



*The newsletter of the University of California  
Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program,  
Santa Clara County*

*Mission: The University of California 4-H Youth and Development Program engages youth in reaching their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth and development*

### Holiday Office Closure Notice

The Santa Clara County 4-H Staff want to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy 2012

The office will be closed December 24 thru January 2nd returning January 3rd.

### Camping at Sunset State Beach

By Emily Allan, Homesteaders

The Outdoor Adventure project had its first weekend adventure from Friday, September 30th to October 1st. We went camping at Sunset State Beach campground. Chris, Peggy and Emily Allan, Angela, Daniel and Emily Munio, Alisha, Jessica, Patty and Bud Bertram, and Davis, Gabe and Joanie Collins, and Walker Havlice attended the camping trip, along with Hazel, Emily Allan's Labrador Retriever. When everyone arrived, we set up our tents and camping equipment and then we all cooked dinner and ate. Next, we built a big campfire, and everyone put their chairs in a circle around the fire and made s'mores. They were awesome! We saw some bats fly overhead, and went to sleep hearing the ocean waves crashing. We woke up bright and early, had breakfast and we took a walk on the beach. We found shells and sand dollars. We returned to the campground to pack up our tents. We went back to the beach, and some 4-Hers stayed all day at the beach. The weather was beautiful. It was a really fun!



### Sewing Is Fun!

By Santiago Piva  
Coyote Crest 4-H Photographer



In the Sewing Project, we always get to do something fun. On our first meeting, we reviewed the contents of our sewing box, and we did a word search. On our second meeting, we drew a picture of our own sewing machine and we learned its parts. We sewed on paper. On our third meeting, we went on a field trip to Hancock Fabrics. Last meeting, we made gift card holders. I think it is important to learn how to sew. In the future, when you need to patch a hole, or sew your own things, you will know how to do it the right way!!

## Cooking

Emily Friesen, Coyote Crest

At our recent cooking project meeting we learned about the different kinds of wheat and looked at different foods for any sign of whole wheat. We also made pumpkin cookies with a yummy glaze on top. Paula Piva and I made the cookies while Santiago Piva and April Alger did a word search. Then we switched and April and Santiago made the glaze and Paula and I did the word search. Since we were learning about the different kinds of wheat instead of white flour, we used whole wheat flour for the cookies. At the end of the meeting the best part happened. We got to eat some of the cookies!! They were really good! It was a good meeting!



## Thanks to Jim Fritz for organizing a great event for Santa Clara County... *The Pumpkin Chunkin*

Hi everyone! My name is Spencer . I was a part of The Team Pulverizer, from Pleasant Acres 4-H. We had several meetings to prepare. I share with you what we did at each meeting.

1st meeting: We discussed what model to build and what to name it. The three models were the trebuchet, ballista, and the catapult. Our decision was that we build a catapult. We decided to build a catapult because it was the easiest and it had the most consistent shots. Its name will be *The Pulverizer*.

2nd meeting: We built the base of the catapult and the two side posts out of wooden planks. The side posts will be for mounting the bar that the swinging arm will rotate on.

3rd meeting: We mounted the bar. *The Pulverizer* is nearly complete!

4th meeting: *Team Pulverizer* screwed the arm onto the bar. Then we attached a pair of garage springs to the bottom of the arm and the base. We test fired twice, but on the second launch, our bar bent so we had to reinforce it somehow.

5th meeting: The team placed a metal covering over a new bar so it wouldn't bend anymore. Then, the team painted our catapult a light blue. We test fired it with a pumpkin and when it landed, the pumpkin exploded!

6th meeting: On the 6th meeting, we kept on test firing *The Pulverizer* with a basketball. One launch went 50 feet!

Competition Day: The competition had three teams: Team Pulverizer, Team One, and Team Two. The two other teams built trebuchets. During the competition, our team had consecutive shots while the other teams sometimes shot backwards. Team Two had a lucky shot that went about 75 feet and claimed first place. Team One won second place. That left us with third.

Under the direction of Steve Hares & Ken Lieu, Team Pulverizer included: Spencer Lieu, Emily Lieu, Connor Hares, Jeff Hares, Sam, and Eva Horovitz, Shane Hall & Rylie Weaver.



## Learning and Fun With the 4-H Horse Project

By Paula Piva, Coyote Crest 4-H

I love the Horse Project because we learn a lot, and it's lots of fun! We learned how to curry and brush a horse; how to walk, jog, and lope when riding a horse; how to put a halter on a horse; and how to tie a knot for a saddle. We learned that the best ways to walk by a horse is either very close, and touching it, or a horse length away. The project is fun because you get to work and ride with real horses. I am so thankful to Mrs. Mathews

and Mrs. Brooke for their generosity with their time and their horses

## **Calaveras Hills helps at NCS Consumer Science Field Day November 5, 2011**

By Oracia Brown

Our sectional Consumer Science Field day is becoming one of our family's favorite 4H activities. This is our third year attending and we learned a lot while taking the opportunity to share some of our favorite project activities.

For those of you who have never attended, it is a lot like Favorite Foods Day, Fashion Revue and an arts and craft fair all in one! It is a great way to learn about everything from how to store leftovers to making a quilt from scratch. Our club ran several life stations.

Thomas Brown taught attendants how to sew on a button the proper way with toothpicks and all. He also demonstrated how to set up a simple loom and get started with weaving.

Sarai Brown helped many clubs cut out the fashion design challenge pattern which is a tote bag that you can embellish to your liking. She also ran a life skill station showing many girls how to make beaded jewelry. This was a popular activity and most of the kids stayed making their bracelets well into lunch!

I taught kids how to dry felt designs and artwork onto jeans and other fabric and I also taught several kids how to hand stitch a hem. It was great to see how happy the kids were at learning something new.

Besides teaching we also watched a seeing eye dog demonstration, helped make quilts for wounded soldiers, got information on the state pillow case community service project and made first aid kits. It was a super busy day, but very worth the drive! I have to admit that one of the best parts was lunch. One of the 4H club's made an Asian themed lunch with sweet and sour pork, Chinese crunch salad and yummy fried rice. It was so delicious! I am really looking forward to next year and want to sign up for the Spa Day session and modeling clinic. I only wish the day was longer so we could try everything! Please check it out if you like textiles, food, money or crafts. It's a great way to try a ton of project activities and get ideas for your club.



## **Holiday Craft Fair: Community Involvement In Morgan Hill**

By Julia Hardy

The Record Book project met on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Downtown Morgan Hill. The members who attended were: April Alger, Emily Freisen, Julia Hardy, Lillian Hardy, and Stuart Bettencourt who is actually from the San Martin 4-H club. We broke up into two groups and walked through downtown Morgan Hill handing out flyers, advertising the Holiday Craft Fair at the Historic Machado School held in December. The money from the Fair will benefit the Machado Historical Society, San Martin Dog project, Japanese tsunami victims and many other organizations.

The State 4-H Office is pleased to announce the 2011 recipients for 4-H Scholarships for higher education. Recipients have been notified. More information is available at <http://www.ca4h.org/Resources/Members/Scholarships/>

Name	County	Scholarship
Wendy Clark	Santa Clara	4-H Beekeepers Association Scholarship

## California 4-H State Leaders' Forum

By Laurie Alaimo, Coyote Crest

On November 11 – 13, a small contingent of Santa Clara County volunteers joined several hundred other folks from California to embark on a fun, educational, and inspirational journey.



California 4-H State Leaders' Forum, or SLF, took place at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds, located on the beautiful Central California coast.

SLF is a conference for adult volunteers and leaders, and is loaded with workshops, speakers, and time to network with folks from other counties, all designed to renew our enthusiasm, teach us new things, and remind us of what an amazing organization we are a part of.

One of our own, alumni member Andrew Bosworth, Director of Engineering at Facebook, opened our conference. What an inspiration he is! His love of 4-H, the program that nurtured him in his young life, was apparent as he recollected experiences, related how 4-H helped him, and remembered friends, including Steven Worker who is our state's SET coordinator. He taught us how to "hack", or, in other words, "think outside the box", which was referred to several times throughout the conference. It is a concept that I plan to try to use much more often.

There were several other excellent speakers, along with fun and educational workshops throughout the weekend. Some of the content was new to me, and some I already knew, but the one thing that really rang true, was that this conference renewed my enthusiasm for 4-H, and reminded me what an irreplaceable asset the program is for our youth.

A few other folks from our county were involved with planning and running the conference. Vicky Bosworth was the Chair, and Pauline Kirby was on the planning committee. 2 youth were involved as well. Becky Kirby, our State Ambassador, was present and assisted with the MC duties. Matthew Voss, a member of the California 4-H Tech Leadership Team, was ever present, fixing computer glitches, running the PowerPoint presentations, and helping out wherever he was needed.

Much of the conference was recorded, and you can watch here: <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/18463238>

Here is a link to the State Leaders' Forum webpage: <http://www.ca4h.org/Programs/Conferences/SLF/>

The video made by the Tech Leadership Team titled "The Afterglow" will be posted here at some point. Check out the fun we had!

Please consider attending this fun, worthwhile retreat next year. It will take place November 9 – 11, again at the beautiful Asilomar Conference grounds. The food is great, the scenery phenomenal, and the company extraordinary. See you there!

## Junk Drawer Robotics

By Nathan Striplin, Coyote Crest 4-H

We met on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 pm at Mr. and Mrs. Piva's house. There were four boys and two girls. We each chose some objects then sorted them by shape and color. Then we documented our findings in our book. We also made graphs about our observations. We enjoyed soda and pretzels. After the next meeting we are going to make catapults. I am looking forward to the building part!



## Bee Keeping Project

by Rebecca Call, El Sereno

In the bee keeping project, everyone gets one hive to take care of for the year. You have to, mostly in the winter, come and feed your bees' sugar water because they don't have enough honey to eat. You even get to use a really cool bee suit, too!



We learn a lot about bees, and we even get to look inside our hives! We help by getting rid of mites and beetles that hurt the bees, which is pretty cool too! We get to smoke our bees *and* look in the hives. We even get a jar of honey to enter at the fair! You don't own the honey, (the history park that we meet in owns it), but if you work hard you get some honey. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 3.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. Bee keeping project is sooo much fun! I really, really, recommend the bee keeping project.

## State Make it With Wool Contest

by Dustin Geringer, El Sereno

I had my first contest as a 4-Her this month. I entered the State Make it With Wool competition in Hollister. It is a lot like the Fashion Revue, but you have to make something out of wool. I made a pair of pants and a shirt out of 100% wool. We had to be in Hollister at 9 a.m. We had an interview with the three judges. They asked me questions like "Where did you get your wool", "What sewing machine did you use" and "What was the hardest part?"



Then we gave them our outfits and we went to lunch. When we came back we got ready and had a fashion show. They gave out awards. I was in the pre-teen category. There were three boys in my category. I was so excited when they called my name for 3rd place! I was the youngest in the category. The 1st place winner was my brother Kyle.

## Pumpkin Chunkin

by Kyle and Dustin Geringer, El Sereno

This month we had our first annual Pumpkin Chunkin in Santa Clara County. At first we really weren't sure what to expect or if we wanted to go. But on a Saturday afternoon we went to the fairgrounds and helped put together this machine (we called ours' the pumpkin murderer) that would throw our pumpkins across the field. There were 3 teams; El Sereno, Pleasant Acres and Rolling Hills. We were able to practice about 3-4 times and then had 3 official shots. Our pumpkin was launched the furthest! One thing to remember when launching pumpkins, the smaller pumpkins go further!! Our team came in first place and everyone was excited!! We all had a great day and can't wait to do it again next year.



## Million Pillowcase Project: Community Service!

By Kyle Geringer, El Sereno

Have you heard about the community service project that the 4-H State Fashion Revue is teaming up together with local communities? It is The Million Pillowcase Project!

It is an organization where you sew a standard size (20" by 30") pillowcase to give to the State Fashion Revue committee and they in turn donate it to local charities such as the Military, Hospitals, Rehabilitation Centers, Senior Centers just to name a few. The pillowcases are easy to make and will go a long way to support a great cause!

Getting creative with your pillowcase fabric makes it happier and more enjoyable. You can pick a combo of fabrics such as cars, fairies, horses, ballerinas, sports, polka dots, stripes, animal print; the list goes on and on. One website in particular includes the pattern and more information about this organization. Go to: [www.allpeoplequilt.com](http://www.allpeoplequilt.com) and click on Million Pillowcase Challenge.

When you have made your pillowcases, you can take them to the County Office, bring them personally to State Fashion Revue on May 26th, or contact me and I will take them for you (Kyle Geringer @ [srgerin225@sbcglobal.net](mailto:srgerin225@sbcglobal.net))

Your donation of pillowcases will go a long way to support a great cause!!! We would like Santa Clara County to have the most pillowcases donated. Would you like to help us with this challenge??

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING ALL STAR EVENTS!

By Evelyn Rumsby, All Star

Our All Star team includes Julianna Lydon, Kerri Alaimo, William Green, Kenny McDevit, Amanda Sura and me.

We are announcing Leadership Overnight, that will be held on February 3rd-5th, 2012.

Who can attend? 7th grade and up are welcome to attend. We will have applications out by the end of the month.

What is it? L.O.N is a fun weekend full of great learning opportunities. There will be sessions, games, a dance, and fun laid-back time with your friends in Santa Clara County! If you want to get to know more kids in the County, I strongly encourage coming to L.O.N.



## Bag Up Fashion!

By Kyle Geringer, El Sereno

This year one of the Challenges at Fashion Revue is “Bag Up Fashion” (<http://www.ca4h.org/files/121894.pdf>)

After the State Fashion Revue committee selected this pattern Simplicity discontinued it so you may not be able to find it. We have purchased one for every County. If you are thinking about making one for the Fashion Revue, please email me. I will put your name on the list to make sure you get a copy of the pattern. I will be making arrangements with the County Office and/or each of the Club Sewing leaders this month or next.

Thank you,  
Kyle Geringer ([srgerin225@sbcglobal.net](mailto:srgerin225@sbcglobal.net))



## Fun Poultry Contest

By Alicia Piva  
Coyote Crest 4-H Poultry Project Leader

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, some members of our Coyote Crest 4-H Poultry Project participated in a fun contest as exhibitors and judges. On the “Worst Poultry Molt” category, Adriana Perazzo won 1<sup>st</sup> Place. On the “My Bird Is Into Thanksgiving” category, April Alger won 1<sup>st</sup> Place, and Emily Friesen won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. The creativity displayed by our youth with their chickens in this second category was, as usual,

outstanding! It was obvious that a lot of effort had been put into the costumes and props. As their Poultry Project leader, I was glad that the judging was done entirely by the youth. I wouldn't have known which bird to choose as the best one. I loved all of them!!

## Santa Clara County 4-H

By Fe Moncloa, 4-H Youth Development Advisor

The articles in this edition of Timely Topics were written by youth and 4-H volunteers who are sharing their experiences in 4-H projects and activities with you. Enjoy!

I share with you the updates from our office, regarding enrollment and Thrive. We normally share our updates at the Executive Board and the Council meetings each month, yet not all clubs are represented at these meetings. At the end I include the mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension and its implications for 4-H.

The 4-H re-enrollment process is complete. This means that all of the 4-H members and 4-H volunteers who were part of the program last year and completed all of their re-enrollment forms are now re-enrolled this year. For those of you that did not complete this process, you will be eligible to enroll as a new member or 4-H volunteer, starting January 1, 2012.

Thrive Leadership: The Thrive Leadership curriculum was written by a team from the California 4-H Office. All of the information in this curriculum is research-based and contains the latest in youth development research. California is the only state in the nation that is piloting this curriculum and Santa Clara County has been invited to be part of the evaluation of Thrive.

To be part of this evaluation, it is expected that each 4-H Project Leader will teach this curriculum by following the material as is. If you deviate from the curriculum, then we cannot say that Thrive made a difference in youth's lives. Mathew Voss, 4-H member will assist with the evaluation of Thrive. Four clubs in the county will be randomly selected to participate in this evaluation. More information on this will be forthcoming.

The following clubs participated in a Thrive training: Calaveras, Homesteaders, Rolling Hills, El Sereno, Coyote Crest, San Martin and Adams. Only the adult volunteers that were trained to deliver this curriculum can be the ones teaching it.

Junior and Teen Leaders from Pacheco Pass and Pleasant Acres are strongly encouraged to attend Thrive project meetings in neighboring clubs. If project leaders from these clubs would like to attend a Thrive training, please contact me. ([fxmoncloa@ucdavis.edu](mailto:fxmoncloa@ucdavis.edu)).

The mission of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, is to:

- Maintain and enhance connections that fully engage UC with the people of California
- Achieve innovation in fundamental and applied research education that supports
  - ◇ Sustainable, safe, nutritious food production and delivery
  - ◇ Economic success in a global economy
  - ◇ A sustainable, healthy, productive environment
  - ◇ Science literacy and youth development programs.

To accomplish this mission I provide research-based information and education to clientele. My personal opinion on any subject does not constitute research-based information. The 4-H program is one of several programs of UC ANR.

In closing, I hope that our office updates are useful to you. As you know, December is a month of many holidays, such as the day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Boxing Day and Christmas. We wish you all happy holidays and a happy new year!

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[http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth\\_Development](http://cesantaclara.ucdavis.edu/Youth_Development)

SCC4H.org  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Monday thru Friday

All meetings and events are open to EVERYONE!  
Please come

Contact the office for special accommodations for  
disabled persons

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**Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.**

## 4-H Calendar

**Dec. 12/26 to Jan 2**

### **4-H Office closed for the Holi- days**

#### **Upcoming 2012 Events to watch for...**

- 1/10** Full Council Meeting  
Berger Drive Auditorium  
7:15-9:00 p.m.
- 1/14** **Presentation Day Workshop & Fashion  
Revue Workshop**  
Berger Drive Auditorium
- 1/27-29** **C.A.L. Conference**  
Walker Creek Ranch, Marin CA
- 2/3-5** **Leadership Overnight (LON)**  
Walden West Science Center
- 3/3** **County Favorite Foods Day**  
Berger Drive Auditorium
- 3/24** **County Fashion Revue**  
Berger Drive Auditorium

**For more information on upcoming 4-H  
events visit us at [scc4h.org](http://scc4h.org) on the 4-H  
Events page**