

Important 4-H Program Policy Information

From: **Chapin, Julie** (chapin@ANR.MSU.EDU)

Sent: Wed 4/28/10 3:00 PM

To: MSUE4HOFFCAMPUS@LIST.MSU.EDU

April 28, 2010

TO: Persons Responsible for 4-H Youth Development Programs
County Extension Directors
Regional Directors

FROM: Cheri Booth, Associate Director, CYFC
Julie A. Chapin, Coordinator, Michigan 4-H Youth Development

RE: Important Reminders and Updates on 4-H Program Policies Regarding Sponsorship of Games of Chance by 4-H Affiliated Groups and Use of Alcohol at 4-H Sponsored Events.

The "busy season" of 4-H will soon be upon us. With this comes an increase in fundraising activities by clubs, councils, boards and committees. The season for shows, clinics and camps has also begun. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you all of several important policies that provide direction to 4-H program activities in local communities.

During the past few weeks, we have received several emails from counties looking for direction related to dealing with clubs and groups requesting permission to conduct gambling events, such as Millionaire Parties, Texas Hold Em' tournaments, etc. as fundraisers. We want to remind you that these types of events are NOT acceptable fundraising activities for 4-H and must not be held by groups using the name of 4-H. We will also be notifying the Michigan Bureau of Lottery and Gaming of this restriction and requesting that they no longer issue licenses for these types of events to 4-H affiliated groups. Please share this information with your clubs, councils, boards and committees as soon as possible.

Michigan 4-H Youth Development has discouraged the use of raffles, bingo and other games of chance as fund raising activities for many years. In order to be consistent in our policies, we are **changing our position from "discouraged" to not allowing raffles, bingo and other games of chance as acceptable fundraisers for 4-H affiliated organizations**. This brings us into line with the recommendations from National 4-H Headquarters. Please see the National Fact Sheet on this subject at <http://www.national4-headquarters.gov/library/fs-raffles%2001-23-07.pdf>. A key consideration in this decision is the fact that state law does not allow youth involvement in fundraising activities of these types. One of Michigan 4-H's Guiding Principles is that youth will be active participants in the learning process. This includes things like fundraising activities that support educational programming.

Another common question at this time of year is around the issue of individuals consuming alcohol during 4-H sponsored events. Many times these situations involve parents who are drinking around the arena while their child is participating in a program, parents who may have an alcoholic beverage with a homeowner while the 4-H club meeting or workout is going on, or individuals who are attending open shows, sponsored by a 4-H club, who are drinking at their trailers while the show is going on.

We want to remind everyone that there is **NO Alcohol** permitted at any 4-H sponsored events. This includes animal shows sponsored by 4-H clubs that may be open to non-4-H members, camps, workout where parents are observing and/or public clinics that may be sponsored by 4-H groups as fundraisers.

These are all 4-H sponsored events and even though the participants may not be 4-H members or volunteers we cannot permit alcohol on the premises. In the case of fairs, the policy of the fair board, regarding alcohol use on the fairgrounds would apply. However, during 4-H activities at the fair, alcohol should not be consumed by anyone participating in or attending the event. Please be sure and discuss this policy with your volunteers and any clubs or groups that will be hosting events this summer. It is also important to include the "No Alcohol Allowed on Premise" policy in any show bills or fliers that your groups distribute so potential participants know about the policy prior to arrival at the event site. It is our hope that it will not be a problem for those attending the shows, clinics, meetings, workouts and camps to respect this rule. If event participants (adults or youth) are not following the "No Alcohol" rule, it is the responsibility of the group hosting the event to enforce the policy, just as they would enforce any other rules related to the event.

Attendees would either need to leave the event or stop the unacceptable behavior. Michigan State University liability coverage will not be in place for groups who do not comply with these policies. If you have questions or concerns about this information, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you in advance for your assistance in dealing with these issues.

Julie A. Chapin, Ph.D., Senior Program Leader
Children, Youth, Families and Communities
Coordinator, Michigan 4-H Youth Development
160 Agriculture Hall
Michigan State University
E. Lansing, MI 48824
Telephone: 517-432-7608
FAX: 517-355-6748
EMAIL: chapin@msu.edu

Clarification of 4-H Policy Email Sent April 28, 2010

From: **Chapin, Julie** (chapin@ANR.MSU.EDU)
Sent: Mon 5/10/10 4:37 PM
To: MSUE4HOFFCAMPUS@LIST.MSU.EDU

Hello Everyone,

The email below has raised some questions in several counties across the state. We want to take this opportunity to clarify some of the information in the email and provide an addendum that we hope will make compliance with this policy easier for everyone!

First, in the initial email, we neglected to say that the policy change regarding raffles and games of chance goes into effect as of October 1, 2010. At this time, it will not longer be acceptable for any 4-H-sponsored group to conduct a raffle or game of chance under the name of 4-H.

Second, this includes 50/50 raffles and single day events.

We apologize for the confusion and concern this has generated. We recognize that many counties have already secured licenses for summer raffles that will take place during the local fair. You can continue with any event like this that is currently planned but counties should not add any additional raffles to their fundraising schedule for this year.

Millionaire parties, Texas Hold-Em tournaments and other gambling events of this type are NOT appropriate fundraisers, effective IMMEDIATELY. This is in line with letter sent to counties two years ago regarding the appropriateness of these types of events as 4-H fundraisers.

There are many fun and effective ways to raise funds to support local 4-H program activities that will allow youth to be active participants in the process. We encourage you to work with your clubs, councils, boards and committees to identify new ways to generate the resources needed to support local 4-H activities, if they have relied on raffles and games of chance in the past.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Cheri Booth

Julie Chapin


MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

June 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Persons Responsible for 4-H Youth Development Programs

FROM: Cheri Booth, Associate Director, CYFC
Julie Chapin, Coordinator, Michigan 4-H Youth Development



RE: Alcohol at 4-H Sponsored Events

Summer will soon be upon us and the season for shows, clinics and camps has begun. During the past few weeks, we have received several emails from counties looking for direction about dealing with individuals consuming alcohol during 4-H sponsored events. Many times these situations involve parents who are drinking around the arena while their child is participating in a program, parents who may have an alcoholic beverage with a homeowner while the 4-H club meeting or workout is going on, or individuals who are attending open shows sponsored by a 4-H club, who are drinking at their trailers while the show is going on.

I want to remind everyone that there is **NO alcohol** permitted at any 4-H sponsored events. This includes animal shows sponsored by 4-H clubs that may be open to non-4-H members, camps or workouts where parents are observing and/or public clinics that may be sponsored by 4-H groups as fundraisers.



**4-H YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT**

Children, Youth, Families
and Communities

Michigan State University
160 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI
48824-1039

517/432-7575

FAX: 517/355-6748

<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/4h/>

These are all 4-H sponsored events and even though the participants may not be 4-H members or volunteers we cannot permit alcohol on the premises. In the case of fairs, the fair board policy about alcohol use on the fairgrounds would apply. However, during 4-H activities at the fair, alcohol should not be consumed by anyone participating in or attending the event. Be sure to discuss this policy with your volunteers, and any clubs or groups that will be hosting events this summer. It is also important to include the "No Alcohol Allowed on Premise" policy in any show bills or fliers that your groups distribute so potential participants know about the policy prior to arrival at the event site.

It is my hope that respecting this rule will not be a problem for those attending the shows, clinics, meetings, workouts and camps. If event participants (adults or youth) are not following the "No Alcohol" rule, it is the responsibility of the group hosting the event to enforce the policy, just as they would enforce any other event rules. Attendees would either need to leave the event or stop the unacceptable behavior.

Michigan State University liability coverage will not be in place for groups who do not comply with this policy. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me by email at chapin@msu.edu or by telephone at 517-432-7608. Thank you in advance for your assistance in dealing with this issue.

cc: MSUE Administrative Team
County Extension Directors

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and counties cooperation*