



Queen Creek 4-H News

January, 2008

To Make the Best Better

Volume 2, Issue 5

A Small Thanks For A Big Sacrifice

Submitted by Nicole Payne

On Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 14 members of the horse project gathered at Trena Payne's house to write letters and make holiday cards for wounded soldiers. Attendees included Cheyenne Flores, Monica and Madison Eckloff, Nicholas and Marie Hodges, Courtney Cline, Monica Young, Danielle Varney, Lucy Hilarides, Paige Linne, Lizzie and Brooklyn Corbin, Molly Leach, and Nicole Payne. In just one night, these members made 39 cards and wrote 38 letters. Everyone was very creative and thoughtful in the making of their cards, and very sincere in the messages they wrote in their letters.

To go along with the cards and letters, these members also donated a total of 27 magazines and five books. All of these items were mailed out to military servicemen and women in time for Christmas. A great time was had by all who were present and everyone really seemed to realize the importance of what they were doing. The outcome of this night was a very small thanks to the very big contributions and sacrifices being made by those who have fought for and sacrificed so much for our country.

Season of Giving

Children waiting for Santa were not disappointed this year thanks to members of the Spirit of Queen Creek horse project. For the second year in a row, at their December project meeting, they collected money donations on their annual Christmas Money Tree. Members and parents pinned money on the tree to purchase gifts and needs for Angel Tree participants in the Queen Creek area.

Horse Youth Officers collected \$100.00 that night in donations. Youth Officers then went shopping to purchase items for three different Angel Tree participants.

Thank you to all who donated!

Got Polo?

Submitted by Kaitlyn Dunmire

On December 29, 2007, the 4-H horse club went to Westworld to watch the game of polo. A brief description of polo is hockey on horseback. Thomas Dunmire gave a clinic on what exactly polo is and what happens during this sport.

We learned that there are four chukkers in each game, each chukker is seven minutes long. Polo originated in Asia, they used to use severed heads as the ball. They are more evolved now and use little white round balls in outdoor games and almost like mini soccer balls in arena polo. They hit the ball with sticks called mallets which are usually a piece of bamboo with a wooden cigar head. You hit the polo ball with the side of the head. Polo has four players on each team in outdoor polo and three players on each team in arena polo. The polo field is 300 yards by 160 yards, you could fit nine football fields into that. The players try to hit the ball into the goal posts. After each chukker the players switch out their horses.

They have different numbers 1-4. One is usually the patrone who stays toward the front of whichever goal that team is trying to hit the ball in. The number four player stays toward the back and hits the ball to the number one player. Players two and three are the grunts who are the work horses. The USPA (United States Polo Association) rates the player from a minus 2-10, 10 being the very best you can be. There are only about 20-30 people in the world who are rated a 10. You are rated on how well you play and how well you know the game.

The 4-H club got to see two games of polo. The first game was a slow paced game. Thomas explained the game to us. The second game, Thomas competed. It was more fast paced and very exhilarating. At half time the 4-H club went to stomp the divots into the ground. The game then started back up. Thomas made some incredible shots the game ended with 4-6. Thomas's team lost the first game of the tournament, but we still learned a lot. I greatly encourage you to see the game of polo.

Need information about our club or about a certain project? Visit our website at www.queencreek4h.org. Make sure to check out our Bulletin Board! A lot of information is posted on this board for your convenience. This is also a great way to stay in contact with your friends and your project! Don't have a bulletin board account yet? Contact admin@queencreek4h.org to set up your account.

2007-2008

Community Club Adult Officers

Bev Lonchar - Community Club Leader
Myrna Flores - Adult Advisor to the Secretary
Beni DeMattei - Adult Advisor to the Treasurer

Youth Officers

Jessica Dahlquist - President
Jess Payne - Vice-President
Corey Fitzgerald - Secretary
Justin Williams - Treasurer
Zach Shively - Parliamentarian
Jake Yeager - Reporter

If you are interested in becoming a leader or assisting another project, please contact Bev Lonchar at leader@queencreek4h.org.
New leader applications can be found on our website at www.queencreek4h.org.

Equine Educational Contests

**Spirit of Queen Creek Members:
Don't miss out on these equine educational contests!**

Quiz Bowl Contest & Horse Speech Competition

Feb. 2, 2008 at the Maricopa County Extension Office

These are two of the five events that make up the County Equine Educational Excellence High Point Awards. The other events include Demonstrations and a Hippology Contest, both of which will be held in May. The fifth event, Horse Judging, was held in October 2007. This Educational High Point award is broken down into three age groups: young junior (9-11 years), junior (12-13 years), and senior (14-18 years). An overall high point buckle award is given in each age group, as well as awards and ribbons for each separate contest. Check your email for registration forms today.

Maricopa County Fair - Entry Deadline

The first of two deadlines for entries to Maricopa County Fair is fast approaching - Saturday, January 12, 2008 at 12:00 Noon. Entries for Cattle, Lamb, Market Goat and Swine are all due **IN THE FAIR OFFICE** before that time. Ear tagging for lamb is also Saturday at the State Fairgrounds. New this year - a copy of your Self-Inspection Seasonal Pass must accompany your entries. SISF applies to all cattle, lambs, dairy/market goats and pygmy goats. Information and forms regarding SISF is located at www.azda.gov or call Linda Gonzales with AZ Dept. of Agriculture at 602-542-6407.

2007-2008
Spirit of Queen Creek

Adult Leaders

John Flores - Main Leader
Tami Eckloff - Co-Leader
Myrna Flores - Secretary
Mary Varney - Treasurer

Youth Officers

Nicole Payne - President
Paige Linne - Vice-President
Brittany Hines - Secretary
Mike Hines - Treasurer

Any questions about the horse project can be directed to horse@queencreek4h.org.

Sweet Fundraising

On November 29, 2007, the members of Spirit of Queen Creek showed us their sales tactics and marketing skills by drumming up fundraising business for our local Cold Stone Creamery and our very own 4-H Horse Scholarship.

Even though it was a cold and drizzly night, the members didn't give up. They waved signs on street corners, they opened store doors for customers and greeted customers and thanked them for their patronage. We even had a family interested in donating some equipment to our club!

At the end of the night, all members were very happy that they raised \$135.00 for horse scholarships. This money will help horse members with educational expenses.

Thank you to all members, parents and family members who worked and helped at the fundraiser. And, especially to all who bought ice cream!



Scholarship Goal Accomplished!

At the beginning of the 07-08 4-H calendar year, members of Teen & Leadership unanimously voted that their goal for the Vinnie Russo Memorial Scholarship would be \$1,500.00. They started off the year with zero dollars in this account, but they were all very excited and determined to reach their goal. After a very successful Cookie Lee Jewelry Party, hosting the 4-H Enrollment Night Dinner and the December Community Club Meeting Dinner, we are proud to announce that they have reached their goal of \$1,500.00!!

Because of all their hard work and dedication, this means more members of our 4-H family will benefit from this scholarship to help further their education.

Teen & Leadership has a Family Night planned in the spring for all members. Keep your eyes open for more information.

Great Job all Teen & Leadership members and parents!!!



Teens Make Christmas Brighter for Elderly

As we all know, Christmas is a very busy time of year for everyone. But the members of the Teen & Leadership project know all too well what Christmas means to some of our elders. For the second year, members of Teen & Leadership visited a local assisted living facility to spread some holiday cheer and spirit.

On Saturday, December 22, 2007, 14 members visited The Place at Gilbert in Gilbert. They sang Christmas carols to an audience of over 20 residents and staff. Accompanying them on piano was Morgan and Karlee Frye. In preparation for their visit, members took time to practice their songs Friday afternoon. After caroling, members treated attendees to home-made treats and juice. They also took a few minutes to sit and talk to some of the residents and wish them a special holiday season.

They all were very happy to have visitors and especially for the carols and snacks. Residents talked to some of the members and parents about when they were in 4-H and what a great organization it was. They can't wait until next year!

Members really took home what it meant to these residents for them to be there. This is what Christmas is all about. Giving back to our community, especially to those who may not receive anything but a song for the holiday.

QC4-H Sends 4 Teams to ANLS Livestock Judging

After such great success judging livestock at State Fair, 13 QC4-H livestock members hit the videos and study guides to learn even more about judging and giving oral reasons. Dennis McKeon, a 4-H Alumni and new QC4-H dad, helped prepare team members for giving oral reasons - the most intimidating aspect of judging. Two practice sessions were held; one to practice judging livestock - cattle, lamb and swine, the second to practice taking notes, collecting thoughts and putting those thoughts into logical oral reasons. Since animals were not available to judge and practice oral reasons, the team members were given a set of Christmas Stocking Standards and were asked to "judge" the Christmas Stockings hanging from the mantle. Yes, this was meant to be fun and serious at the same time. This practice paid off in the long run. Our teams did a very good job. Two teams finished in the top 10; Super Swine with a 3rd place and Udder Chaos Team 1 placed 9th. Individually, out of approximately 200 "judges", Garrett Foster placed 5th and Alex Foster placed 10th!!! Congratulations to all our judges!

Super Swine Junior Team: Alex Foster, Garret Foster, Bechet Proto and Dante Proto. Senior Team - Brianna Gehrke

Udder Chaos Team 1: Justin Lonchar, Justen Ollendick, Samantha Ollendick and Sydney Ollendick

Udder Chaos Team 2: Courtney Anderson, Elvia Leon, Kristan Swinford and Kylie White