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Southeast Area Says:

VOLUNTEERING A LARGE PART OF 4-H FOR YOUTH

Jeramy McNeely, CSU 4-H Extension Agent

—President Obama recognizes the importance of volunteerism and is encouraging people nationwide to participate in volunteer activities. 4-H has a long-standing history of volunteerism within its program. In fact, one of the four H's is about hands – giving something back to the community.

Volunteering is an experience that provides the opportunity to give time and energy to a worthwhile cause. It is for those who believe that they can make a difference in the lives of others through the application of their special talents and efforts.

Colorado 4-H puts such a strong emphasis on volunteering that it requires each 4-H member to complete an annual community service project or activity. These activities range from making valentines for children's hospitals, to cleaning roadsides, to organizing a food and coat drive and more!

Youth are asked to come up with numerous community service project ideas which are then taken to their community clubs for discussion. The activities are then voted upon and scheduled. With the help of the entire club, most service projects take little time and effort and provide tremendous benefits to the recipients, members, and community.

Today, 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth program in the U.S. – both in rural and urban areas throughout the country. It offers youth opportunities in communications, leadership, career development, animal and plant science, home improvement and technology and much more to over seven million American youth.

The program promotes life skills development through an expanding number of delivery modes: 4-H community clubs, school enrichment, camping and more. 4-H will continue to grow and develop with the head, heart, hands and health of youth. The biggest thing – it's FUN!

If your child is interested in joining 4-H or you would like further information on the 4-H program, please contact your local County Extension office. 4-H is a cooperative effort between CSU Extension and the Southeast Area.

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