

Youth Leadership in Action

The well known saying is “Kids are the future.” The best way to ensure the future is by raising great leaders, which is what Johnson County K-State Research and Extension promotes through the 4-H Youth Development Program. There are many projects and leadership opportunities available to 4-H members, too many to count in fact, but here are a few we think deserve to be highlighted.

Dog Care and Training Project

Dog care and training requires a lot of hard work, dedication and working with your dog every single day. The training portion of the project involves the 4-H'er teaching their animal general commands, such as sit and lay down, and much more. These animals are taught to follow directions and navigate the agility course. Youth are directly involved in the handling and development of their animal. Without constant work, their dog will not maintain its level of training. The youth and their dog will participate in showmanship at the Johnson County Fair and if they qualify, at the Kansas State



Brianna G. runs her dog Phez through the agility course at the 2021 Johnson County Fair.

Fair. Not only do they show their pet's physical traits, but there are other qualifying events too, such as rally obedience (Rally-O), where the youth and the dog must work together to perform various exercises. The 4-H'er develops confidence and patience through working with their dog, which are two very important qualities to possess when leading others.

Public Speaking and Demonstrations

Strong public speaking skills and the ability to provide demonstrations are key components of being an effective leader. Of the 47 different 4-H projects youth can participate in, each one includes a public speaking element. Public speaking is more than memorizing a speech. It includes researching a subject they enjoy or want

214 Johnson County 4-H Volunteers

\$115,226.00

Dollar value of service of 4,665 hours for 4-H Volunteers.



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to know more about, creating outlines and finding the right words to inform others about the topic of interest. The management of time it takes to write a speech and then present it to audiences and judges is important. In the year of COVID-19, adaptability had to come into play. Instead of being able to give their demonstrations in person, the 4-H'er had to learn new technology. Not only were our 4-H'ers responsible for writing and memorizing their speech, but they also had to record themselves and upload it. Speaking in front of a camera can feel more awkward and uncomfortable than speaking to a live audience, but the 4-H'ers excelled in this area. These leadership and workforce skills are practiced in the 4-H club setting, allowing youth to learn in a non-critical and safe environment.



Teen Counselors Evan S. and Maddie A. at 2021 4-H Camp

4-H Teen Camp Counselors

There is nothing more exciting in the summer than the yearly 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch. This camp allows youth the opportunity to go to overnight camp for a week where they swim, canoe, hike, and learn leadership activities. Our 4-H teen camp counselors serve an important

leadership role as they guide and support a small group of campers for the week. They participate in training and are held accountable for helping the youth navigate their busy camp schedules. Through their leadership the campers are kept safe and have a fun outdoor education experience.

4-H FORMULA

Empower youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences.



WHY	+	HOW	+	WHAT	=	IMPACT
 ↓ BELONGING MASTERY INDEPENDENCE GENEROSITY		1 Engaged Learner 2 Safe Environment 3 Service Opportunities 4 Inclusive Settings 5 Caring Mentors 6 Planning for the Future 7 Opportunity For Mastery 8 Building Self-Confidence		 STEM & AGRICULTURE COMMUNICATION & THE ARTS HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY VITALITY		 LEARNER COMMUNICATORS COLLABORATORS CONTRIBUTORS
NEED		8 ELEMENTS		PRIORITIES		GROWTH