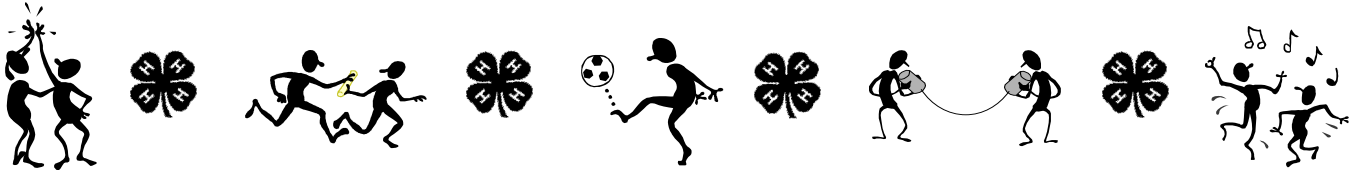




Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections



Winter 2010 Issue

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers working with grades K-2

Never Too Young to Think About College

Helping children choose careers and begin to think about their future can be a part of the K-2nd grade experience. The Ohio 4-H program has developed a new Cloverbud lesson on College Access. Members will start to think about colleges in their part of Ohio and learn some basic college vocabulary through the activities. Here's an activity to try:

Activity 1:

Sit down with your child/Cloverbud member and make a list of jobs that sound interesting. It may help to first think about friends or people you've read about or have seen on television who have interesting jobs. If they cannot think of interesting jobs, have him or her list subject areas of interest. Then try to help them identify jobs in those subject areas. Depending on the job, there may be courses in middle school or high school that will give the child a preview of the type of knowledge that is needed for the particular job. Have the member identify what type of education is required, you may need to explain how many years it takes to complete high school and college. Have them draw a picture or write down words they think have something to do with a job.

Example: What does a Dentist do?

How long do you think they have to stay in school to become a dentist?

What are some words you think describe a dentist?

Would you like to become a dentist?

Where do you think dentists work? (outdoors, in an office, etc.?)

Activity 2:

Field Trip Idea/Local Meeting Idea. Plan a visit to your local library and with the help of a reference librarian, locate books and search the Internet for information on some of the careers the child has selected. Libraries usually have directories that list career requirements. Have the children select a book about different jobs or occupations they might be interested in and have the children think about jobs related to the book.

These activities will help children begin to identify careers and opportunities for their future.

*Becky Cropper, Extension Educator
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Are you looking for an activity to help your Cloverbuds learn about what they want to be when they grow up? Check out the resource provided in the Click it, Print it, Do it activity. Instructions are included for a "When I Grow Up" activity that you can do with your Cloverbuds at your next meeting.

Cloverbuds: Connect to College - A Look at College Access

College access is a topic funded by various non-profit organizations and through both our federal and state governments. College access refers to the availability of higher education opportunities to those people living in lower-income areas around Ohio and the nation. Cloverbuds: Connect to College is a program that is currently being worked on to help prepare our youth for higher education opportunities and careers through traditional program delivery methods. This piece is geared towards Cloverbuds and their parents, through hands-on activities exploring what a college/university looks like, what items we can commonly associate with a college/university and some of the most popular mascots from Ohio. While the Cloverbud program originates from Ohio State, understanding that this is not the only opportunity for higher education illustrated throughout the piece. Also included is a parental supplemental sheet that allows parents to start planning for higher education opportunities for their Cloverbuds early; because, after all, it is never too early to start saving for college.



One such activity, looking forward to upcoming breaks, is a college visit. Encourage your Cloverbud to start thinking about college/higher education early, because all good plans start with just an idea. Contact admissions offices at local community colleges, your alma mater, campuses with play areas and other amenities that are family friendly to make a day for the whole family. By getting your Cloverbud, and family, interested in higher education opportunities early, educational planning and interest will grow with the Cloverbud up until they graduate from high school. For more information on college access programs, or for ideas for the whole family surrounding college, check out any of the following websites: www.Going2College.org, www.knowhow2go.org or www.ohiocan.org.

Financial Implications of Higher Education

When talking to parents about higher education for their children, the majority of questions always come back to money: how much is college, what are the options for paying for college, etc. When considering your Cloverbud's future, there are always a lot of questions, but one that you should also start asking is: When should I start saving for my child's college? Any financial adviser/higher education administrator would tell you, "as soon as possible." The more money you have saved for your child's education, the more options they will have when pursuing an education to fit their needs.

However, your life savings or extra spending money does not need to be the only source of money for your child's future educational plans; there are plenty of other options. Financial Aid from scholarships, grants and federal assistance are also viable options for anyone. Understanding the Financial Aid process can be as easy as sitting down with a high school guidance counselor or admissions counselor when that time rolls around. However, if you want to get your feet wet early, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to find out more about Financial Aid assistance.

Lastly, another way to possibly pay for your child's education comes back to your child. It is their future, and by investing in it, they have a sense of ownership over their ability to succeed after high school. So, why not ask your Cloverbud, "Do you want to go to the bank to set-up a college savings account?" The cost for college can be expensive and saving early can help alleviate the cost. There are many options for funding higher education, and getting prepared early through any kind of savings account can help alleviate some of the costs later. For more information about savings and college opportunities from the US Department of Education, go to www.college.gov.



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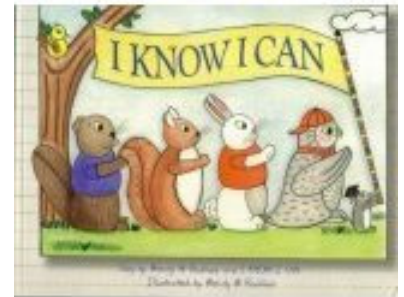
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Book Review

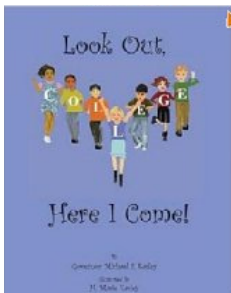
There are a number of books that are great resources to share with 4-H Cloverbud children to start the process of learning about college. You can find these at your local library, bookstore, or online bookstore. Below is a description of these books.

I Know I Can by Wendy W. Rouillard

I Know I Can was written as an introduction for children to hear about college in a positive, encouraging way. It helps children begin to learn about the concept of college and that going to college is necessary to achieve dreams of working as doctors, builders, business persons, or many other types of occupations. The last few pages of the book include a maze activity for kids to find their way to college, coloring pages, and a cool certificate for children about making a commitment for a positive future.



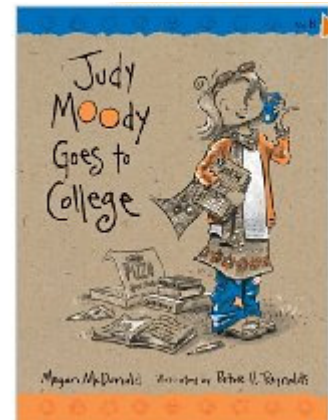
Look Out College, Here I Come! by Governor Michael F. Easley



The book engages children to understand that it is never too early to start thinking about college and career goals. The book is written by the former governor of North Carolina Michael Easley and illustrated by his sister, H. Marie Easley. *Look Out College, Here I Come!* provides a great way to encourage children about setting goals for a college education and looking beyond elementary school. The book is published through the National Education Association whose mission is to provide literature to support the educational profession.

Judy Moody Goes to College by Megan McDonald

This chapter book, part of the Judy Moody book series, gives a unique perspective on college through the eyes of third grader Judy Moody. It all begins when Judy brings home a note from school to her parents that she needs extra help with math. Her parents decide that she needs a math tutor. Her parents find Judy a tutor, Chloe, from the local college. Judy is NOT happy, until she realizes that Chloe is super cool. Her tutoring sessions, which mostly take place on a college campus, works wonders for Judy's math skills and also excites her about the many neat things that college life has to offer. The illustrations wonderfully capture the spirit of the book and thrill of college. *Judy Moody Goes to College* could be read to 4-H Cloverbud children over a few meetings reading a couple of chapters at a time.



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Campus Connections

Hello Ohio 4-H Cloverbud volunteers! It feels good to make another 4-H Cloverbud Connection with you!

As you know by now from the articles and readings in this issue, children who are exposed to the potential of receiving a college education are more likely to attend a post secondary education program. Why is that important? Here are some reasons why the 4-H Cloverbud program should promote college awareness:

- ♦ Ohio ranks 38th in the nation with students completing post secondary education
- ♦ 77 of Ohio's 88 counties in 2000 were below the national average for attending college
- ♦ Over time, the gap has increased in Ohio for the number of people who do not attend college - getting worse, not better.

A college education is not for everyone, however, many careers today require a college degree. The Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Program provides an ideal way to communicate to children and families information about college access and ways to learn more about what a college education means for ones future.

We are developing a new 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum piece titled "Connect to College", authors: Sara Arnold (Camacho), Becky Cropper, Connie Goble, Lucinda Miller, and Kristy Scott. We hope to have it available in the near future. It will help you as a 4-H Cloverbud advisor to provide useful activities with Cloverbud participants and a Parental Fact Sheet just for parents.

The "Connect to College" curriculum piece will include the following learning objectives for Cloverbuds to:

- 1) Develop an early awareness about the importance of post-secondary education
- 2) Begin to understand what college is about and the value of an education
- 3) Learn about the many colleges throughout Ohio
- 4) Connect occupations to college majors and degrees

As a 4-H Cloverbud volunteer leader, you are already making a difference in the lives of the children who are part of the 4-H Cloverbud program.

Thanks for all you do as a 4-H Cloverbud volunteer for improving the lives of children throughout Ohio!!

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Popcorn Snowmen

Ingredients:

15 cups popped popcorn
1/2 cup margarine
8 cups mini marshmallows
Thin pretzel sticks (arms)
Raisins (eyes)
Candy corn (nose)
Colored chocolate candies (buttons)
Fruit leather (scarf)
Creamy peanut butter



Directions:

Melt margarine over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Pour over popcorn in a large bowl and stir until completely coated. When cool, rub margarine on hands and form into balls. Stack three balls to make a snowman. Use peanut butter as cement in decorating. Makes about 5 large snowmen.

Source: Help with Healthy Snacks. Medina County Health District and the REALL Program.

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4-H Cloverbuds

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Cloverbud Connections is published four times annually by OSU Extension in Monroe and Hocking Counties, providing volunteers and teachers working with kindergarten through second grade access to unbiased, research-based information.

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