

Project Discovery Day: A chance to master a skill

By Amanda Kostman
Lincoln County 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor

When you go to the fair you see many projects. Through these projects, 4-H members learn life skills. One very important life skill is Mastery. Mastery is defined as possession of a skill and full command of a subject of study. We are always trying to help the youth develop skills, and encourage and empower them to practice those skills until they have them mastered. 4-H encourages youth to continue to use and practice skills so that they have the opportunity to master those skills.

Project Discovery Day is the perfect opportunity for youth to learn mastery of a skill, both through learning and teaching. Youth instructors plan their lesson, organize the necessary materials and teach other 4-H members how to complete a project. As Myria Kludy, one of our Project Discovery Day instructors says, "One of the most clichéd (but true) sayings in the world is that you learn more from the students than you teach them. By teaching you learn the lesson even better because you get many probing questions that you have never thought of. In some ways to truly master a subject you have to be able to teach it. While the teacher learns much from the

students the learning doesn't stop there. The project discovery days may not teach mastery but it gives the kids many chances to learn a bit of many different projects and put them on the road to mastery. So that they can become teachers and restart the cycle."

Project Discovery Day will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012 at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be taught by 4-H youth and adult leaders, as well as community volunteers. Choose from exciting topics such as back packing, making jewelry, basketry, beading, making recycling projects, model airplanes, sewing and much, much more.

The overall event is free with only small charges for some of the sessions. Registration forms can be found

at the UW-Extension office in Merrill (801 N. Sales St., Suite 101 in Merrill). You may also visit the Lincoln County UW-Extension website at <http://lincoln.uwex.edu/>, click on activities and follow the link to Project Discovery Days or call the UW-Extension office at 539-1072. Completed registration and fees are due to the UW-Extension office by Oct. 1, 2012.