

By: Christy Clary
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

OSU Extension News

Summer 2020 is going to look a lot different for many of us. With some of our favorite activities, like 4-H Camp not happening, we are looking for different fun and exciting things to do for young people and as families. While there are some restrictions on what we can do with things being reduced in capacity or closed, there are still a lot of fun and exciting things available. Many can be done right at home!

One such thing is participating in virtual 4-H SPIN Clubs that are occurring across the state and are open to everyone! That's right, no 4-H membership required, you don't even have to live in Ohio. We have shared many of these opportunities with our 4-H families but encourage anyone who is interested to contact us or check out offerings on our Facebook page. SPIN Clubs are special interest clubs that meet for a short period of time over a specific topic. This summer there are a lot of options that have already been announced such as poultry, miniature gardens and STEM and we expect many more to be announced! We are also sharing many options that are occurring in other states.

Another great option is to spend time together as a family and create your own camp experience at home and in your surrounding area! Complete an outdoor scavenger hunt, build a campfire, roast marshmallows, go for a hike or a bike ride. Don't forget to sing songs and maybe do a few skits around the campfire. Consider setting up a tent in the backyard to complete a stay-at-home camping experience.

Looking for craft projects to do as a family? Tie-dyeing t-shirts has always been a favorite of mine. There are great kits out there that make it an easy to do at home craft and there are some great resources out there. If you are looking for something different to tie-dye than a t-shirt, right now you can purchase 4-H Clover or Canter's Cave 4-H Camp logo pillowcases that are perfect for tie-dye at <http://go.osu.edu/pillowcase>.

Another fun at home activity is to make ice cream in a bag! That is right, you can make your own individual serving sized ice cream using baggies and teamwork. Materials needed (per serving): 1-gallon zipper-style bag; 1-quart zipper-style bag; 4 cups ice; 1 cup ice cream salt or table salt; ½ tablespoon sugar; ½ cup light whipping cream; 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Instructions: Pour the cream, vanilla extract and sugar into the small zipper bag. Squeeze as much air out as possible, mix well and seal the bag carefully. Place the small zipper-type bag into the large bag. Cover with ice and salt. Seal the large bag tightly. Shake, toss and flip the "ice cream machine" for 5 to 10 minutes. If the bag gets too cold to handle, wrap it with a towel or pass it from person to person. If the mixture hasn't frozen after 10 minutes, add more salt and ice. Open the larger bag and remove the smaller bag. Wipe the smaller bag thoroughly before opening it so the salty water does not contaminate the ice cream. The ice cream should be the consistency of soft serve ice cream. Eat right out of the bag or serve in small cups!

The 4-H program is part of the Ohio State University Extension services. For more information on the 4-H program and how to get involved, contact the Brown County OSU Extension office at 937-378-6716. Our office is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, but we are available by phone. You can also find more information on our website brown.osu.edu or follow Brown County 4-H on Facebook at facebook.com/brownco4h. A list of canceled and postponed events is listed on our website.

