

News Article
December 19, 2006
Roger C. Vines
County Extension Coordinator

4-H Did You Know...

In talking to parents about the 4-H Club Program, I often hear a common remark, "I didn't know you did that in 4-H!" Very often people have the Norman Rockwell perception of 4-H in that they think it is all about farming and livestock. But 4-H has grown over the years and is now so much more. Yes we still have livestock shows but ..

Did you know? Every year there is a program called Citizenship-Washington Focus in which high school students from across the state load on a bus and go to Washington D.C. to learn about government and leadership. The participants visit with their congressmen and senators and then tour Washington, including the Smithsonian Institute, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Washington Monument, and much more.

Did you know? Alabama has one of the best state 4-H Centers in the Southeast if not the nation. The 4-H Center is only an hour from Rockford, and rests on the banks of Lay Lake near Columbiana. The 4-H Center has a lodge complete with a large fireplace, dormitories, a motel, theater room, large swimming pool, putt putt golf, a rock climbing wall, tennis courts, archery range, canoes, zip line, and animal study labs. The 4-H members can attend 4-H summer camp, 4-H Natural Resources Camp, Mid-Winter Teen Leaders Retreat, the Environmental Field School, and much more. Even adult groups use the 4-H Center for corporate business meetings and conferences.

Did you know? There are a lot of new contests and projects for the 4-H members. Some of these include: Blocks Rock in which the club members create a project using Legos, the Extreme Birdhouse contest for those who can build the most unique birdhouse, the traditional and altered photography contest, a Powerpoint presentation contest, the public speaking contest, the 4-H Chef Contest for those who like to cook, a story telling contest, a wooden toy contest, and even a free-style contest that fits almost any hobby or interest.

Did you know? There are judging teams that can compete for state and even travel for national competitions. Some these teams include: forestry judging teams, wildlife judging teams, livestock judging teams, meats judging teams, agri-knowledge bowl teams, and dairy judging teams. There are also shooting sports teams in rifle, shotgun and archery. Coosa County has had winning teams in several of these events including a third place national meats team, two national champion forestry teams, three national champion wildlife teams and several others that were in the top rankings.

Did you know? That Coosa County has the only 4-H Club House in the state. The club house is located directly in front of the Central Middle School and is the site for monthly after school 4-H meetings. There is a General Livestock Club led by Nancy Alexander

and Allen and Debra Lamberth for those who want to learn the basics of livestock and other projects. There is a 4-H Chef Club led by Tammy Stroud to teach youth how to cook different dishes. The 4-H Natural Resources Club is led by Kristy Abrams and covers topics related to wildlife and conservation. We also have a Meats Team club led by Lee Brown, where 4-H members learn to identify different cuts of meat and how to judge them. For the high school students we have a 4-H GRAD club led by Gary Mitchell that teaches about careers and financial management.

Did you know? The 4-H club is free, and open to every student in Coosa County. Just contact the Coosa County Extension Office at 256-377-4713 for more information.