Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Dear 4-H Volunteers,

It has been a long winter and I am grateful that many of you kept your clubs together by connecting from time to time virtually and offering activities as best you could. I know it’s been hard to watch school sports, youth rec leagues and other afterschool activities resume. Given our connection to UVM and the unique nature of our community-based approach, it’s been hard to get clear guidance for our programs.

I am excited to share with you a small step towards resuming programming. 4-H clubs may once again begin to meet in a very limited way – group size limited at 12 or less and outdoor experiences only. I know this significantly limits what can be done but I’m hopeful that clubs can creatively envision ways to engage and build connections that we so need. I’m also very hopeful that these limitations will be short-lived and as vaccines become more widely accessed and the weather warms, our gathering size will increase and limitations on where you can meet will lift.

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 found in 4Honline as part of our registration system. These items will need to be submitted as a package before we give you the green light to resume in person activities. All the forms and documents you need are on our website. Clubs that went through this process and were given the green light in the Fall will need to email sarah.kleinman@uvm.edu to share the new meeting location and dates of gatherings.

I know that not everyone will want to resume in-person activity. That is perfectly ok! We still do not yet know what the spring or summer will look like but as vaccination rates increase the Governor makes changes, we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

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!

Sincerely,

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

Cc: 4-H Educators