mitigation plan, many other aspects of camp will look familiar. It is not even spring yet, but who is already dreaming about summer??



Cheers!



** COVID-19 Response & Resources **



4-H continues to offer a mix of small group in-person activities with social distancing protocols as well as virtual activities and at-home kits. If you are choosing to engage your child in 4-H in-person activities, please be familiar with our most current regulations and restrictions on activities at <http://www.alaska4h.org/covid-current-phase-b.html>. Also, please note, that currently our in-person programs are only taking place outdoors so be sure to properly dress for the weather in addition to wearing your face coverings. We look forward to seeing you either in person or on online!

4-H Summer Camp Registration

Registration for 4-H summer camps opens **Mon., March 15** at **9:00 a.m.!!** Camps will be open until filled, but we will also have a waiting list for cancelations if you miss the chance to sign up for everything you would like. Group sizes will be smaller so be sure to reserve your spot early. Look out for a flyer with descriptions, dates, times, cost and how to register in the weekly update on March 12. Open to currently registered 4-H members ages 5 to 18.

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Alaska-Way-of-Life Update

Art & Nature Series (In person): We will explore the outdoors in this series and find the connections between nature and art. Activities include hiking, rock painting, seed art, practice map-making and more. This series takes place on four **Tues.** (skipping Spring Break): **March 2, 9, 23, & 30** from **2:00 - 3:30 p.m.** **Open to ages 5 - 12.** Supply Fee \$5 (bring on first day).



Cooking Club (Virtual): Join 4-H Cooking club this March! We will focus on recipes that are immune-boosting and delicious to help us get through this spring happy and healthy. This club will meet over Zoom on **Wed., March 10, 24 & 31** from **4:00 - 5:00 p.m.** **Open to ages 6-13.**

Night Hike (In person): Back by popular demand, explore the woods at night with 4-H on another hike together, **Thurs, March 11** from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** **Open to ages 5 - 10.**

Herring Harvest (In person): Join Tommy to learn about roe, cultural practices, and uses of herring on **Thurs, March 25** from **1:30 - 2:30 p.m.** **Open to all ages.**

4-H Ukulele Club (Virtual)

The ukulele club will continue to meet on Zoom on Mon. except for March 8 this month. Note we have slightly shifted the age groups to accommodate our many young learners.

- **Ages 5 - 8: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**
 - **Ages 9 & up: 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.** via Zoom on a weekly basis.
- Come to as many classes as you would like! **Open to all 4-H members.**



Knitting Club

Knitting Club continues as an independent study this month. Kate will work with you either in person or on Zoom to start a project of your choosing! This is open to anyone, whether you are new to knitting and need to learn the basics or have more experience but want some guidance or knitting companionship. Reach out with any questions- this study can be catered to whatever your needs are! Contact kate@sitkawild.org for free starting materials and to discuss ideas.



Birding

In Feb. we found and learned about wing, tail, and down feathers. Birding with Hannah will be on **Thurs., March. 18** from **1:30 - 3:00 p.m.** at Sitka National Historical Park. Note this is during Spring Break but at our usual time. Please dress for the weather and bring binoculars — they definitely enhance the experience. Let us know if you need a long-term loan! **This club is open to all ages.**



Please RSVP for all events at: <https://forms.gle/ZD35BsdhbmVjsRx9>
Links and passwords will be emailed prior to any virtual meetings

Winter Projects & Leaders

ADVOCACY: Emily Pound
emily@sitkawild.org

ALASKA-WAY-OF-LIFE:
Kate Grumbles, kgrumbles@sitkawild.org
& Emily Pound, emily@sitkawild.org

BIRDING:
Hannah Blanke, hannahblanke@gmail.com

OPEN heART STUDIO/ CLOUD POETS:
Jasmine Shaw, jdshaw2@alaska.edu

STORYTELLING: Chuck Miller

Volunteering with 4-H

If you are interested and able to become a 4-H volunteer, please contact emily@sitkawild.org. Volunteering can range from leading your own workshop / series, being a resource leader, helping assist other leaders, to behind the scenes operations. Steps to becoming a 4-H volunteer can be found at: <http://www.alaska4h.org/volunteers.html>.

Other



Letter Writing Day for Pioneer Home Residents

Wed., March. 10

Drop-off letters @ Braveheart between noon and 4:00 p.m.

Until we can visit our friends at the Pioneer Home in person again, 4-H is writing letters to residents each month for the duration of the quarantine. If you have written to someone in the past, feel free to write to them again; however, you are under no obligation to participate each month. When you sign up on the google form you will be sent a name. **We are adding a new feature to the writing program this month in the hopes we will get some responses back. On your letter please put the following message: "Feel free to write back, you can put my name and BHV on the envelope."**

You can send them cards, artwork, poems, or anything! You will brighten up their day. We will individually write letters and drop them off between the hours of noon and 4:00 p.m. on the date specified above. **Note: On the date indicated above, please drop your letter off in the marked box on the porch of the Pioneer Managers House at 120 Katlian St. If you miss the day of drop off you can always use the brown mailbox slot on Barracks St.**

March Mars Rover Giveaway & Trivia Contest

Kit giveaway: **Mon., March 15, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. @ SEACC Center (205 Baranof St.)**

Trivia Contest via Zoom: **Thurs., March 18, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. via Zoom**

(Register on google form to receive link)

Kits include a DIY mini Mars Rover to assemble. We have 18 kits to give away, and anyone can participate in the trivia contest. Trivia prize winner will receive a space outfit!



RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/ZD35BsdhbbmVjsRx9>

Virtual Open HeART Studio



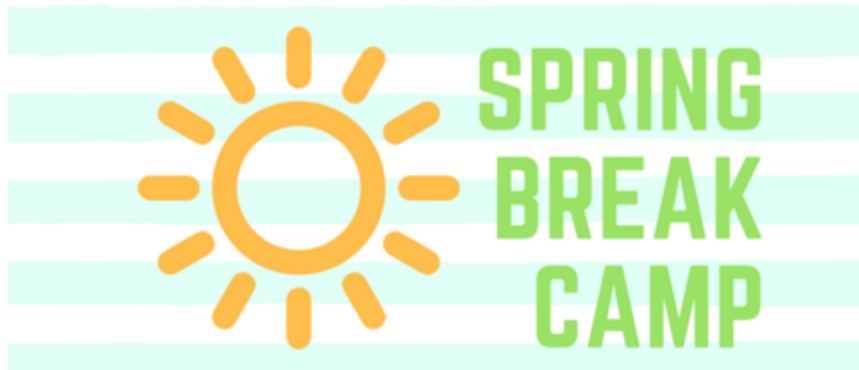
The 4-H Open HeART Studio project continues to meet on **Thurs. from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom through **March 18**. Art lessons this month include making keychains and bracelets, and drawing. Supplies provided upon request for \$10 supply fee. This is a youth-adult partnership and 4-H adult leaders will be there to facilitate. We ask that adults be present to help Cloverbuds ages 5 - 8. **This project is a statewide project with participants from all around Alaska and is full for this session.**

Cloudlets: Sky Observers, Artists & Poets



The last day of Cloudlets is **Thurs., March 4** from **3:00 - 3:45 p.m.** We have been enjoying our investigation into clouds, weather, poetry and art and the class will conclude with an "Art Walk" for participating families. **This project is a statewide project with participants from all around Alaska is full for this session.**

Spring Wonders Camp



This month, 4-H Alaska-way-of-life is offering an in-person spring break camp. We will meet from **Mon. March 15 - Thurs., March 18** from **9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. (noon)** to play outdoors and explore Sitka together. Topics covered will be diverse and include a range from shelter building to the performing arts. Get a little taste of the variety that 4-H has to offer all in one week!

Registration deadline is Fri., March 12. A schedule of drop-off and pick-up locations will then be sent out to all those registered. This camp is open to all ages. Supply fee of \$10 can be paid by cash or check on the first day. Limited spots so register today on the google form. Contact kate@sitkawild.org with any questions.

Kudos to Feb. prize winners

Thank you to everyone who submitted to both the “We Love the Tongass” art contest and the 4-H cooking challenge, where participants had only a single hour to whip up a tasty dessert with local, wild ingredients, cinnamon and oats. And congratulations to winners Braylon and Emily Doyle and Aspyn Baratki and her mom Kylee for their winning cookies “Aspyn’s Salmonberry Trail-bites”!

