



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

July/August, 2013 Newsletter  
Volume IV Issue VII

## “Voices of 4-H History” Films recognized at National 4-H Film Festival



Tom Tate, “Voices of 4-H History” Team, presents Jordon Bolinger with her third prize award for her video production in the 4-H History category at the 2013 FilmFest in Branson, Missouri.

The 2013 National 4-H Film Festival included a new category “Voices of 4-H History.”

Three “youth produced films” received special recognition in this new category.

Jordon Bolinger from Catawba, SC, won 3rd place in National 4-H FilmFest for her film “4-H Camp Sew.”

Champlain Shamrocks 4-H Club, Lake Champlain Islands of Vermont received second place for their film, “Voices of Vermont 4-H History.”

And Amanda Jones of St. George, Utah, was recognized for first place for her film, “4-H History Preservation-LaRee Jones.”

Thirty eight “youth produced films” from eight states were shown during the 2013 National 4-H FilmFest in Branson, Missouri, August 4-7, 2013. Four states (Missouri, South Carolina, Utah and Vermont) submitted entries to the new “Voices of 4-H History” category.

The 4-H FilmFest received very positive feedback from those in attendance. Plans are already underway for National 4-H FilmFest 2014.

We urge you to encourage young film makers to get involved. Learn how at <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Voices/>.



These budding film-makers, from the Champlain Shamrocks 4-H Club of Vermont are some of the youngest 4-H'ers involved in the “Voices of 4-H History” Project.

## “Voices of 4-H History” in Vermont By Sheila Chairvolotti

Do you know what 4-H Clubs were like 20, 30, 50, or more years ago? Want to find out? The “Voices of 4-H History” project inspired our Club to learn some great 4-H history from the recollections of past 4-H participants.

The Champlain Shamrocks 4-H Club is a general interest 4-H club in the Lake Champlain Islands of Vermont. When we heard about the “Voices of 4-H History” project, several of our members wanted to participate. Seven of our youth (ages eight – 14) met together to plan a project, a documentary-type film which would use interviews of past 4-H'ers and leaders. They compiled a list of interview questions, learned how to use video recording equipment, and discussed their vision of the end result. Interview subjects were identified by the youth asking family, friends, and acquaintances if they

had ever been involved in 4-H as well as through FrontPorchForum.com, which is an online community board. Each of the 4-H members got to conduct and film interviews. Photos were collected from past 4-H'ers as well as from a 4-H scrapbook from the 1930s and 40s, which is a part of the Special Collections Archives of the University of Vermont.

When the interviews were completed, the students gathered to view the films and to discuss which segments they wished to include in their documentary. They all learned to use Windows MovieMaker to upload and edit their films. Music, voice-overs, photos, and special effects were chosen and the 4-H'ers edited, edited, edited, and edited until they were pleased with the end product! See the result at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38oK7UYg9ik>

The project members learned a lot of fun history about local 4-H Clubs above and beyond what they included in their documentary. They got to meet interesting people and learn some great skills related to filmmaking as well as some great teamwork skills!

### Utah Intergenerational Family “4-H Voices”



Amanda Jones, the 4-H teen leader who heads up the “Voices of 4-H History” project in her community, and her Grandmother LaRee Jones, former 4-H'er and current volunteer leader.

When State 4-H Staff Member Paul Hill shared the 4-H History Preservation Project with Amanda Jones, a senior at Desert Hills High School in St. George, Utah, she immediately thought of her grandmother LaRee Jones who has been involved in 4-H her entire life.

Amanda has also been a 4-H member all of her life and she loves history. She has won the Utah History Fair several times and has travelled to Washington, DC, to compete at the national level with her history projects.

She made a plan to interview her grandmother along with her other two 4-H leaders, Miriam Force and Dana Miller. Amanda prepared questions to ask each 4-H leader and had them bring in pictures and newspaper clippings showcasing their experiences in 4-H.

Under the guidance of Hill, Amanda used two smart phones on tripods to film the interviews from two different angles. (See photo in the June issue of this Newsletter posted on <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/newsletter>.) She also used iMovie to edit. She was a novice at it, but under the experienced guidance and coaching of Hill, she edited the first interview and entered it in the 2013 National 4-H FilmFest in Branson, Missouri. Hill says, “It’s (iMovie) very user friendly and she picked up on it really fast.” She plans to complete editing the other two interviews before school starts.

After filming the interviews, Amanda mentioned to her mentor that she had no idea her grandmother did entomology! She was also very surprised at how active her grandmother had been in 4-H and how much fun her grandmother had raising Amanda’s father and relatives in 4-H. Look at their story at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bd0-VP7nfQI>

This experience has strengthened Amanda's desire to continue learning and leading in 4-H through high school, into college, and as an adult leader. 4-H has been a major part of her life and she plans to keep it that way.

### National Archives Holds a Wealth of 4-H History

The National Archives II, located on Adelphi Road in College Park, Maryland, is the gathering point of the permanent records of our Federal Government’s operations, of its military and diplomatic activities and its domestic

administration. Many of the 4-H records and 4-H history originally housed at the US Department of Agriculture have been transferred to the National Archives. In addition, some of the materials from the 4-H Resource Center at National 4-H Council went to the Archives when the Resource Center was closed in the 1990s.

The major 4-H collection at the National Archives includes 70 boxes of printed materials, much of it in bound volumes. There is a broad array of topics: significant talks and addresses, printed bulletins, the story of music in 4-H, 4-H and war programs, 4-H and churches, 4-H uniforms, early 4-H developments, affirmative action programs, 4-H calendar program, 4-H TV, 4-H academic studies, 4-H camps and conferences, competitive events, urban 4-H, and much more. General contents of the collection are listed on our history website under 4-H repositories: [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Repos\\_National.asp](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Repos_National.asp).

While this is a tremendously important resource relating to 4-H history, it is not very accessible to the general public. Researchers must physically visit the National Archives II to view the materials.

One of the primary objectives of the National 4-H History Preservation Program is to make our 4-H history readily accessible to the general public regardless of where they live. A major digitization program has been ongoing for over four years, placing printed and film/AV materials on our 4-H history website. Much of the material at the National Archives needs to be scanned and added to the 4-H History website.

The 4-H History Preservation Leadership Team hopes to begin reviewing and scanning the materials at the National Archives during the coming year. While Team members will review the boxes of materials, funding needs to be obtained for someone to do the scanning and to prepare the scanned pieces for placement on the website. Contributions to the National 4-H History Preservation Program are most welcome!

**To make a contribution to the National 4-H History Preservation Program;** please go to <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com> to see your options, or mail a check payable to **National 4-H Council** to:

National 4-H History Preservation Program  
National 4-H Council  
PO Box 37560  
Baltimore, MD 21275-5375

Please write **4-H History Preservation Program** on the memo line of your check.

## Looking Back in 4-H History 4-H Volunteers: What is Their History?



A 4-H leader in the 1960s coaches members in the tractor program.

During the early years of 4-H, many clubs were led in schools by teachers or by the Extension Agriculture or Home Demonstration Agent. But there were parents and teen club members who also took on club leadership responsibilities.

The July, 1919, issue of Farm Boys' and Girls' Leader and Club Achievements features a food club in Port Washington, OH. Club member Helen Wagner was a prize winner in baking. A teacher suggested to students how helpful it would be at home if they would all join the 4-H club and learn to bake. Helen was suggested to be the club leader because she loved club

work and had shown her skills in canning and baking. The teacher remarked, "That Helen has accepted her responsibility may be readily seen from her interest in teaching the little girls to bake bread." A letter from Margaret Hays of Dallas County, IA, tells how her experience and success in the 4-H sewing club led her to become a teacher in sewing. She shared that her students "pieced a quilt for the hospital at Ft. Des Moines, and made numerous other articles to use their leisure moments on Friday afternoon."

The July-August, 1938, National 4-H Club News had several articles that praised the work of 4-H volunteers. "It is generally conceded that the most vital and significant force for good in carrying on the work of the 4-H clubs is vested in that army of nearly 100,000 adult and junior local leaders who give so generously of their time and means to carry on a constructive program for the boys and girls of their clubs." T.T. Martin, Missouri State Leader, added, "Local Leader! Without you 4-H club work as we know it would not exist. Your spirit of service, your understanding of young people and the wholesome influence of your everyday life in the community fit you for this position of leadership."

Since 1938 the number of adult and teen volunteer leaders has multiplied five-fold to guide and support the more than six million US 4-H members.

### **"Hands on History" – Volunteers**

Interview some Volunteer Leaders in your club. Were they in 4-H? How and why did they become a 4-H volunteer? What do they like most about being a volunteer? Take pictures of your volunteers in action during the year and create a collage to display at your club's achievement program or similar event. If you do audio or video interviews they can be edited and sent to be considered for inclusion on the website: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/voices/>.

The National 4-H History Preservation Team would also appreciate receiving photos of 4-H Volunteer Leaders in action to use in this Newsletter and on the 4-H History Preservation website. Please send photos and identification of the Volunteer Leader, club, county and state to [Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com](mailto:Info@4-HHistoryPreservation.com).

## Contact the 4-H History Preservation Team

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