



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2019

FAYETTE COUNTY CELEBRATES 4-H WEEK

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County commissioners issued a proclamation Thursday officially declaring March 17 to 23 4-H Week.

Members of Fayette County's Penn State Extension, 4-H Advisory Committee and youth organizations accepted the proclamation from commissioners Dave Lohr, Angela Zimmerlink and Chairman Vincent Vicites.

A global network of youth organizations, 4-H aims to help youth reach their full potential through a variety of programs. Its name represents four personal development areas: head, heart, hands and health.

Lohr said commissioners chose to join the statewide celebration because 4-H helps thousands of youth become "self-directing, productive members of society" by teaching them to "break down barriers and learn by doing."

With more than 400 youth members and more than 100 adult volunteers, Fayette County's 24 active 4-H programs cover skills from environmental protection and agriculture, to science and technology, and everything in between.

Jennifer Deichert, 4-H Extension Educator, said the weeklong celebration is an opportunity to bring awareness to what the 4-H community is; how it provides positive youth development; opportunities available to members; and how participants contribute to their communities.

"It's a great time to highlight project areas and recognize our partners and supporters," Deichert said. "4-H is supported with county funds, and I believe the proclamation reinforces the support we receive from the county and gives the 4-H members the opportunity to meet their county commissioners and thank them."

Deichert said the commissioners' proclamation is also a reminder of the program's impact on Fayette County's youth and communities. She said 4-H gives students a framework where they can learn, grow and develop in an inclusive environment with the guidance of caring adults.

"The adult/teen partnership that is in place in Fayette County allows youth to learn by doing through a wide variety of project areas, such as animal science, robotics, shooting sports, sewing, cooking, creative arts, gardening and small animals," she said.

4-H also helps youth develop public speaking and leadership skills, learn parliamentary procedure, practice teamwork, and foster a sense of community service, Deichert added.

“By affording this opportunity for our youth, the Fayette County community can benefit when these educated, well-developed young adults become our future leaders and workforce,” she said.

Fayette County residents can join 4-H as cloverbud members, ages 5 to 7, or regular members, ages 8 to 18. Adults also have opportunities to share their talents by volunteering to be organizational leaders, project leaders, guest speakers or chaperones.

New clubs in different project areas are always welcome, and Deichert said the organization is currently looking for volunteers to help with photography, videography, STEAM, archery and cooking programs. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

A nonprofit organization, Fayette County 4-H hosts a variety of events, including its annual Benefit Auction fundraiser, which is slated for July 12. County residents can support 4-H by donating to the auction or attending as a buyer.

Members also operate a refreshment stand during the annual Fayette County Fair, which will take place July 25 to Aug. 3, with all proceeds going directly to its clubs.

For more information on 4-H and Penn State Extension’s various programming and how you can get involved, visit www.extension.psu.edu

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

###

This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the 2016 Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

For more information, contact Kristi Rooker Kassimer, Public Relations Specialist, at 412-691-0262, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info or Kaylie Moore, Journalist, at 724-317-6924, kmoore@fayettecountypa.info.