



# MASON COUNTY 4-H CLOVER CONNECTIONS

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## 4-H REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Community is part of the 4-H pledge, an oath that is recited at 4-H club meetings across the world. 4-H community outreach is a movement for positive change happening nationwide, including here in Mason County. Opportunities for local families to participate in activities vary from out-of-school science based projects, to week-long summer day camps, overnight educational camps, career exploration, leadership, and so much more! Outreach activities are designed to give families a taste of 4-H by providing educational, engaging, and fun research based activities in a safe, healthy, inclusive environment. We are proud to offer an exciting line-up of programs where school-age youth engage in life skill development, learning, and develop awareness and compassion while connecting with their community. Upcoming events can be found on our website.



## FAIR-LY BIG CHANGES AHEAD

Ask a 4-H member about the highlight of their year, and chances are they will mention participating in the fair. County fairs provide an opportunity for 4-H members to showcase their projects and achievements in a public setting and are the culmination of a year filled with learning experiences. Since the closure of the Mason County fairgrounds in 2014 we have provided alternatives for Mason County 4-H youth to exhibit their projects. This year we are excited to be partnering with the Grays Harbor 4-H program to provide an opportunity for our 4-H members to exhibit their projects and showcase their achievements side by side at the Grays Harbor County Fair August 9-13. We appreciate the warm welcome that has been extended by Grays Harbor folks and anticipate many Mason County residents taking the short drive to Elma to come support the 4-H youth of Mason County. We will also be hosting a showcase event at the Shelton Civic Center on October 25 where members of the Shelton community are invited to enjoy dessert, meet 4-H youth, and celebrate another year of learning.



Mason County 4-H member, Patty Brown participates in the final Mason Area Fair



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# History of the 4-H Clover

By Dan Teuteberg, 4-H Youth Development Regional Specialist

The first emblem design was a three-leaf clover between 1907 and 1908, introduced by O.H. Benson, a 4-H Club leader in Ohio who was working in Washington D.C. to advance a youth development program nation-wide. From the beginning, the three "Hs" signified head, heart and hands.



1907

In 1911, O.H. Benson referred to the need for four "Hs" - suggesting that they stand for "Head, Heart, Hands, and Hustle ... head trained to think, plan and reason; heart trained to be true, kind and sympathetic; hands trained to be useful, helpful and skillful; and the hustle to render ready service, to develop health and vitality..." That same year, 4-H club leaders approved the present 4-H design.



2017

O.B. Martin, also working in Washington D.C, is credited with suggesting that the "Hs" signify Head, Heart, Hands and Health - universally used since then.

The 4-H emblem was patented in 1924, and Congress passed a law protecting the use of the 4-H name and emblem in 1939, which was slightly revised in 1948.

The 4-H name and emblem remain highly valued within our country's history. As such, they were granted a unique protection status in 1948, similar to the Presidential Seal and the Olympic Emblem. The emblem became a federally protected mark, which supersedes the limited authorities of both a trademark and a copyright. The "18 USC 707" is the statement in the United States Code that outlines its protection.

The clover you see today is used across the nation for the 4-H Youth Development program. While each local 4-H program might have a unique feel to it, the values and foundational principles remain rooted in the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health... or was it Hustle?

Information gathered from: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/history-4-h>

## Scholarships Lead the Way to Learning

Whether youth are headed to college, a clinic or a conference, Mason County 4-H is proud to provide scholarships that support youth in their learning.

4-H Youth Development programs across Washington and the United States offer unique opportunities for youth to learn leadership, citizenship, responsibility, teamwork, and problem solving skills. The cost of attending these learning opportunities is often offset with a financial scholarship from the Mason County 4-H Council.

Mason County 4-H also offers scholarships to graduating 4-H members. Funding for scholarships is generated by fundraisers held twice each year. In 2017, scholarships were awarded to two graduating senior members to help offset the cost of their post-secondary education. Brianna Milarch, recipient of a \$500 4-H scholarship has plans to pursue a degree in nursing and become the first in her immedi-



Brianna Milarch, 4-H Scholarship Recipient



Jacob Schreiber, 4-H Scholarship Recipient

ate family to obtain a Bachelor's degree. Jacob Schreiber, recipient of a \$1,000 4-H scholarship plans to obtain a nursing degree and ultimately become an anesthesiologist. Both students will graduate from Shelton High School in June.

# Gearing up for 4-H Summer Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means it's almost time for 4-H Summer Camp at Panhandle Lake! 4-H camp provides an environment where youth, under the guidance of positive role models, take part in a personal growth experience that emphasizes community building, positive social interactions, environmental awareness, skill building, and fun. Campers spend the week enjoying a myriad of activities, including swimming, hiking, arts, music, cooking, and making new friends! For many of the younger campers this is the first time away from home and family so the first couple of nights there may be a few cries to go home but by the end of the week they are "crying" because they don't want to leave. Our expert camp staff support, guide, and teach campers through new experiences. All counselors and adult volunteers are required to attend training sessions that provide them with the skills to confidently care for the campers. Many adult camp staff members attended 4-H camp as a youth and are now serving as volunteers and counselors to the next generation. The traditions and adventures of Panhandle run deep, be prepared to



*The daily flag ceremony at Panhandle imparts a sense of tradition and respect as campers gather lakeside.*

awaken to birds singing and fall asleep to the stars (or exhaustion). It's an adventure that kids look forward to each summer, for some it's their favorite place on earth! Please join us and bring your positive energy and your sense of adventure! Camp runs July 16-21.

# 4-H Robotics Team Heads to World Championship



*Robotics Team 5295 Aldernating Current and robot "Juniper"*

Great things are happening with a team of curious and creative students and adults at Shelton High School! The 4-H Robotics Team 5295 Aldernating Current has spent the past few months preparing to meet the challenge set forth in this year's FIRST Robotics challenge "Steamworks". Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, robotics is the ultimate sport for the mind. After successful trips to two regional competitions, "The PNW Championship competition held at Eastern Washing-

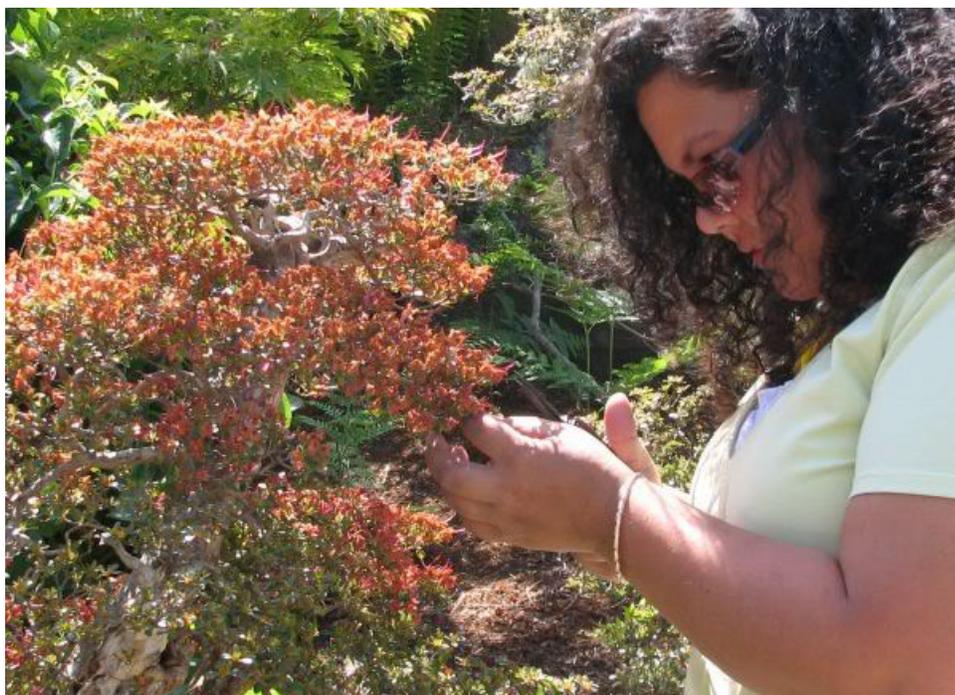
ton University resulted in a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish" reports lead mentor Alan Walker. With just eight team members making the trip, Team 5295 found itself competing against teams five times their size. "Every one of our students is essential to the team and its success" stated Walker. Finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place was a huge victory for the team, and qualified them to compete in the World Championship in Houston, Texas. Reflecting on previous years, third year team member Kierly stated "We are ten times better than we were two years ago". Embraced by the small Shelton community the team raised funds and headed to Houston, Texas to compete with teams from around the world at the April 19-22 FIRST Robotics World Championship where competition took them all the way to the quarterfinal match! After the competition wrapped up the team was treated to an unforgettable, and very inspiring behind the scenes tour of the Houston Space Center where they met a NASA robonaut.



## 4-H Alumni Spotlight

# Victrinia Ridgeway

Victrinia Ridgeway can trace her passion for helping others back to her days as a 4-H member of the Cornucopia 4-H Club in the 1980's. Today she serves as the cancer program coordinator at Harmony Hill in Union WA where she finds her work deeply fulfilling. In addition to a full-time job Victrinia makes time to volunteer at numerous local and international non-profit organizations. She also enjoys nurturing over 100 bonsai trees that she and her husband maintain as a hobby.



### **Q How did 4-H prepare you for life?**

4-H had a huge impact on my life because of the spirit of volunteerism that it taught me, along with leadership and team oriented work ethics. Working in cooperative groups of peers to do fun things like the Mason County Fair displays and food booths, along with various community projects taught me how rewarding it could be to be involved in something larger than myself. I was also given the outstanding example of adult leadership from our group leaders. I was lucky enough to have been mentored by Jean Sharer, and have her influence on my life. After the better part of 30 years since being in 4-H, I still treasure that time in my life.

### **Q In 4-H, youth and adult volunteers often work together. How did that time influence your personal development?**

Having someone like Jean Sharer as an example of selfless giving, was a huge influence. I also had Rob and Alicia Spooner as my leaders for the Ambassador Program. They taught me a lot about the family that you have is the one you gather as much as the one you are born to.

### **Q What would you say to teens who aren't quite sure of their future path right now?**

Whatever calls you in life, see what paths there might be to make that passion your livelihood when possible. I dreamed of working with children and serving people in a meaningful way, so I spent the early decades of my life either employed or volunteering in youth activities. When my larger career took hold, I decided to engage my talents in serving the most vulnerable members of my community, and those who need support through life altering/threatening illness. Do what you are passionate about. Sometimes it won't be the thing which pays the bills, but the fullness of your life authentically lived will reward you every day.

### **Q Which 4-H life skills have assisted you most professionally**

4-H taught me to be a service oriented person, that there was a high calling in being a service to my community and fellow human beings. To that end I've devoted my entire professional career to social service, and non-profit work. It has given me a soul satisfying life.

### **Q What is one of your favorite memories of 4-H?**

Being part of the 4-H Ambassador Program, we went on trips to WSU in Pullman, WA. Taking those trips to the far side of the state came at a time when I'd never been that far away from my home or parents. It was incredibly exciting to gather with other Ambassadors from all over the state. It was so inspiring to be part of that body, and share in the aspirations of leading members to make big impacts in our communities.

### **Q What would you like to tell youth who are going through the 4-H program now?**

Take advantage of every opportunity! Stand up and shine, because you never know what an impact you are going to make on your community or to your own self development.

### **Q What were your favorite 4-H activities?**

Serving as a mentor during summer camp at Panhandle was the highlight of every year. It was then that I learned I wanted to have a hand in shaping young lives and being a mentor for life.