Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association

CULTURAL ARTS and HERITAGE

Program Overview

The Cultural Arts and Heritage program area covers a wide and diverse subject that includes fine arts and crafts, heritage and history of both Kentucky and world cultures, literacy and reading and other areas that cover an appreciation of both the Kentucky and world culture. The following are ongoing activities of this program:

- Promote programs that broaden the understanding of our nation, state, and communities; citizenship, history, etc.
- Promote and develop cultural diversity programs
- Revive traditional art forms and continue teaching the heritage skills such as; basketry, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, doll making, carving, painting, pottery, etc.
- Promote Extension Master Volunteer Programs to teach and preserve arts and heritage skills
- Encourage self-expression through all forms of creative, visual, and performing arts
- Conduct an awards program in arts and promote participation in the State Cultural Arts Exhibit
- Promote the study of cultural heritage through literature and museums. Utilize libraries and encourage written and oral histories of families and communities. Promote genealogy programs
- Promote reading, especially of Kentucky authors
- Explore home-based business opportunities utilizing handmade arts and crafts

KEHA Cultural Arts Chairman 2012 to 2015
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Cultural Arts and Heritage
Program of Work

2010 to 2013

Situation: In Kentucky, the arts have played a pivotal role in the development of our culture. Early household items that were essential elements in family survival have evolved into precious antiques and works of art. Skills that enabled our ancestors to survive in an isolated society have, in many instances, become almost forgotten techniques in our modern world. “Fine traditional and contemporary crafts define our cultural landscape as vividly as horses, basketball, and our pathway to excellence in education. However, the arts in Kentucky today are as dynamic as the world itself, new disciplines and art forms are emerging, along with technologies and the new economy.” (The Kentucky Arts Council)

Focus: Cultural and Heritage Arts And Crafts, Creative Writing, and Reading

Goal: KEHA members will have opportunities for expression and appreciation of the arts with a special emphasis on preserving our cultural heritage, writing, and reading.

Objectives:
1. To promote the preservation of heritage art and craft skills
2. To develop creativity in art and craft skills
3. To encourage creativity in composition writing
4. To encourage reading books representing a variety of interests

Activity Suggestions:
Preservation of heritage art and craft skills:
1. Promote the study of Kentucky heritage skills.
2. Document and encourage the work of local craftsmen-and- women.
3. Support local museums that emphasize cultural and heritage skills.
4. Tour the Kentucky Artisan’s Center at Berea.

Creativity in art and craft skills
1. Select one heritage craft each year and study the history related to the development of the skills needed and its ultimate use.
2. Encourage participation in the KEHA Cultural Arts Exhibit.
3. Encourage members to attend heritage skills camps where they can learn new and different craft skills.

Creativity in composition writing:
1. Encourage participation in the annual KEHA creative writing contest and give recognition to members who submit entries.
2. Publish, at the state level and with permission from the authors, the entries submitted each year.
3. Recognize winning authors and present awards for the KEHA Creative Writing Contest at the KEHA annual meeting.

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Participate in the KEHA Reading Program.
   1. Compile an annotated bibliography to document local authors from each county.
   2. Continue the KEHA Reading Awards program which offers individual awards for reading books with topics within ten different categories. A KEHA Book List is published each year with new selections in each of the categories.
   3. Present an exhibit of local Kentucky authors in your county.

Contests:
The KEHA Cultural Arts and Heritage program includes several contests that are offered on an annual basis and form much of the structure of the statewide plan of work. The KEHA Cultural Arts Exhibit, which takes place at the KEHA annual meeting, features items submitted by members through a process held in the counties and areas. There is a list of eligible categories representing different skills. A list of exhibit rules is also available. The state exhibit is judged and ribbons are awarded at the KEHA annual meeting each year.

The KEHA Creative Writing Contests in short stories, memoirs, and poetry are also annual events for members and are submitted directly to the State Cultural Arts chairman. Awards are announced at the state meeting, and winners are recognized at the general sessions. With the author’s permission, creative writing entries are published by KEHA in a booklet each year.

A KEHA Reading Award bookmark is available to members who participate in the KEHA Reading Award program. Counties should request bookmarks to recognize, at the county level, members who read at least one book from six of the ten categories in the KEHA book list.

2010 to 2011

Situation: The visual arts have the potential to enhance the quality of life for the people of Kentucky. The arts enrich lives and encourage learning. Appreciation of the arts can develop self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, cooperation, and critical thinking skills. The Art Museum at the University of Kentucky and other museums across the state promote the understanding and appreciation of art through collecting, exhibiting, preserving, and interpreting outstanding works of visual art from all cultures.

Focus: Appreciation of Arts in Kentucky

Goal: KEHA members will develop skills in art appreciation

Objectives:
   1. To increase the awareness of the different museums located in large and small communities throughout Kentucky.
   2. To encourage support for local museums with donations of both time and money.
   3. To encourage KEHA members to learn about art.
   4. To learn new skills in art appreciation.

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Objectives (cont’d):
5. To increase enjoyment of art, learn what is important in art, and how to look at art in the museum setting.
6. To encourage local artists, especially the development of art education for youth.
7. To work with local art organizations to promote the arts in the community.

Activities:
1. Tour the Art Museum at the University of Kentucky.
2. Tour small museums in local Kentucky communities.
3. Attend special exhibitions at large and small museums in Kentucky.
4. Study the Homemaker lesson — Art is All Around You.

Homemaker Lesson: Art is All Around You
What is important in art? How do you look at art? This lesson will explore ways to increase our ability to see, value, and appreciate what is around us. You will look at the rich resources of museums all across Kentucky which collect, display and interpret works of art of all kinds. You will learn skills to increase enjoyment of art, skills which are transferable to many other areas of life.

2011 to 2012

Situation: The Kentucky state parks are a treasure of Kentucky natural beauty and cultural heritage. Currently there are 52 parks including several historic sites that tell about Kentucky’s history from prehistoric times to the days of Native Americas and the early pioneers. Many of these sites have museums or historic buildings that make great places for family visits. During these trying economic times, the Kentucky State Parks offer an opportunity for economical vacations and short trips close to home.

Focus: The Kentucky State Parks and other Historic Sites

Goal: KEHA members will develop an appreciation of the rich cultural and heritage resources found in Kentucky.

Objectives:
1. To become aware of state park resort, recreation, and historical locations in Kentucky.
2. To learn more about the history of Kentucky, from prehistoric times to the modern era.
3. To become interested in historic locations in local county.
4. To encourage parents and grandparents to spend time with children and grandchildren having fun and learning about Kentucky history.
5. To provide experiences for appreciation of the beauty of Kentucky and preservation of our cultural and historic heritage through study and visits to the Kentucky state parks.
6. Bring families together for economical vacation close to home.
Activities:
1. Visit Kentucky state parks, including 17 state resort parks, 24 recreational parks and 11 historic sites. Read about and visit historical places all over the state.
2. Invite a speaker to share information about a local historic site.
3. Adopt a historical place. Learn the age of the building. If it is a home, research who lived there and what kind of life they had there. If it is a business, learn what kind of businesses the building housed previously.
4. Visit the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort.
5. KEHA county associations decorate state park lodges or other sites for the holidays.
6. Hold county programs and workshops open to the public, at the park lodges and/or campgrounds. Encourage participation from park visitors.

Homemaker Lesson: Kentucky Vacations in our own Backyard
Learn more about the more than 50 Kentucky state parks, including historic sites and recreations areas. These include more than 50,000 acres and provide a wealth of both natural beauty and historic preservation. Kentucky parks receive more than 7 million visitors each year. Shouldn’t you be one too?

Contest: Visit your Kentucky State Parks
A recognition/award program will be initiated for KEHA members who visit the Kentucky State Parks.

2012 to 2013

Situation: The National Association of Adult Literacy defines literacy as “using printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one’s goals, and to develop one’s knowledge and potential.” According to the State Assessment of Adult Literacy more than 40 percent of working-age Kentucky residents have very few to below average reading skills. Kentucky also ranks 50th out of 51 states and districts in the percentage of adults over 25 with a high school diploma or GED. Kentucky adults have made many gains in literacy in recent years but clearly there is still much work to do.

Research indicates reading to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is the single most important activity for achieving academic success.

Focus: Reading and Kentucky Literacy

Goal: KEHA members will help improve the reading levels in Kentucky and encourage reading for both adults and youth.

Objectives:
1. To provide opportunities for Extension Homemakers to encourage reading in preschool age children.
2. To encourage reading for pleasure for Extension Homemaker members.
3. To encourage the organization of county Extension Homemaker book clubs.
Activities:
1. County and club Homemaker organizations will organize programs to read to preschool age children.
2. County Homemaker organizations will organize Homemaker book clubs.
3. Extension Homemaker members will participate in the Homemaker reading program.
4. Extension homemaker members will volunteer as adult reading tutors in their county.
5. Extension Homemakers will get and encourage others to get a library card from the local public library.

A resource guide has been developed to provide suggestions and tips for establishing KEHA Book Clubs. Please visit the KEHA website (www.kehao.org), Cultural Arts and Heritage Chairman page, to access the resource guide.

Contest: Love to Read
An award will be given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the Love to Read contest. Participants should send a list of all books read during the 2012-13 KEHA year. The list should include the name and author of each book. All entries are due to the KEHA State Cultural Arts Chairman and must be postmarked by U.S. mail (no postage meters) by March 1, 2013. Winners will be announced at the 2013 KEHA State Meeting.