

OVDDBA YOUTH

MOOSLETTER

President: Dan Edgington Vice President: Shawn White Treasurer: Jeff Reusser Secretary: Katie Sears Youth Director: Renae Lizarraga



Surrounded by a harmless army of adorable evergreen Christmas gnomes with soft pillowy noses, the OVDDBA celebrated its 2nd annual Christmas gathering at Kah Nursery in Botkins, Ohio. With the smell of freshly brewed coffee and savory brisket tantalizing our noses, we scurried about excitedly, arranging plates of freshly baked cookies, mysterious paper bags and festive games. Chatter filled the room as old and new faces arrived and greeted one another warmly. Bowls, platters and crockpots begin to fill a large table, and soon overflowed onto a side table. Brisket, ham, pulled pork, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, corn, fresh rolls and salads beckoned to us. Following prayer, we ate the savory meal together. With full stomachs, we discussed all that boring businessy stuff (yawn) and then the youth enthusiastically opened their gifts from the association: a Christmas Flame t-shirt, candy, popcorn, and a nifty OVDDBA engraved pocketknife or flashlight.



Setting aside their gifts, the youth scurried to the greenhouse -a warm and cozy space with burlap lined walls, string lights and even more stern-faced (but adorable) gnomes. Here the youth began to assemble Flame ornaments. They picked out a small slice of wood, then arranged a piece of film with the adorable faced heifer onto their wood slice. While heat was applied, they cut strings for their ornament. With the heat process completed, they rubbed the image carefully and firmly, and *voila!* Flame had been transferred onto the wood slice. Once they personalized their ornaments with markers, a sealant was applied and they were left to dry. Meanwhile, the adults were busy with a craft of their own: making even more gnomes from fresh evergreen branches.



Dan hanging out with his gnome



With ornaments and gnomes completed, we wrangled everyone together for a group picture. First the youth, then everyone. A few grumpy-faced gnomes peeked out from among the smiling faces. As we made our way inside to warm up with a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate, numbers were dispersed in preparation for a game. "Number one! Number two! Number three!" were shouted out as the game began. One by one, the mystery paper bags were opened. A jar of apple pie filling, fuzzy pink slippers, Grinch chocolate kisses, silly string, a football... Random and sometimes silly gifts were opened until the final number was called out, "Number 50!" With a mischievous smirk, Kevin scanned his prey for the perfect gift. The hunt was on. Roman's bath bombs? Chad's snickerdoodle candle? Nah. Kevin zeroed in on Paul's coin bank, cleverly disguised as a Planter's Nuts container. Good choice, Kevin.



Once the paper bags were opened and the cup game with its prizes was completed, a festive Flame cake was sliced into portions. The chocolate cake with cream cheese icing was dispersed as one final game was set up: a crowd trivia game. Participants pulled out their phones and scanned the code on the large screen. Names appeared on the screen as participants entered the game. Then came the questions. Some simple, some silly, maybe a few hard. "Who is your Region 10 director?" "On average, what percentage of people open their OVDDBA emails?" "What was the name of the infamous calf that bellowed all night at the Mansfield show?" Amid laughter, groans, and a little competitiveness, adults and teens furiously tapped their answer on their phones in attempt to see their name appear at the top of the list. The winner's names appeared: 1st place: Danielle. 2nd place: DeAnna. 3rd place, Katie and Sam. With a round of applause, the fun-filled day had drawn to a close. With hearts full of fond memories and stomachs full of cookies, we bid each other farewell and left the gnomes to enjoy the chilly evening in peace and solitude.



Many thanks to Nick and DeAnna Baughman for hosting all of us. Many thanks as well to the OVDDBA board for organizing this event and to each of you making this possible! Merry Christmas and Happy Moo Year!

PROJECT: LET'S HAVE A GINGER BARN RAISING!

Assignment: Make a gingerbread barn

Directions:

1. Make a barn and/or farm scene from gingerbread pieces.
2. Decorate it with your choice of icing, candy, pretzels, etc.
3. Text or email a picture of your completed scene to Renae at 330-465-6372 or OVDBAyouth@gmail.com

Tips:

- Tractor Supply, Walmart, Cabela's, Amazon and other stores sell gingerbread barn kits.
- If you choose to make your own gingerbread pieces, Amazon sells cookie cutters for the barn pieces, or follow the link for a free online template.

[gingerbread-barn-template-1218-1542407621.pdf \(hmg-prod.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://s3.amazonaws.com/hmg-prod/gingerbread-barn-template-1218-1542407621.pdf)

- You have creative liberty to decorate it however you wish. Consider using a construction grade gingerbread recipe and cookie cutters to make cows, trees or even a tractor to complete your scene. You also might consider using pretzels to make a fence, marshmallows to make a snowman, M&Ms for lights, shredded wheat cereal for hay, powered sugar for snow, etc.
- Google "Gingerbread Barn" for inspiration.

This project is due by February 29, 2024. However, it would be a fun project to complete while on Christmas break! With the completion of this project, you will earn a ticket for the heifer drawing at the 2024 OVDBA Dexter Show. Simply share your completed project with me, and I'll give you credit. As always, text or email me if you have any questions or would like for me to send you any links to aid in the completion of this project.



Photo credit: <https://tarasmulticulturaltable.com/gingerbread-farm/>

