

News Release  
Donna Wice, 4-H Coordinator  
August 15, 2005  
966-4829

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### Partner with Youth

Mariposa County 4-H Youth Development Program is an organization for youth ages 5-19 that promotes 'hands-on' learning and is based on a youth/adult partnership. The 4-H YDP welcomes all youth and adult volunteers from all backgrounds. 4-H is run by the Mariposa County Cooperative Extension Office through the guidelines of the University of California with assistance from local volunteers and community organizations. This youth development program enables all youth to reach their fullest potential through developing their leadership, citizenship, and life skills. It also enables youth to have fun, meet new people, build self-confidence, learn responsibility, character building, and achieve short & long-term goals.

Mariposa County 4-H YDP has many different programs including clubs, projects, camps, events/activities, and a school-enrichment program called "Ag in the Classroom" which over 3000 local youth have had the experience to enjoy during the past few years. Projects are the heart of 4-Her's 'hands-on' learning. Some of the current years projects have been small engines, rocketry, Hi 4-H(for 7<sup>th</sup> graders & up), leadership, woodworking, sewing, jewelry, chess, and of course, livestock. Some new projects for the 2005-06 program year will be Cake Decorating, Wildlife, Classic Literature (for 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders), and Dairy Goats.

For the upcoming 2005-06 program year, we will need 4-H volunteer leaders as well as community club leaders. Areas within our county with a need for a 4-H club are Coulterville/Greeley Hill, Don Pedro, El Portal/Yosemite/Wawona, and Ponderosa Basin. A few project areas we need leaders for are mountain biking, automotive, welding, electricity/electronics, computers, or citizenship. There is an enrollment fee for youth and adults, and all adult leaders need to be cleared by Department of Justice, go through a new leaders orientation, and be approved by the County Director. The new program year begins October 1<sup>st</sup>, but it is not too early to enroll and go through the required orientation. All project leaders need to have at least a minimum of six meetings with a minimum of 10 hours of instruction. Take a few hours each month and share with our youth. Remember, the youth of today will be our leaders of tomorrow!

If you have any questions, contact Donna Wice, 4-H Coordinator at 966-4829 or visit the 4-H booth at the Mariposa County Fair over Labor Day Weekend.

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