Monday, July 13, 2020

Dear 4-H Volunteers,

I am excited to share with you that we are ready to help you resume 4-H club activities. I am very appreciative for your patience and for the extra steps you took over the past few months keeping your 4-H clubs connected. While COVID-19 is still a very real threat, it is feasible to resume small scale, community based programs with precautions – which fit well with 4-H clubs!

Before a club can resume, you will need to complete a safety plan for approval and ensure that all volunteers review the VOSHA training. All volunteers and families will also need to sign a new risk and release statement. These items will need to be submitted as a package before we give you the green light to resume in person activities. The following pages include more directions and hard copy materials. There are also links to submitting these forms online as well. This plan and set of guidelines will be in place for the remainder of the current 4-H year (through to September 30). More information to guide the start of the new 4-H year in October will be released as we approach the fall.

I know that not everyone will want to resume in-person activity. That’s perfectly ok! However, we want to ensure that everyone can still participate in a 4-H club, if they wish. For those volunteers and members who want to stay engaged but not resume in-person activity, there are a few options. Could you offer a hybrid approach to your club – use video conferencing during your meetings so some people are in the same space while others are online? Or, might a volunteer be willing to team up with another volunteer to offer virtual 4-H clubs? If volunteers and families reach out to me or your 4-H Educator, we can make connections and support some virtual clubs throughout the state. Of course, we have lots of virtual programming anyone can participate in as well! Check out our new 4-H at Home webpage for details on the programming being offered.

In order to support you in developing your plan, you are welcome to join us for any of our open forum/Q and A sessions; feel free to stop in to get your questions answered. You can connect to the sessions through this link http://go.uvm.edu/4hclub. The sessions are available at the following times:

- July 20, 6:30-7:30pm
- July 22, 8-9am
- July 26, 5-6pm

As always, please reach out to me or your 4-H Educator for questions or to talk through ideas. We are here to help you! Read through the following pages to get started.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kleinman
Director, 4-H, Family and Farmworker Education Programs

Cc; 4-H Educators