



April-May 2023 4-H Newsletter

Oklahoma 4-H Offers ATV Safety Course

The weather is warming up and soon students will be on summer vacation. A fun activity for many youth is riding All-Terrain Vehicles, otherwise known as ATVs and utility task vehicles, also known as UTVs.

To help ensure both youth and adults ride safely, the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program offers the ATV Riders Course to groups, organizations, families and individuals ages 10 years and older who are interested in learning more about safely operating both ATVs and UTVs, said Ravyn Bevard, Oklahoma State University Extension youth ATV safety educator.

“As we transition from winter to warmer weather, more people want to get outside and enjoy the outdoors,” Bevard said. “The overall goal for the ATV Rider Course is to provide youth and adults with the opportunity to learn how to safely ride these vehicles. With National ATV Safety Week observed May 13-21, now is a great time to get your organization, family or group signed up to take the course.” The two-part course consists of a two-hour online E-Course coupled with a three-hour hands-on riding component conducted by licensed ATV Safety Institute instructors. Participants are asked to complete the online course before the hands-on course.

Bevard said the actual riding part of the training can take place at the riding facility near the Logan County Fairgrounds in Guthrie, Oklahoma, or she can take the machines to the participants’ location. It can be taught at a school, church or other location with an open field or gravel lot. Groups must have at least four participants. “At our facility in Guthrie riders will get the full experience for all of the exercises, including trail riding, hills and an open field,” she said. “If we go on location, participants will do a circuit ride in various patterns.”

She also covers proper gear to wear to ride, including a helmet, gloves, long sleeves, long pants and closed-toed shoes that come up over the ankles. She familiarizes the group safety information as well as basic ATV controls, including brakes, foot brakes, choke, lights and ignition.

“One of the most important lessons we teach in these classes is weight shift. ATVs are very rider-active,” she said. “Riders have to know how to shift their weight for different scenarios they encounter, such as rounding a corner or driving over an obstacle on the trail. ATVs have long seats to allow riders the space they need to shift. That extra room isn’t there to make room for another rider.”

Bevard said 90% of fatalities are related to individuals not wearing a helmet or riding an ATV that’s too big for them.

“Unfortunately, about 90% of kids ride adult-sized ATVs, which is dangerous,” she said. “These machines are expensive, and kids can quickly outgrow the smaller machines, but it’s important to ride the correct size. Consider buying the smaller machines for younger youth and trading them in as they grow.”

A grant provided by the Southwest Ag Center at the University of Texas was used to purchase helmets and participants who go to the class at Guthrie will receive a free helmet while supplies last. The class costs \$10 per person and reservations can be made by emailing Bevard at rbevard@okstate.edu or call 405-744-4141.

“With summer just around the corner, kids will have more free time. With that free time, we want them to be safe,” Bevard said.

Blaine County

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Blaine County OSU Extension

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4-H FOOD SHOWDOWN

*Do You Like To Cook?

*Do You Like To Create Your Own Recipes?

*Do You Enjoy Watching Food Shows Or Cooking Contests On TV?

If so, you might be interested in the 4-H Food Showdown Contest. Teams of 2 or 3 members have the opportunity to prepare a dish to present to a team of judges.

Junior teams (grades 3 to 5) are given a basic recipe to prepare. Grocery items from a common pantry can be used to enhance the recipe or be served with the recipe item.

Intermediate teams (grades 6 to 8) given a secret ingredient and category. Groups make up their own recipe.

Senior teams (grades 9 to 12) are given one or more ingredients. The ingredients are used along with grocery items from a common pantry to create a dish.

We will hold our County Contest on Thursday, April 20 at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by April 17.

If anyone is interested in this project, please contact Dana at the OSU Extension Center (580) 623-5195).

The top two junior, intermediate, and senior teams from the county can advance to the West District 4-H Food Showdown on June 9 at Fairview.

State 4-H Roundup 2023

“Surf the Waves of Success in 4-H” is this year’s State 4-H Roundup theme. This event is held on the OSU Campus in Stillwater on July 26, 27 & 28. This is for 4-H members grades and up and is a fantastic opportunity to learn at workshops, take part in competitive events, participate in assemblies, and make new friends. The cost is \$165 per person; however the county will pay a portion of your cost. Registration is due by May 10. Please contact Dana to get registered

County Record Books

County 4-H Record Books are due on June 30th to the OSU Extension Office. (These are for all 4-H members from 1st year of 4-H to senior year of school.) Don’t wait until June to start one! If you need a copy of the record book sent to you in word, please call the office. Dana will be glad to help you.

Adult and Teen Leaders Meeting

Make plans to attend the next meeting for adult and teen leaders on Thursday, April 20 beginning at 4:00pm at the fairgrounds. We will discuss and plan upcoming events.

Cupcake Wars/Fruit & Vegetable Sculpting Contest

This contest will also be held on Thursday, April 20 with registration due on April 17. Full details are available at the OSU Extension Center. We can send three teams from each age group in each contest to the district contest on June 9 in Fairview.

State 4-H Record Books

4-H members in the 8th grade and up, you are encouraged to do a state 4-H Record Book. This is how you win scholarships on the state level. Books are due on April 20.

Items have been updated and are located on the State 4-H website at: <https://4h.okstate.edu/members/record-book-and-scholarship-information/record-book-and-scholarship-info.html>

Please look this site over and read the guidelines.

Please call Dana with questions.



Adopt a Night at the Oklahoma State Fair

There are a couple of opportunities at the 2023 Oklahoma State Fair for counties or clubs to showcase members and project work. Fair dates are September 14 to 24.

- Adopt a Night at the Oklahoma State Fair-interactive booths in the 4-H section of Oklahoma Expo Hall. This opportunity gives one county per night of the State Fair tables and time from 4-9pm or 4-10pm (depending on the night) to share 4-H projects, 4-H live action, and opportunities in 4-H to the general public.
- Interactive Booths are also available during peak hours at Oklahoma Expo Hall. Interactive booths provide a club or groups a table and 2 hours worth of time during the Oklahoma State Fair. Dates available for Interactive Booths are: September 16, 17, 23, 24. Times all days are 11:00am-1:00pm, 1:00-3:00pm, and 3:00-5:00pm. More information is available at the OSU Extension Center.

Vet Science Short Course

Are you interested in a career in veterinary medicine or veterinary science? Do you enjoy working with animals? Would you be excited about a career that provides a service to the livestock producers, pet owners, and people of Oklahoma? If you answered yes to some or all of these questions we may have just the experience for you!

OSU Extension and the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences are teaming up to offer a special Vet Science Short Course on May 23-24, 2023 for high school age 4-H members who are interested in pursuing a veterinary career.

Attendee's must be entering the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade in the fall of 2023 to be eligible. If accepted as an attendee you will learn about what the career options are like, how you can best prepare for entry requirements, and how to utilize special programs to assist rural students or students from under-served areas.

You will also have an opportunity to tour the veterinary school and meet current students and their veterinarian instructors.

Enrollment is limited; contact the OSU Extension Center if interested. The cost of the field day is \$35.00 per attendee.

State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

This year's contest will be held on Saturday, April 29th at the Oklahoma State University Animal Science Arena in Stillwater with registration and certification forms are due by April 14th. Contact Dana if interested.

4-H CAMP

We will be having 4-H Camp at the NW Baptist Campgrounds near Vici on June 28, 29 & 30. This camp will be packed full of educational workshops and fun recreational activities. More details will be available soon.

2023 State 4-H Parent Volunteer Conference- June 23-24 in Stillwater

The primary purpose for this conference is to strengthen the local club or project group experience for youth, families, parents and volunteers. We want parents and volunteers to gain greater confidence in developing and implementing a local experience which will retain youth, gain youth and use an increasing number of volunteers as project and activity leaders.

Find more information at:
<https://4h.okstate.edu/volunteers/parent-volunteer-conferences/index.html>

Spring 2023 Tractor Supply Company (TSC) 4-H Paper Clover Campaign

Excitement abounds for the Spring 2023 Tractor Supply Company (TSC) 4-H Paper Clover Campaign scheduled for April 26 to May 7. Contact Dana if you would like to participate with a booth at the Watonga store.



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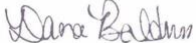
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This letter is one way of communicating educational information to the citizens of Blaine County in the area of 4-H & Youth Development. For a free subscription, contact the office above.

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