STEMists make learning about science fun

While these former 4-H’ers who are now college students are taking a break from the classroom this summer, they have not taken a break from the educational realm. In fact, they are the ones doing the teaching while they serve as STEMists. As a STEMist, this group of students-turned-educators is helping youth around the state learn new things using science, technology, engineering and math. The 4-H Summer STEMist Program is back for the second year and the students leading the charge have already been burning up the roads around Oklahoma, said Hannah Branscum, STEM coordinator in the State 4-H Office on the Oklahoma State University campus.

“We received such positive feedback last year about this program,” Branscum said. “Our STEMists are going to 4-H camps, daycare centers, club meetings, festivals, schools, libraries, YMCAs – really any place there are children. This is a great opportunity for youth to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math in a fun and engaging manner. It’s also a great way to promote the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program.” Last year, the STEMists visited 32 counties and reached 2,039 youth. This summer, they already have traveled to 29 counties with several weeks still left in the program and are on track to reach even more youth.

STEMist Program activities are geared toward children ages 8 to 18, with some programming appropriate for youth ages 5 to 7. Programming efforts are being taught in topics including drones, solar oven, solar cars, power of wind, rainwater harvesting, hot air balloons and DNA. One exciting activity is building a solar oven to direct the use of solar thermal energy and explore heat transfer through radiation and conduction. Another will focus on rainwater collection systems. Another activity the STEMists use around the state is the hot air balloon launch, in which youth build and launch a hot air balloon. This process demonstrates thermodynamics, wind currents and weather.

Branscum said students will learn how solar panels can be used to generate electricity through the design of a solar car. Others will have a chance to discover the basics of DNA and heredity through the extraction of DNA found in fruits. A couple other activities focus on the power of the wind, in which youth will create and test wind generators, as well as learn about what it takes to fly a drone.

“The activities our STEMists do with participants is hands on and really helps the kids learn that science isn’t scary,” Branscum said. “Scientific literacy is important, and introducing it in a fun way at an early age can help kids gain a better understanding earlier in their education. This program not only addresses the need for scientific literacy, but it also fulfills the 4-H Program’s science mission mandate. It’s a great opportunity for these kids to learn about various careers associated with STEM activities.”

In addition, STEMist activities are a great way to show how all 4-H project areas have some science component and there is no way to separate science from other projects.
**JULY EVENTS**

If activities has an (*) by it please look at the key at the bottom of the page to see more information or important information regarding the activity.

**JULY**

July 3rd: Livestock Judging Class 10am-Noon, OSU Extension Office
July 4th: OSU Extension Office Closed
July 6th: 4-H Due Date
July 7th and 8th: Hosting State Shooting Sports Certification Classes
July 10th: Food Showdown Workshop 11am-1pm**
July 11th: Hosting district wide plone training workshop
July 12th: Sewing workshop 2-4pm**
July 17th, 18th, and 19th: Big Three Field Days
July 25th, 26th, 27th: State 4-H Round Up

**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

October 22nd, 2018: Nomination Kit Distribution (Sheep, Goats, Cattle)
November 13, 2018: Nomination Kit Deadline (Sheep, Goats, Cattle)
November 16, 2018: Nomination Kit Distribution (Hogs)
December 13, 2018: Nomination Kit Deadline (Hogs)

**See “SEWING WORKSHOP” page for more information regarding this activity.**

****See “FOOD SHOWDOWN” page for more information regarding this activity.

**Space is limited for each activity so sign up as soon as possible!**

**You must sign up for every activity**
4-H DUE DATE

July 6th is when it is time to showcase all of the hard work that you have put into your projects for the past twelve months. Ready or not it is time to turn in record books!!! My best advice when completing your record book is to not overthink it. The largest part of the battle is doing it, not sweating the details associated with it. Just remember to follow the format given to you and not create a scrap book of memories only a showcase of work.

Also due this day is club point sheets. Each year at the annual achievement reception a club is recognized as the Outstanding County Club based off of those members who have turned in their point sheets. They are very easy to do with the information inside of your record book. Last years club received snacks at each of their meetings as their prize, so help your club achieve this goal this year!

The last and final thing that is due on July 6th is the County Ambassador Application. This is for any 4-H member who has been a 4-H member for three years.

**All of these forms are available from Cindy**
SEWING WORKSHOP

July 12th from 2-4pm. Space for the workshop is limited, so if you feel that you would like to attend this workshop and it will fit in your schedule, let the Extension Office know as soon as possible!

FOOD SHOWDOWN WORKSHOP

Have you watched the Food Networks show “Chopped” and thought how in the world do they do that? Well come put your own mystery ingredients together and fix your own lunch on July 10th from 11am-1pm. Make sure you call or we won’t have a prep station and ingredients for you.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE 4-H EVENTS ADVERTISED IN THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE LOG ONTO OKLAHOMA 4-H WEBSITE AT http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/events/

WOODWARD COUNTY FALL FREE FAIR

August 22nd, 23rd, and 24th

Get ready to enter all of those projects, crafts, sewn items, breads, foods, and anything else you have made over the past year! Yes, you’re right... the time for the Woodward County Free Fair is right around the corner!

All 4-H categories can be found online at http://4h.okstate.edu/events-and-activities/state-events-activities/oklahoma-state-fairs