North Central Region Volunteer e-Forum 2013-2014
Session Descriptions

Session 1: Monday, November 18, 2013
You’ve Got 4-H Parents! Now What??

- Presented by: Pat McGlaughlin, University of Illinois; Steve McKinley, Purdue University; Mary Jo Williams, University of Missouri

- Parents play a critical role in deciding the organizations in which their children will participate. The experience the family has in 4-H during their first year is important for long-term participation. This session will help volunteers explore a variety of strategies to increase positive parental support of local 4-H programs. As a result, parents will stay connected with their own children, recognize mutual expectations and responsibilities between parents and volunteers, and become caring adults for other youth.

Session 2: Tuesday, December 3, 2013
Engaging Teens/Older 4-H Youth

- Presented by: Becky Harrington, University of Minnesota; Kandi O’Neil, University of Wisconsin; Brenda Shafer, University of Minnesota; Rachelle Vetter, North Dakota State University

- Research has clearly shown that quality youth programs, those proven most effective and rated highly by young people themselves, are masterful at engaging youth at the highest level in planning, making choices, and reflecting on their learning. Attention to making youth programs fun, interesting, welcoming and encouraging to young people in our 4-H Youth Development programs is important but not enough. This session, co-developed and delivered by youth, will provide insight, tools and resources volunteers can use to more effectively engage and meet the needs of teen members, a common challenge in youth programs.
**Session 3: Tuesday, January 14, 2014**

Using Technology to Enhance Your 4-H Experience

- Presented by: Rod Buchele, Kansas State University; Molly Frendo, Michigan State University; Mark Light, The Ohio State University; Kari Robideau, University of Minnesota

- Technology can be a great tool to support better communication and learning with 4-H participants. However, keeping up with the latest trends and changes can be challenging and overwhelming. This session will share some easy ways that technology can help 4-H leaders be better connected with youth participants. It will also briefly explore ideas on integrating technology into 4-H projects to enhance the life skill development and 21st century skills of young people.

**Session 4: Monday, February 3, 2014**

Exploring the Science of 4-H Projects

- Presented by: Cathy Johnston, University of Nebraska; Bonnie Malone, The Ohio State University; Dixie Sandborn, Michigan State University; Vicki Schwartz, The Ohio State University

- Does the idea of emphasizing science in 4-H make you sweat? It doesn’t have to be scary. Discover methods to reinforce simple science concepts using traditional 4-H projects. You will take home ready-to-go activities that incorporate science concepts across the curriculum areas.