North Central Region Volunteer Forum
Indianapolis, Indiana
November 11-14, 2004

March, 2004

Dear County 4-H Governing Councils and Junior Leader Organizations:

As you probably know, 2004 marks the 100th anniversary of the Indiana 4-H program. A variety of statewide commemorative events are planned in the coming months, and we anticipate many centennial activities on the local level as well. With over a million living Indiana alumni, 4-H has delivered a valuable educational benefit for generations of Hoosiers, and continues to do so.

The coming year presents a unique opportunity to further extend the reach of 4-H with our role as host of the 2004 North Central Region Volunteer Forum, November 11-14, in Indianapolis. 4-H volunteers and Purdue Extension staff are currently forming plans for a memorable event based on the theme, "Ignite Your Passion for 4-H". The forum will feature inspirational speakers, highlight a wide range of positive youth and volunteer development ideas, showcase the Indiana 4-H program, and provide a good measure of Hoosier hospitality.

Over 500 4-H volunteers from the 12-state North Central Region and 3 Canadian provinces are expected at this year’s forum. While we anticipate financial and in-kind assistance from corporate and philanthropic partners, support from all 92 county 4-H organizations is crucial to developing a program on this scale.

Typically the host state is represented by at least half of the forum participants. This is a challenging but realistic goal for Indiana 4-H. Your organization can help in some of these ways:

1. First, consider sponsoring the attendance of at least 3 of your volunteers at the forum;
2. Make a direct donation to offset forum expenses;
3. Contribute items for inclusion in the program’s silent auction or as door prizes. This would be a good way to emphasize an identifying feature or unique memorabilia of your community. A nicely-wrapped gift basket with items from your county is one option to consider.

A contribution form is enclosed with this letter that you may use to indicate the type of contribution you would like to make to the forum.

In the coming months your county educator will provide you with updated information about the 2004 North Central Region Volunteer Forum in newsletters and meetings. The combination of youth participants and adult volunteers is the most valuable asset of 4-H. Please consider directing volunteer development resources to this year’s effort. And as always, thank you kindly for supporting the educational mission of the 4-H program. It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

North Central Region Volunteer Forum
Finance Committee

Enclosure: Contribution Form

2004 North Central Region Volunteer Forum
In partnership with Purdue University Extension and Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education
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