



# NEWSLETTER

## End-of-year giving can benefit Oklahoma 4-H'ers

The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Oklahoma youth. Youth not only gain life skills through experiential learning opportunities, but they can earn scholarships for higher education thanks to generous donations to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

Milford Jenkins, 4-H Foundation executive director, said donations of unrestricted gifts play a crucial role in the Foundation's annual operations budget.

"These dollars can be allocated by the organization's board of directors to support 4-H youth activities such as Citizenship Washington Focus, State 4-H Roundup, ATV Safety Training, Enhancement Grants for county 4-H clubs and other related programming priorities this year," Jenkins said. "One highlight of how \$25,000 in unrestricted charitable gifts made an indelible impact on our 4-H family was providing support to the 2023 Oklahoma 4-H Parent/Volunteer Conference that took place in June."

This event brought together parents and volunteers for hands-on learning and sharing information and programming that is making a difference across the state.

"The donation of these unrestricted dollars has a ripple effect within the 4-H program," Jenkins said. "In this case, parents and volunteers came

together and were able to glean new ideas that have proven to be successful in other counties and take them home to implement in their local programs, resulting in more and more 4-H youth being reached."

At the 102nd State 4-H Roundup that took place in July, more than \$146,000 in education scholarships were presented to club members in recognition of their excellence in project work. This money all comes from the benevolent donors to the 4-H Foundation.

Abby Logan, a 4-H'er from Payne County, said she has been blessed to receive various scholarships from the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

"These scholarships have allowed me to begin my college education studying natural resource ecology and management," Logan said. "It has been a goal of mine to pay for my college education myself, either through work or scholarships. The scholarships I've received through 4-H are allowing me to do just that. I couldn't be more grateful for the countless individuals and donors who make these scholarships possible and allow youth like me to earn a successful start to higher education."

Donors also have the opportunity to restrict charitable gifts to support a particular county's 4-H program and activities through the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. Jenkins indicated this is accomplished through the county's G-Account at the Foundation.

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"G-Accounts were established in the early 2000s to provide donors a platform to restrict their support to 4-H programs and activities in their home county or county(ies) of interest," he said. "All 77 counties have a G-Account and donors can denote the county(ies) where they want their gift to go at the time they make the gift. Before making your gift, visit your County Extension Director (CED) and 4-H educator(s) to learn about your local and county 4-H clubs' current funding needs that can be met by your charitable gift to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. Sponsoring 4-H youth and activities in a particular county can be very meaningful to 4-H alumni, businesses and other stakeholders with close ties to that particular county."

Donors can also provide major gifts to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, including the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, through their Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Jenkins said donors age 70½ may use a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) to donate up to \$100,000 to qualified charities. For married couples, if both individuals are 70½ years of age, each spouse can exclude up to \$100,000 from their gross incomes for a total of \$200,000 to qualified charities. QCDs are paid directly from the IRA to the charity. Donors are encouraged to consult with their legal or tax advisors about this charitable giving strategy.

"For those planning their estates, the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation can be named as a charitable beneficiary as a testament to how much the 4-H program meant to them as a youth growing up," he said.

Jenkins is available to visit with people who are interested in contributing to 4-H. The establishment of permanent endowments, charitable provisions for 4-H in estate plans, and giving outright cash gifts or appreciated securities annually are just a few of the charitable giving strategies available to donors who want to support 4-H youth in Oklahoma.

Giving end-of-year charitable cash gifts to support 4-H youth is easy, simple and no different than any other time of the year. Simply write a check payable to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation and mail to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, 505 Agricultural Hall, Stillwater, OK. 74078; visit the Foundation's website at [oklahoma4hfoundation.com](http://oklahoma4hfoundation.com) and click the Donate button; or call Jenkins on campus at 405-744-5390 or cell phone at 816-390-4357, or email at [milford.jenkins@okstate.edu](mailto:milford.jenkins@okstate.edu).

## Share the Fun

### County Share- the - Fun January 17 4:30 pm at Vici High School Auditoriums

The county contest is open to cloverbuds, Junior 4-H members and senior 4-H member's. Registration for the county contest is due by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### District Share-the-Fun January 27, 2004 Fairview Arts & Education Center – Registration and entry fee of \$15.00 per act is due in county extension office by January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Share-the-Fun is an opportunity for 4-H members to share their talent while gaining skills in public speaking, performing , and on stage experience.

- Each person may enter one or more act in each category: individual (solo), small group (2-4 members), large group ( 5 or more members)
- Acts are limited to six minutes.
- Act should reinforce family values and must not include inappropriate or suggestive lyrics, gestures, or costumes. Topics that glamorize, alcohol, drugs, or violence, illegal or immoral behavior, or that may be offensive to diverse audiences are inappropriate.
- Cloverbuds are not eligible at the district contest.



## County 4-H Volunteers Meeting December 11, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

Calling all - club leaders  
- teen leaders  
- volunteers

### Your presence is needed at the county volunteer meeting!

All adult and teen volunteers, including leaders are invited to attend the December meeting. Resources for club meetings will be available for you to try out including -sphero boltz, coding mice, lego EV3, and 4-H curriculums.

There will be a presentation on “Power Protectors” and the upcoming solar eclipse lessons. These are both exciting, new programs that can easily be used in your club.

We will also be finalizing plans for the winter/spring 4-H events and activities.

## County 4-H Holiday Workshops December 19, 2023 10:00 – 2:00

All 4-H members are invited to Holiday Workshops.

10:00 - **Officer training** -Are you a club officer or have you ever thought about being a club officer? If so, this is for you – learn about responsibilities and duties of club officers and tips for success.

10:30 – **Exploring STEM**- hands on demonstrations of drones, metal detecting, robotics, and engineering.

11:30 – **Lunch**

12:00 – **Choice of workshops** – teen and /or adults will provide a variety of workshops members can make projects to enter in the fair or to give as gifts.

Registration fee of \$7.00 covers all supplies and lunch.

Contact the extension office to pre-register by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## West District Speech Contest and Volunteer Conference Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Pleasant View Mennonite Church, Hydro, OK

Registration fee for the Speech Contest is \$5.00 per individual, \$10.00 per team. If a youth is participating in both the Speech Contest and the Volunteer Conference, the registration fee is \$15.00 (includes lunch). Registration for the Volunteer Conference is \$15.00

All registrations should be submitted by the County Extension Office by January 24, 2024.

The following sessions are confirmed for the Volunteer Conference:

STEM – Dry Ice – Rick Clovis  
STEM – Drones & Robotics – Loren Sizelove  
Scholarship from Southern Region attendees – Lori Barnett, Washita County  
Civic Engagement/Leadership/Service Learning – Cathleen Taylor  
Photography – Mitch Alcala  
Etiquette & More

## State Horse Communication February 3, 2024 At Ag Hall, Stillwater

- Must register at county extension office by January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 4-H member may enter two different divisions from three categories: speech, illustrated presentation, or team problem.
- 4-h member may enter the Horse communication contest -photography contest by submitting photos focusing on one of these categories: - horses in action – horses in a natural state, or - human/horse bond.

## State leadership council working toward goals

They've been in office since the closing assembly of the 2023 State 4-H Roundup, and these 14 club members are working hard toward the goals they set at that time.

What is the role of the state leadership council? Cathleen Taylor, state leadership and civic engagement specialist with the State 4-H office at Oklahoma State University, said this group sets goals that all 4-H'ers from across the state work toward.

"There are several state service projects that all club members to toward and the leadership council encourages clubs to help meet these goals," Taylor said.

A new offering from these leaders that will be available in Spring 2024 is the State Council Workshop Catalog.

"The leadership team will be available to present workshops across the state on a variety of topics," Taylor said. "Not only will club members gain valuable information from the officers, but this gives the officers opportunities to continue honing their public speaking and leadership skills."

The workshop topics include personal growth, goal setting, drunk driving/safe driving, public speaking, STEM and poultry. OSU Extension educators who would like a state leadership council member to present a workshop in their county will need to contact the leadership team member. More detailed information about the workshops and how to schedule a workshop will be available after the first of the year.

Service projects have long been a part of the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program. Change for Change is a project that benefits the Children's Health Foundation, which brings researchers to Oklahoma to study childhood diseases. This year's goal is \$12,000 and all counties are encouraged to participate.

"One of the fundraisers we have planned for Change for Change is the winter formal," Taylor said. "This dance will take place Jan. 27 in Logan County and all funds raised will go to this service project. All 4-H'ers from across the state are invited to participate."

Counties have a new opportunity this year in the Change for Change service project. All counties that turn in a quarterly report of their progress will be entered into a drawing for a prize to be awarded at the 2024 State 4-H Roundup next July.

The Ronald McDonald Charities benefits from the Pull for Kids campaign. Club members in all 77 counties collect pop tabs that are turned in for money. Each county is challenged to collect at least 50 pounds of pop tabs this year. The Ronald McDonald House provides a home away from home for families with sick children who are hospitalized.

Taylor said the leadership council does more than raise funds for the various projects.

"This group of leaders sets the tone for the 4-H year. They are encouraged to be active not only at the state level, but at the district, county and local levels as well," she said. "They are role models for younger club members, as well as role models for those currently serving in leadership positions who may be looking to further their leadership opportunities by serving at the state level one day."

These leaders also assist at a variety of statewide activities by leading the pledges, presenting workshops and helping make sure the participants are having a good time.

"I love working with the officer team each year and seeing how they each grow," Taylor said. "It's a lot of work to serve as a member of the leadership council. These positions come with great responsibility, but they also learn that it's an honor to serve."



## 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador Applications

4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors work both individually and as a team, bringing wellness awareness, programs, and initiatives to communities across Oklahoma. Oklahoma 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors provide support and programming to local 4-H clubs, county, district, and state programs. Healthy Living Ambassadors will also be called upon to attend health related programs and events.

Oklahoma 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors will:

- Help set and achieve goals in the 4-H Healthy Living framework
- Support the work of 4-H Healthy Living
- Participate in Oklahoma Healthy Living Summit and conference calls.
- Work closely with Healthy Living Ambassador Advisor at the Oklahoma State 4-H office and other team members

High School Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are encouraged to apply. 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador applications are due December 15, 2023

## Shooting Sports Level 1 Instructor Training

4-H Shooting Sports Level 1 instructor training March 23-24, 2024 at Oklahoma City Gun Club. Volunteers must have completed the volunteer certification for 4-H BEFORE registering for the class. Registration must be in the county extension office by March 4, 2024.

## Tuesday Tool Time

Below is information for 2024 continuing education for volunteers, parents, and Extension professionals' courtesy of the Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer Board. All sessions are on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Each session has its own registration link.

2024 Schedule:

- January 23 – [4-H 101](#): Tips and tricks for keeping the club organized and informed
- April 23 – [“Project” Success: A Curriculum Smorgasbord #1](#) – Forestry, Wildlife, Outdoor Skills
- June 25 - [“Project” Success: A Curriculum Smorgasbord #2](#) – 4-H Cooking 101-401, Hobbies/Textiles Design and Construction, and Electric Excitement
- October 22 – [Set the Record Straight](#) 4-H Record Books bring lots of questions. Most are answered with planning quality project work.



The Dewey County 4-H newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Dewey County Extension Office. It is intended to provide education materials as well as information about 4-H and youth program. Office is located at 107 N. Sexton St at the fairgrounds in Talon.

**Office Hours:**

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday  
Closed for lunch from 12:00 noon - 12:30 PM

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Enroll in 4-H for the 2021-2022 year:

- Sign up at [4h.zsuite.org](http://4h.zsuite.org)
- Using your email and password (you create)
- Make a household account
- Enroll your 4-H member(s)

Contact your local 4-H leader or the county extension office 328-5351

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