



4-H Alumni Newsletter

Johnson County 4-H

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Welcome!

We hope you enjoy the first issue of our Johnson County 4-H alumni newsletter!

We realize there is a huge communication gap between us and the 4-H Alumni living in Johnson County. We want to stay connected to you and keep you up to date on what we are doing.

First of all, if you weren't in 4-H in Johnson County or if it has been awhile there are probably some new faces at the Extension office. On staff right now we have Tara Markley, 4-H Agent; Amanda Fraunfelter, 4-H Program Manager; and

Christin Bartels, 4-H Office Professional. We are all new within the last 3-4 years.

We currently have 19 4-H clubs all over the county and a little over 550 4-H'ers. There are 38 different projects to choose from but the possibilities are endless.

We are excited about some of the new programs in Johnson County and value the long standing traditions of 4-H. SPIN clubs are one of the newest delivery modes for 4-H which you can read about below.

We have hundreds of wonderful volunteers in our system that help out in one way or another. Some take on huge roles while others give time, money or resources when they are able. Check out the column to the right to see what ways you could give back. Volunteers do not have to have 4-H knowledge if you know someone that has a particular skill they are wanting to share, let them know about 4-H.

SPeial INterest (SPIN) Clubs

Depending on how long ago you were in 4-H, SPIN clubs might be a new concept for you. SPeial INterest clubs have been around in Johnson County now for about four years. Why they are great for volunteers is because they are a much smaller commitment than some traditional 4-H volunteer roles. SPIN clubs usually last a couple months and meet only 6-8 times total. SPIN clubs also just focus on one topic.

SPIN club leaders get sup-

port from the Extension Office and have one or two other co-leaders. SPIN leaders just need to go through the Volunteer Screening Process as do all 4-H volunteers.

We have had gardening, honeybee, shooting sports, geology and reading SPIN

clubs so far. Is

there a topic you would be interested in co-leading? We would love to meet with you and discuss the possibilities.

What could you do as a 4-H Volunteer?

- Fair or Club Day Judge
- SPIN club helper
- Community Club Volunteer
- Project Club Volunteer
- Fair Volunteer
- Lead a booth at back to school nights in schools
- After-school helper

Current volunteer needs in the program:

- Photography
- Ceramics
- Art
- GPS
- Robotics
- Rocketry
- Woodworking

4-H Staff

Tara Markley
4-H Agent

Amanda Fraunfelter
4-H Program Manager

Christin Bartels
4-H Office Professional



4-H Gardening SPIN club at the Antioch Library

Alumni Volunteer Spotlight

Johnson County 4-H has a number of wonderful volunteers that are 4-H alumni. Many of them from other counties or states.

Natalie Reed is one of those great volunteers. She helps with Junior Leaders and with the Oxford Husters 4-H Club. Here is a little more information about Natalie and how she has impacted 4-H by volunteering. She has been a great volunteer for our program and we appreciate the work she does.



Occupation - I'm a Clinical Project Manager for Quintiles. I manage a team of clinical, data and statistical staff members across the globe. Together with doctors in 16 countries, we are testing a drug that we hope will help patients with Alzheimer's Disease.

County/State where I was in 4-H - I was a member of the Willow Valley Go-Getters 4-H club in Greenwood County, Kansas.

Current Volunteer Role(s) - I have helped the Oxford Hustlers with both Buymanship and Gavel Games - but my primary work has been as the Jo. Co. 4-H Jr. Leaders Co-advisor.

Why did I volunteer? I feel strongly that it is my duty to "pay it forward" - many leaders gave of themselves to help my 4-H club function and me to develop leadership skills and my life is all the better for it. For several years, I considered how I could get involved again. I had a job that required a lot of travel and a hectic schedule for several years. As soon as my career got to a place where I could get involved - I reached out to a club close to my home. I ask the 4-Hers I work with to give their time and leadership to the next generation of 4-Hers when they are older. I hope that other 4-H alumni will also recognize the need for leaders - and

join me so that they too can pay it forward.

What have I gained from being a volunteer with JoCo 4-H? Energy! No matter how long and drawn out my day, how tired I feel after my workday is done - being around these young people who are our future leaders, I'm energized and I have a renewed sense of hope for the collective future. I love watching these 4-Hers develop new skills, build bonds that will last a lifetime and develop as leaders!



Natalie assisting the Junior Leaders in a team building activity

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"To Make the Best Better"

Do you know any 4-H Alumni in the Johnson County area? Have them complete our Alumni survey at <http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/alumni.html>.



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