



May 19, 2020

Dear Snohomish County 4-H Community,

I know it isn't Friday, but we just got word of this update and wanted to pass it along to you as quickly as possible. The following announcement was issued by our state 4-H leadership today:

At this time, the recommendation for the 4-H Youth Development Program to meet face-to-face will be for that to occur when your county reaches Phase Four. For the five counties that were allowed to move to Phase Two on May 6, the earliest they could potentially begin Phase Four is June 19 if they do not have any positive COVID-19 cases before that time and meet the other published requirements. Please consult with your local health department and County Extension Office for when your county may be allowed to move to Phase Four.

Please view the entire announcement here: <https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/>

The first question many of you may be asking is “what does this mean for Snohomish County 4-H?” That is a great question, and one that we will be working hard to answer over the coming weeks. First, and most importantly, it gives us a clear path forward – Snohomish County 4-H will follow the recommendation of our state leadership. We will not be meeting in person for 4-H until Snohomish County enters Phase 4. Currently, we are in Phase 1. Second, this confirms what we already know: we will be operating in the virtual realm for a while longer. The good news is that we are really starting to hit our stride virtually. Programs, clubs, and projects are meeting via Zoom, are learning via social media, and are starting new collaborative projects via servers and chat programs. I am amazed at all the of innovation! Keep up the good work, let us know what you need help with, and if you are just getting started, or if this news is pushing you to start, feel free to reach out to any one of us for tips, tricks, training, mentoring, or even a pep talk! No question is too small.

The challenge I see that I want to address as soon as possible is that there are some of our members (both adult and youth) who have struggled to participate virtually. Whether it be lack of technology, lack of reliable internet, or a lack of skills or knowledge about virtual participation options, we want to help. I want to invite you to call us, email us, join our [Afternoon Tea Time Zoom](#). We are constantly working on new ways to engage our youth and volunteers virtually, and welcome your calls to talk about challenges, ideas, frustrations, or plans. In addition, we may be able to lend out equipment or connect you with community resources to enable you or someone in your club/program to be able to participate.

Speaking of plans, we want to ask you to attend a few upcoming events that will provide opportunities to discuss the challenges and solutions related to virtual participation.

- Snohomish County Youth Advisory Council information session: Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.  
Zoom link:  
<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/96866975361?pwd=MVpYYnBwbmdqODFnVjJqVWtkZVYxUT09>  
Password: 4-HFUN!
- Snohomish County 4-H Participation Hack-a-thon event. Come to brainstorm ways that we can respond to, adjust, and modify 4-H participation for our current situation, and beyond. Youth and adult members, as well as family and community members, are invited to attend! Zoom registration coming soon (look in Friday's CloverGram and the Friday update). Two dates are currently reserved for this event: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, & June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Lastly, I want to invite you all to come to our Afternoon Tea Time this Friday, from 3:30-6:30. Find the Zoom link and password here: <https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/4h/4-h-stay-home-stay-healthy-resources/> We thought we would have a little fun and create a theme, so come in your best camping gear (challenge by choice) as we all kick off some virtual camping! This is a great space to talk, socialize, and brainstorm. It is also a great space to ask those tough questions or to express your fears and frustrations to a willing ear that might be able to help. Please join us, and look for more information on our [Facebook Page](#) very soon.

I want to thank you all for your hard work as we continuously adjust to this evolving situation. We will be working with our volunteers, our Fairgrounds staff, and our community partners to continue to provide resources and updates about events and opportunities. More to come on this and other topics in our next update.

Thank you and please stay safe and healthy.



Ashley Hall | 4-H Assistant Professor

And the Snohomish County 4-H Team

Beth Wangen | Volunteer Development Coordinator

Kim Marie Baker | 4-H Program Coordinator

Kristi Boyd | 4-H Administrative Assistant

