On April 20, twenty-one speakers proudly took their places at the speaker’s podium during the 2010 Jackson County 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest. The speakers were the 4th, 5th and 6th grade first place winners from eight Jackson County Schools.

The first place winners from each grade division will receive a scholarship from Tropicana, Inc. to attend 4-H Camp Timpoochee. Over 800 Jackson County Youth participated in the 2010 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program.

Pictured from left to right are sixth grade county winners; honorable mention Ashlyn Roberts, 3rd place Holly Tyler, 2nd place Gracie Wallace not shown and 1st place Michael Young.

Pictured left to right are 5th grade county winners; honorable mention Don Dowling, 3rd place Aaliyah Dortch, 2nd place Hannah White and 1st place Jack Craven.

Pictured left to right are 4th Grade Winners; honorable mention Cameryn Lein, 3rd place Taylor Roberts, 2nd place Gracie Zick and 1st place Ethan Sapp.
Registration Open for Summer Camp

Summer is just around the corner, so now is the time to begin thinking about Summer Camp plans. This year, County Camp will be held June 14-18. This week-long residential camp is held annually at 4-H Camp Timpoochee, on the Choctawhatchee Bay, 8 miles east of Niceville, Florida. Typical camp activities include: swimming, canoeing, kayaking, nature hikes, crafts, fishing, and marine explorations.

This camp is for youth ages 8-12, and the cost is $200.00 for currently enrolled 4-H members and $210.00 for non-enrolled youth. The deadline to register for camp is June 1. Space is limited, so plan on registering early. All required registration forms are available at the Jackson County Extension Office and online at http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4h/camps.shtml.

Florida 4-H Congress

Held on the campus of the University of Florida, Florida 4-H Congress is a weeklong event in which senior 4-H members meet and learn alongside other 4-H members from all over Florida. Participants will stay on campus. The week is divided into competitive and non-competitive sessions. The non-competitive portion is devoted to educational workshops on a variety of subjects addressing the interests of Florida’s youth. Evening activities are organized to provide 4-H members with opportunities to meet each other and socialize. The competitive portion of 4-H Congress is where first place senior district winners compete against other district winners in 4-H competitive events such as Share-the-Fun and Public Speaking.

Florida 4-H Congress will be held July 26-30 and is open to all senior 4-H members (14-18, as of Sept. 1, 2009). The registration fee is $220.00. For a complete list of workshops and required forms, visit http://florida4h.org/events/congress.shtml. Registration forms and fees must be turned into the Jackson County 4-H Office by June 1. Space is limited, so plan on registering early.

Reminder

This will be your last newsletter until August. If you have questions about 4-H events or need information, visit the Jackson County website at http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/ or contact Mr. Ben.
Notes from Mr. Ben

Last month we concluded another successful year of the 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program with our county contest. All participants did a wonderful job. Ms. Patti and I are very proud of all of you.

Over 550 youth, dressed in green and white, experienced 4-H Day at the Capitol. Participants enjoyed tours of the new and old capitol buildings and participated in a variety of hands-on workshops held at Mary Brogan Museum, Challenger Learning Center, and Tallahassee Museum. Governor Charlie Crist stopped by to welcome us to the Capitol and offered his appreciation for the good works done by the Florida 4-H Program and its members and volunteers.

Don’t let the summer sneak up on you. Make sure that you register early for Camp Timpoochee and our Summer Day Camps. Florida 4-H Congress is also great summer activity for our senior 4-H members.

Project Spotlight

Bluebirds and Other Cavity-Nesting Birds

The Bluebirds and Other Cavity project is designed to help you become the best bluebird watcher you can be! Bird watching involves a lot more than just sitting outside and looking at the skies! The activities are arranged to help you learn all the necessary information to make a bird habitat for your area. You will also learn how to become a careful observer and collect scientific data to help researchers in your area. Don’t be afraid to jump into an activity and give it a try.

If you are interested, or need further information concerning the Bluebirds and Other Cavity-Nesting Birds project books, contact Mr. Ben at 482-9620, at the Extension office.

Fundraising Opportunity

Club leaders, are you looking for a fundraising opportunity for your club? The Jackson County 4-H has been offered the opportunity to partner with a local blueberry farmer for a fundraising opportunity. The fundraiser would entail 4-H members pre-selling, picking, and delivering blueberries. For more information, contact Mr. Ben.
# May 2010

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For more info about the Jackson County 4-H Program, contact our office at 850-482-9620 or visit our website at http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4h/