



# 4-H Alumni Newsletter

Johnson County 4-H

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 1, 2016

## Welcome!

October 1 was the start of the new 4-H year! The 2015-2016 year was a great one. We ended the year with 567 Johnson County 4-H'ers and over 300 Registered Volunteers!

New for the 2016-2017 year is the new campaign that Kansas 4-H is rolling out: "4-H Grows Here". We will also use this the next few

years in Johnson County to advertise and promote 4-H. Look for new materials on social media and our website.

Some changes at the Johnson County Extension office include a new Director and the hunt for a new 4-H Agent. Kelli Ludlum (4-H Alumna) was recently hired as the new Extension Direc-

tor in Johnson County.

Tara Markley's last day in the office as 4-H Agent was November 18. She has left Extension to peruse another opportunity. If you know anyone that would make a great 4-H Agent, let them know the position description will be posted online at [www.johnson.k-state.edu](http://www.johnson.k-state.edu) in early December.

## Event Highlights

This year National 4-H week took place on October 2-8. Several Johnson County 4-H clubs celebrated by doing community service, participating in 4-H Sunday or promoting 4-H in their city.

We also held family night and officers training on October 25th. All officer sessions were led by 4-H'ers that have held the office in the past. They taught the new officers how to be an effective officer and handed out the books they will use to keep records throughout the year.

Family night included over 20 booths that 4-H'ers set up and facilitated to teach about a specific project.

This is done so that members that would like to know more about a project can talk to a 4-H'er that has some experience in the project.

On November 5th we held the annual 4-H Achievement Celebration. This event rewards 4-H'ers for all their hard work throughout the year. They fill out record books and applications in order to receive their pins and awards. We also take this time to honor club leaders and other various volunteers.



Oxford Hustlers 4-H Club volunteering at Harvesters for 4-H Week.



Great Plains 4-H Club at Achievement Celebration.

## 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

### (Vacant)

4-H Agent

**Amanda Fraunfelter**  
4-H Program Manager  
[amanda.fraunfelter@jocogov.org](mailto:amanda.fraunfelter@jocogov.org)

**Christin Bartels**  
4-H Office Professional  
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# State 4-H Impact Report

4-H learning experiences enhance young people's abilities to grow into tomorrow's leaders and communicators. The structured learning environment combined with encouragement and mentoring allows 4-H programming to play a vital role in helping our youth achieve future success.

Recently, 2,600-plus Kansas youth ages 8 to 18 years old participated in a study to determine 4-H's effectiveness in fostering positive connections, encouraging responsible decisions, and developing communication and citizenship skills. The following is a summary of the study's results.

## Making Responsible Decisions

- 95% reported being comfortable with making their own decisions
- 91% have a plan for reaching their goals
- 89% don't succumb to peer pressure

Strong decision-making skills enable a young person to effectively navigate life. One of 4-H's principles is viewing youth as active participants in learning and addressing their own needs and interests. Youth create goals, show progress and work with mentors.

## Developed Connections

The overall well-being of a child is largely determined by their perceived satisfaction in relationships with others. A sense of belonging motivates young people to show respect and concern, as well as make them more receptive to guidance from caring adults.

- 96% reported working successfully with adults and having caring friends
- 93% are connected to adults who are not their parents

## Growth in Citizenship Skills

4-H citizenship programs empower youth to become informed and engaged in their communities. Youth use their decision-making, communication and leadership skills to make a difference.

- 94% reported they gained important skills by serving their communities
- 96% reported they can make a difference through community service
- 97% reported a strong desire to help others



## Club Day Judges

Many 4-H'ers say one of the most valued skills they learned from 4-H is the ability to speak or perform in public. Club Day is often the first time some of our 4-H'ers get up in front of a group of people.

One very important component of Club Day is the judges. The 4-H'ers look forward to hearing feedback about their presentations. Being a judge is also a very fun and rewarding job. We have a lot of talented 4-H'ers in Johnson County.

We are always looking for great judges and some of our best judges are 4-H alumni! If judging is something you think you would be interested in doing send an email to [amanda.fraunfelter@jocogov.org](mailto:amanda.fraunfelter@jocogov.org) to get more details.

## K-State Research & Extension

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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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