



Dear Parents, Leaders, and Volunteers,

It's time again to get registered for Montana 4-H Leadership Forum. You may be wondering what Forum is and why you should attend. With so many demands for your time, another weekend gone from home may not be an inviting prospect. Your time and efforts are valuable to us in Extension and 4-H. We appreciate everything you do all year long. Working with the youth in Montana 4-H is one of the most lasting impacts you can have as an adult. If you were a 4-H member, you may remember a particular leader or volunteer that made a positive impression on you. Forum gives us a chance to help better train and prepare you for those interactions. It is a great way to rejuvenate your enthusiasm for the program, and a fun way to have a weekend of interaction with other leaders from all across the state.

This year we have a variety of workshops that will be available on Saturday. We have Hollister Pat McVay coming to be our keynote speaker on Saturday night. He was born in Oklahoma in 1920. Shortly after he was born his family moved to a homestead south of Great Falls. During the great depression Pat and his family moved to Washington State. After he finished high school the Pat took a job at a lumber mill, trained as a machinist for the air force and then served in the army from 1942 to 1946 and then landed a job at the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington. He then transferred to Hungry Horse Dam in 1952 and has been in the Flathead Valley ever since. McVay was a pioneer of the hunter education program. In 1957 Pat was the first instructor to certify students. Since then he has taught various shooting courses and started the Flathead 4-H Shooting Sports program in 1984. Since then the shooting sports program has grown in the valley and across the state. In 2016 Pat was inducted into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame and was the first ever inductee to the Montana 4-H Shooting Sports Hall of Fame.

We have some wonderful tours lined up to local businesses and producer operations. Friday night's opening ceremony will begin with a pitchfork fondue and S'mores social at Dawson County Fairgrounds. We are certain you will come away from the weekend refreshed, re-energized, and ready for another amazing year as a 4-H Leader!

On behalf of the District 4 Planning Committee, we invite and encourage you to attend Montana 4-H Leadership Forum in Glendive. September 29th through October 1st will be three days of training, information, and fun for all that attend. Please join us, and develop your "Snapshots of Leadership". Registration opens August 1, 2017.

Cordially,