4-H EVENT/OPPORTUNITY:
Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader Training

DATE:
Saturday, June 5, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Stillwater

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
The registration fee is $35.00 per person. This fee covers the cost of registration, curriculum and teaching materials. Registration is limited so participants are encouraged to register ASAP.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
This Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Training is for adults who desire to lead 4-H PetPALS clubs and teach youth who are interested in becoming 4-H PetPALS. Volunteers MUST complete a 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader Training to be able to advise a 4-H PetPALS club. 4-H PetPALS is an intergenerational program linking youth and their pets with senior adults. Master 4-H Volunteer Leaders teach youth the skills needed to interact with residents in healthcare facilities, such as assisted living and skilled nursing facilities, enhancing intergenerational relationships. 4-H members learn to select, socialize, and train their pets to participate as youth-pet teams in animal-assisted activities. Youth and their pets, accompanied by adult volunteers, visit senior healthcare facilities.

Youth apply the lessons and activities taught in this 214-page, 10-step experientially based leader directed curriculum to expand their capacities to develop leadership and citizenship skills in an intergenerational environment. 4-H PetPALS allows young people to be models for residents in healthcare facilities and the community at-large of the significance of human-companion animal interactions and the importance of intergenerational relationships. Refer to the volunteer job description following this section.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES:
This Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Training is designed to:

- Teach volunteers the key elements necessary for youth to have a positive 4-H experience.
- Familiarize volunteers with the 4-H PetPALS Leader’s Guide and Member Resource.
- Prepare volunteers, using experiential learning teaching methods, to conduct the activities described in the 4-H PetPALS curriculum.
- Teach volunteers animal handling and assessment skills.
- Teach volunteers how animals communicate and the appropriateness of pets for 4-H PetPALS animal-assisted activities.
- Teach volunteers how to form partnerships with senior healthcare facilities.
- Teach volunteers how youth should communicate and visit with residents in senior healthcare facilities.
- Teach volunteers about aging, physical, and medical conditions 4-H PetPALS may encounter during visits.
- Teach volunteers the protocols for 4-H PetPALS animal-assisted activities.
4-H PetPALS
June 5, 2010
Stillwater, OK

REGISTRATION FORM
(ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

COST: $35.00 includes curriculum and teaching materials

Make Checks Payable to: 4-H Conferences

Mail to: Steve Beck, 205 4-H Youth Development, Stillwater, OK 74078

Registration is limited to 15. Preference given based on need and scope of county.

Name_____________________________ County: _________________________

Mailing Address ______________________________________________________

Phone ______________________________ Email _________________________

_________________________ _________________________
County Educator Signature Date
Volunteer Job Description
Oklahoma State 4-H Program

Position Title: Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader

Time Required: Two-year, minimum, time commitment. Must be able to attend a 6-hour volunteer workshop. Initially, 10 - 15 hours to teach curriculum, then four hours per month. Other time varies according to 4-H PetPALS training, visits, etc.

Location: Volunteer’s Community

General Purpose: Serve as a 4-H club project leader to youth enrolled in the 4-H PetPALS program. Help recruit and teach youth, ages 9 - 18, with pets, to become 4-H PetPALS, conducting animal-assisted activities.

Specific Responsibilities:
- Incorporate the eight key elements of positive youth development in all aspects of 4-H;
- Be committed to young people and their growth in all areas;
- Be dedicated to young people and sensitive to their abilities and needs;
- Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of Oklahoma 4-H Program;
- Attend a 6-hour workshop to learn about positive youth development and the 4-H PetPALS program;
- Become a Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader as a result of the 6-hour workshop;
- Identify a minimum of five youth, ages 9-18, and their pets, who show interest in 4-H PetPALS;
- Recruit these youth, ages 9-18, to become 4-H PetPALS;
- Provide the opportunity for youth and their pets to receive training utilizing positive reinforcement and humane methods;
- Provide the opportunity for youth to receive socialization training with their pets;
- Help youth and their pets successfully complete the requirements to become 4-H PetPALS for animal-assisted visits in local senior healthcare facilities such as skilled nursing, assisted living or retirement centers;
- Identify one senior healthcare facility desiring animal-assisted visits;
- Assist youth in making contacts with senior healthcare facility for 4-H PetPALS visits;
- Assist youth in making at least one visit per month to one or more senior healthcare facilities.
- Encourage 4-H parents’ interest in 4-H PetPALS; and
- Welcome parents’ cooperation and support of 4-H PetPALS.
Qualifications:

An individual serving as a Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader must have:
- Must already be a certified 4-H Volunteer in their home county
- A sincere interest in working with 4-H members;
- Experience in working with dogs, cats and other acceptable pets; the volunteer may have a co-leader who does not have experience with animals;
- A sincere interest in animal-assisted activities;
- A desire to enhance the lives of senior healthcare skilled nursing, assisted living or retirement center residents;
- The ability to teach and motivate youth while nurturing positive self esteem, decision making, responsibility and leadership in the youth;
- A sincere interest in teaching and sharing knowledge and skills with youth in an educational setting;
- The ability to work and communicate effectively in verbal and written forms;
- The ability to work with minimal supervision from professional staff; and
- A willingness to become familiar with and work within the philosophy and guidelines of the Oklahoma State 4-H Program

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Agrees To:

- Provide training opportunities that will help volunteers meet the needs of the youth;
- Provide appropriate curriculum and other resources;
- Provide avenue(s) for youth and their animals to become 4-H PetPALS;
- Have professionals available to consult with volunteers on a one-to-one basis; and
- Provide appropriate recognition and awards to volunteers and youth.

Supervising Professional:

Steve Beck  
Assistant Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development  
Companion Animal Programs  
205 4H Youth Development  
Stillwater, OK 74078

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The 4-H PetPALS is a program of the Ohio State University Extension and has been adapted with their permission for the Oklahoma 4-H program.