Know yourself. You can’t improve on something you don’t understand.

Build your character. Character is not inherited; it is something that can be, and needs to be, built and disciplined.

Earn your stripes. Leaders earn the right to lead. How? They manifest character and integrity, they get results.

Think big picture. The big picture is your road.
With National Volunteer Week approaching on April 19-25, this is a great time to encourage your 4-H kids to get out and make a difference. Volunteering can benefit both the 4-Hers and your community. It’s the “hands” of 4-H!

Remember, volunteer jobs can be large or small, as long as you are making a difference! There are countless online resources related to this topic, but here are a few websites that I found to get you started on 4-H community service projects:

www.dosomething.org  
www.energizeinc.com/ideas.html  
www.nationalservices.org  
www.servicelearning.org/resources-kids-and-teens  
www.gysd.org

Make sure you encourage your 4-Hers to chose a service project related to their specific 4-H projects. Visit texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects to see ideas for community service related to every 4-H project. It is always fun to work as a group, so suggest that your 4-Hers get together with a few friends, their family or 4-H club and find a way to volunteer this spring. And, don’t forget to remind 4-Hers to write it down for their 4-H recordbook!

Speech Tips

Speech tips taken from: http://www.toastmasters.org/

Helping you present professionally
Visual aids are an important part of many presentations. The most commonly used media are the flipchart and computer-based presentation programs. Here are some suggestions for making the most of your visual aids:

Flipchart
A flipchart mounted on a portable easel works best when used with a relatively small audience – 20 or fewer people. A flipchart can be prepared prior to your presentation. You can also write or draw during your presentation – especially to record audience responses. Use bold colors, but avoid using ink that bleeds through the paper. Don’t look at your flipchart when speaking. If you must write on the flipchart, pause, then resume speaking when you’re done. Use small strips of masking tape to facilitate changing from one page to the next.

Computer-based visuals
The technology is rapidly changing. These days, using a laptop computer and presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint is the
Have you been to the 2009 NAE4-HA “Imagine the Possibilities!” Conference in Rochester, NY web-site yet?  [http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/nae4ha2009](http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/nae4ha2009)

Beginning on March 15, 2009, you can book a hotel room at either the Clarion Riverside Hotel or the Hyatt Regency in Rochester. Both of these hotels are connected to the Rochester Riverside Convention Center via skywalk for increased ease and accessibility.

**The Clarion Riverside Hotel** provides single, double, triple or quad rooms from $119 per night.

**The Hyatt Regency** provides single and double occupancy rooms from $129 per night and triple and quad rooms from $139 per night.

If you haven't already...mark your calendar - this is going to be a great conference with over 200 workshops, seminars, poster sessions, and commercial exhibits that are the best the Northeast has to offer! Pre-conference tours are being planned including visits to the Finger Lakes, Wine Country, Niagara Falls & Toronto. Also over 20 Seminars on Wheels are being organized. Evening events promise to be exciting as well: highlights include Seasons in the Northeast Opening Night and even a possible Theatre Night. This conference will also be an economical one with room rates starting at $119 per room per night!!

See you in the Northeast in 2009!

**Spotlight your 4-H programs!**

We need 4-H programs that you are proud of in your county or district! Please write them down and submit them to the Pipeline Editor and we will spotlight them in the next pipeline! This is a great way to share programs, work on your dossier or submit for TAE4-HA Awards! We would also like District TAE4-HA Program Highlights!

All articles can be submitted to Micah Holcombe, Pipeline Editor, at mlkarber@ag.tamu.edu Next Pipeline deadline is June 19th, 2009.
Spotlight on Quality Texas 4-H Programs

Marion County 4-H Public Speaking Course
Jan. 6, 2009

Submitted by: Brock Fry, Marion Co. CEA-4-H
Marion County 4-H Agent
Brock Fry teamed up with Jefferson City Manager Jim Gipson. Jim and I have years of experience in public speaking at the 4-H level and beyond. We put together a 4-month program (September to December) for 16 members of 4-H. Our intentions were to get them ready for District Round up and teach them to speak up!

During this first class, we had them get up and introduce themselves and tell us a story. Jim and I also gave two powerful power points from the 4-H curriculum. During the second month, we gave them assignments designed for Jim and me to work with them individually on preparing a speech. They then stood up in front of the class and gave their speeches. We used the 5 to 1 ratio on compliments to criticisms.

The third month was working on speech development, articulating words, and incorporating proper hand and body movements. An informative speech was then delivered by each student and they were allotted 4 minutes. If they could not talk for the entire time we simply taught them how to ask questions to get more detailed information about the topic. During the final month, in December, each student incorporated all the information taught to deliver a speech on a topic of their choice for 8 minutes. These youth were engaged, and benefited greatly from the experience they received during this program. They overcame fears and communicated more effectively.

4-H Project Tours on the South Plains
Submitted by: Wendy Scott, Extension Program Specialist- 4-H, District 2

South Plains District 2 TAE4-H members determined that there was a need for a collaborative effort to provide 4-H project tours to member’s counties. Due to the remoteness and lack of potential tour locations in many of the counties on the South Plains of Texas, County Extension Agents (CEAs) and 4-H volunteer leaders travel to Lubbock to take their 4-H members on tours relative to their 4-H projects. Due to the consistency of traveling to Lubbock, members decided that they should work together to provide the tours to their county 4-H members and leaders. Collaborating on these tours will allow better use of time, tour locations, and resources. It will also encourage participation among 4-H’ers and allow them to meet other members on the district level.

Members determined that they would like to offer these tours on two separate days during the summer. They divided the tours into four project areas. Two project areas would annually consist of Food and Nutrition and Clothing and Textiles. The other two projects would rotate annually to include non-traditional or agricultural related projects. Other sessions offered have been entomology, horse, veterinary science, natural resources and shooting sports.
Objectives for the tours include:

- Provide quality educational tours and speakers for the respective 4-H project.
- Encourage participation in non-traditional 4-H projects through tours and speakers.
- Encourage diversity in project involvement through 4-H project tours and speakers.
- Promote participation from 4-H members in District activities and events.

The target audience for the tours were 4-H members from the District 2 TAE4-HA member’s counties. Tours were divided among the members to plan. Each member helped to plan one project area tour and spent an average of 2 days planning. Members also collaborated to provide a quality marketing piece that could be shared with their county 4-H’ers.

Through these tours, 4-H members were equipped with up-to-date information about the various industries, as well as the tools needed to begin, continue or complete a 4-H project in one or more of those areas. Their participation also gave them an opportunity to diversify their project experiences, as well as increase their participation in District events. Providing the project tours allowed TAE4-HA members to work as a team. They coordinated tour times, tour locations, a rotation schedule, lunch arrangements and marketing for the tours. Members also worked collaboratively with eight different entities to provide the project tours to their 4-H’ers.

As a result of the project tours being held, TAE4-HA members were able to increase participation in Natural Resources, Shooting Sports, Food and Nutrition, and Clothing and Textiles projects in their counties. Members were also afforded the opportunity to learn right along with their 4-H’ers by their participation in the tours and are able to put to use that information and resources acquired.

**Member Spotlight**

Name: Andy Hart, Hale CEA
Where were you born? Levelland, TX
How long have you worked for extension? 4.5 years
Tell us about your family. My wife is Ollie Hart and we have a 16 month old son named Mason Hart.
If you could be anywhere in Texas where would it be? Abernathy
What do you like best about being an extension agent? Working with the kids.
What do you like least about being an extension agent? Dealing with some of the parents.
What’s the last movie you saw? Four Christmas’s
What kind of music do you prefer? Country
What was your favorite vacation or trip? Atlanta, GA with my wife.
What are you proud to say you have done? Married an awesome woman and am raising a wonderful son.
What would you like to learn to do? To be more organized.
What’s the first thing you do when you get to work? Check my emails and read the news on Sportsillustrated.com.

Name: Brenda Gladney, Potter CEA 4-H
Where were you born? Oklahoma City, OK
How long have you worked for extension? 3 ½ years
Tell us about your family. Married to Kenneth, a Texas Aggie for 29 years. One son, Cody—10 year 4-H member in Texas and another Texas Aggie.
If you could be anywhere in Texas where would it be? Here
What do you like best about being an extension agent? Working with the 4-H kids
What do you like least about being an extension agent? Not enough of me to go around
What’s the last movie you saw? It’s been so long, don’t remember.
What kind of music do you prefer? Country
What was your favorite vacation or trip? Disney World
What are you proud to say you have done? Married a wonderful guy and raised a great son.
What would you like to learn to do? How to play 42
What’s the first thing you do when you get to work? Turn on the computer.
I think this can define a great leader. If we don’t know what the end looks like, how will we know it when we see it! To make ourselves into true leaders, we lay out the foundation by our own virtues of what it takes to be successful, and mold ourselves into that leadership role. Being a leader is not always easy; it requires hard work, determination, discipline and even sacrifice. But the key is to find balance amongst all of these things, and when you find that balance, go forth and LEAD!

Good luck to everyone at their spring contests and District Roundups. At the end of the day, whether you were first or not as high as you would have like to been, remember, we have the greatest job there is. We are training and molding future leaders. Take care, and we’ll see down the road.

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**Texas 4-H & Youth Development Shirts FOR SALE!!!**

Have you bought your clothing with the above logo to support the PR&I Committee?? If not, go to the website to get the order form and order yours today!

[http://tae4ha.tamu.edu/forms.htm](http://tae4ha.tamu.edu/forms.htm)

**NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE!!!!**

Orders will be processed the 1st working day of each month.

**Polo Shirt $25**
Mens XS - 6XL and Womens XS - Plus 2X
Mens white available in tall for $30

**Button-Up Dress Shirt $35**
XS - 6XL non-gender specific
Tall available in white and stone for $40

**Windshirt $30**
Adults XS - 6XL

**Zip-Up Jacket $55**
Mens XS - 6XL and Womens XS - 2XL and Plus 1X and 2X
2008 TAE4-HA Professional Improvement Grants

Submitted by:
Amber Parkinson, Hockley CEA-4-H
Professional Improvement Committee Chairman

Annual Conference Scholarship for New Members
To promote participation in the Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents, five (5) scholarships in the amount of $130 (this year’s conference registration cost) will be awarded to assist new agents in attending the Annual Conference. These scholarships are available to agents with less than three years of membership as of July 1, 2009, who are paid TAE4-HA members, and have not previously attended an Annual State Conference. Award recipients will be notified prior to the conference registration due date (recipients will receive reimbursement for the registration fee at the Annual Conference).

Please provide the following information in your application letter:
Name, Title, County and District, Complete Office Address, Telephone Number and E-mail address
In 40 word or less, describe why you would like to attend the 2009 TAE4-HA Annual Conference
Include letters of support from your immediate supervisor and your District Association Director.

Professional Improvement Grants
TAE4-HA also awards grants for graduate study, applied research, interstate or intrastate travel, educational conference/seminars, workshops, or other worthy projects. This award may not be received in consecutive years. Applications will be judged and presented at the Annual Conference. The Professional Development Committee will award up to $550 to individuals or groups based on the merit of their proposal, according to the following guidelines:
Name, Title, County and District, Complete Office Address, Telephone Number and E-mail address
Assigned Extension responsibilities
Title of Proposed Professional Improvement activity
Letter of support from immediate supervisor
Proposal Description (not to exceed one double spaced, typewritten page)
70% Methods/purpose/objectives/activities/evaluation
10% Budget (explain how much you are requesting and show any matching contributions)
10% Reporting Procedures (explain how results will be shared with other members
10% List your participation in District, State and National 4-H Agents Association

Submit Applications by June 1, 2009 to:
Amber Parkinson, CEA 4-H
Texas AgriLife Extension - Hockley County
1212 Houston St, Ste. 2
Levelland, TX 79336
Questions concerning either grant/scholarship may be directed to Amber Parkinson at (806) 894-3159 or e-mail: arparkinsonson@ag.tamu.edu

Speech Tips….Continued

- Simple
- Colorful, but don’t let them upstage you
- Justified by the content — not too many or too few slides

For effective PowerPoint shows:
- Don’t read the slides to your audience!
- Make your text large.
- Choose colors that make the text easier to read.
- Use bullet points instead of full sentences.
- Don’t let the text or graphics fly around too much.
- Avoid charts and diagrams that are hard to see.

Most Importantly - Remember, you control the presentation; don’t let it control you. PowerPoint should be a “visual aid” — not the entire show.