



NEWSLETTER

Tips and tricks to growing your club

Things that are worthwhile don't just happen – they take time and effort. Positive relationships, running a successful business, good health, etc. It's no different when growing a 4-H club.

Growing a club requires intentional recruitment and retention from each volunteer leader, club member and family, said Karla Knoepfli, Oklahoma State University Extension state volunteer specialist in the State 4-H Office.

"The beginning of a new 4-H year is a good time to really think about your recruitment and retention plan. Think of your 4-H families, members and potential members as informed consumers who are comparing this program to others they may be considering," Knoepfli said. "While you know the positive attributes of the 4-H program, it's important to continually deliver interesting and relevant opportunities to current and potential 'customers.'"

Today's youth are actively being recruited by other organizations, so it's important in the 4-H program to continually recruit in an effort to attract new members as well as retain members in the program.

What can families, volunteers and club officers do to achieve this? Here are four tips for maintaining a healthy enrollment in a local club:

1. Provide a welcoming and engaging environment. Make members feel valued for who they are. Ensure new members and families have an orientation and are paired up with a mentor.

2. Offer quality programming. Are you offering a range of activities that appeal to everyone? Providing programming in fun and unique ways helps keep youth engaged. Leaders should be truly prepared to be mindful, intentional and flexible to continually meet the needs of the consumer, aka: club members.

3. Nurture relationships. Provide programming in a safe social/emotional environment for both club members and volunteers. A good volunteer/club member ratio is important to nurture and provide growth opportunities that meet the needs of everyone involved. Focus less on the outcomes (ie: winning) and instead provide positive reinforcement for improvement, progress and mastery.

4. Keep youth engaged. Club members develop life skills when given the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process. Youth leadership can help guide the group to new opportunities, discover new ways of accomplishing the 4-H mission, deliver programs and more.

Gillard and Will, in the "Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration," said, "Youth will need to be continually recruited to keep attending, or to be retained in the program."

"A quality, well-balanced club will double as a motivator and influence the decision to return," Knoepfli said. "Youth and families who experience successes, fulfillment, competence and fun are repeat customers and bring others into the 4-H family."

Check out [4-H Tuesday Tool Time](#) for more information. An informational handout is available [here](#). Another resource is this informative [YouTube video](#).

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In this issue

Tips and tricks to growing your club

Fair Notes

Dewey County 4-H Canned Food Drive

Shooting Sports

Stem Inservice

4-H Week and Month

4-H Calendar

State Events and Dates

Shooting Sports Level 1 Instructor Training

223 ZZZ's Under the Sea

Oklahoma Robotics Exploration Day

New Mexico 4-H Leadership Retreat

Horse Science Academy

Fair Notes

Thank you to everyone that helped with the county silent auction and dinner fund raiser. The fund raiser was successful due to all your time and effort.

Congratulations to all of the Fairest of the Fair contestants. Each of you did an excellent job and provided great entertainment for the audience.

Congratulations to everyone that entered exhibits in the county fair. Dewey County had 89 4-H exhibits qualify to go to State Fair. Seventy six exhibits were entered in the state fair and 50 of them received a ribbon! Dewey County 4-H had 10 first place exhibits! Great job!



(left to right) Cayden Little Coyote, Leah Baker, 2023 Miss Fairest of the Fair - Kylee Daugherty, 2023 Junior Fairest of the Fair - Kirstin Fennema, Madison Morrison, Madison Hayes, Krysten Unwin, and Amberly Gilmore



Dewey County 4-H Canned Food Drive

October 1 - 8, 2023

As part of the National 4-H week celebration, Dewey County 4-H is holding a canned food drive. County clubs are having a contest to see who can collect the most nonperishable food items for their community. We need your help!

Watch for signs, collection points, or 4-H members collecting canned food from October 1st - October 8th.

All donated food will be delivered to a local food bank, school back pack program, or ministerial alliance.

Contact the Dewey County Extension Office (580-328-5351) or your local club leader for more information.

Shooting Sports

The air rifle, air pistol, and archery shooting sports project will be meeting for training and practices on Mondays this fall. Meeting will be held at the fairgrounds in Taloga.

Registered 4-H members who have their hunters safety card are eligible to sign up for the shooting sports project.

Members must be 9 years old to participate in air rifle and archery. Members must be 12 years old to participate in air pistol and members must be 10 years old to participate in shot gun.

The shot gun trainings and practices are being held on Sunday afternoons at the range south of Taloga.

Contact the extension office for more information or to sign up.

STEM inservice

Oct 6 in Dewey County

9am-12pm: Power Protectors STEM Challenge Kits

Through decades of neglect and waste, Energy Island is in danger of becoming unplugged forever! Now it's in the hands of the next generation — The Power Protectors — to save it! Power Protectors consists of three activities that are highly adaptable for afterschool programs, 4-H clubs, classrooms, home use and more. Come learn how you can use this exciting challenge to spark an interest in STEM and inspire real-world actions.

Each participant will receive a kit to take home!

Participants are asked to bring an assortment of recyclable materials for use during the workshop, if available: cardboard, plastic water bottles, plastic lids of different sizes, toilet paper/paper towel rolls, etc.

1pm-4pm: Solar Eclipse

There will be two Solar Eclipses visible from Oklahoma in the coming Months. October 14, 2023 is an Annular Solar Eclipse, and there will be a Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Learn activities to explain the science behind Solar Eclipses and how to view them safely.

Each participant will receive a set of 10 Eclipse Viewing Glasses.

Please bring a cereal box to create a pin-hole projector for viewing the eclipse.

CALENDAR

September 28-October 8 – Tulsa State Fair

October 7 - District fall trap shoot

October 11-13 – District Leadership Conferences

October 16 - New volunteer orientation

October 21 – Oklahoma 4-H Horse Heritage Day

October 24 – Say YES to FCS

October 25 – Deadline for ZZZ's Under the Seas

November 3-4 – ZZZ's Under the Seas

November 10 – LifeSmarts Scholarship applications due

November 11 – Horse Science Academy

November 11 – Robotics Exploitation

November 17 – Registration Due to State 4-H Office for New Mexico Senior Leadership Retreat

December 2 – Horse Volunteer Conference in Stillwater

December 11 - County 4-H leader and volunteer meeting

December 16 - District archery / air rifle contes

January 17 - County Share the Fun contest

January 18-22 – New Mexico Senior Leadership Retreat

January 27 - District 4-H Share the Fun contest

February 10 - District Public Speaking contest

February 10 - District volunteer conference

April 6 - District Duds to Dazzle contest

May 4 - District spring trap shoot (tentative)

May 11 - District STEM day

May 31-June 1 - District horse show

June 13 or 14 - District Culinary contests

June 25 - District Discovery Day

July 16-18 – Big Three

July 24-26 - Roundup

New Mexico 4-H Senior Leadership Retreat

Oklahoma 4-H will once again be taking an Oklahoma delegation to the New Mexico Senior Leadership Retreat January 18-22. This year, we will be traveling to Las Cruces, New Mexico and are making plans to see Carlsbad Caverns and White Sands National Park along the way. Cost of the trip will be \$900 for youth participants. Last year's delegation strongly urged us to continue this opportunity as they felt that the workshops were worthwhile and enjoyed interacting with 4-H youth from a different state. As NMSLR provides different opportunities each year, we are going to allow participants who previously attended to return, if space allows. We are also seeking adults (volunteers or Educators) who would like to serve as chaperones on the trip. Registration and payment are due to the State 4-H Office November 17th.

There are two opportunities for financial support. First, the Rule of Law Scholarship is being offered by the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation to assist families who may need financial assistance in order to participate. Second, there is an opportunity to submit a proposal to conduct a workshop and financial assistance for those who participate. Both of these applications are due by **October 15th**.

2023 ZZZ's Under the Seas

Please note, refunds will not be given to those who have registered and cannot attend.

Ever dreamed of dreaming with the sharks or sea turtles? Come join us at the Aquarium for our ZZZs in the Seas overnight event! If sharks aren't your idea of a relaxing night's sleep, then feel free to slumber next to any of our other exhibits, except the beavers and the otters! The fun-filled night begins with check-in at 7:00 p.m. and includes a light snack, drinks, dive show (subject to tank conditions), self-guided scavenger hunt and flashlight tour, a movie and then sweet sea-themed dreams!

Oklahoma 4-H youth, parents, educators and volunteers will get to see thousands of salt and freshwater fish and animals. See the LARGEST bull sharks in captivity through a one-of-a-kind walk through tunnel, plus thousands of other captivating creatures including sea turtles, seahorses, jellyfish and eels. FEED and TOUCH stingrays and small sharks! You will be delighted by the playful river otters, beavers and raccoons.

Who can attend?

Everyone is invited to participate in this event, even non-4-H members. All participants will need to register online and have a current health form uploaded to their ZSuite account or have one on file at the Extension Office, this includes all adult chaperones. All youth must be accompanied by a parent or a certified volunteer.

Registration must be complete through ZSuite, and \$45.00 per person registration fee turned in at the county extension office. Registration for the event will close Oct. 25th.

Horse Science Academy

November 11, 2023 at Cline Equine Teaching Center. Cost is \$40 and includes lunch and supplies.

Topics this year include fecal exams and strategic deworming, understanding the equine digestive tract, BCS and weight assessment, equine genetics.

4-H Week and Month

National 4-H Week 2023 is coming up! Help us celebrate October 1st-7th.

Oklahoma celebrates all of October as Oklahoma 4-H month. The theme this year is—I ❤️ 4-H—and there is a marketing toolkit on SharePoint at the link <https://ostatemailokstate.sharepoint.com/sites/dasnr/4H/SitePages/4-H-Marketing-Toolkit.aspx>.

The toolkit consists of social media templates through Canva as well as materials provided by National 4-H Council and the proclamation word document. Download cool social media resources and print marketing graphics to help promote this awesome week!

Oklahoma Robotics Exploration Day

November 11, 2023 at OSU in Stillwater. 8:00 – 4:00. In the morning participants will learn about careers and different robot programs. Then in the afternoon you will participate in a hands-on breakout over the robot of your choice. The event is open to all 4-H members, educators, and volunteers. All youth attending must be accompanied by a certified volunteer or county extension educator.

Registration must be completed through ZSuite, and \$10.00 registration fee turned in at the county extension office. Registration for the event will close October 20th.

Shooting Sports Level 1 Instructor Training

4-H Shooting Sports Level 1 instructor training March 23-24, 2024 at Oklahoma City Gun Club registration forms will be available soon on the website. Volunteers must have completed the volunteer certification for 4-H BEFORE registering for the class.

Shotgun, archery, rifle/pistol, muzzleloader, hunting skills, western heritage.

Registration due in county office by March 7th.



Heritage Scrapbook Project

What is our heritage? Heritage is something that belongs to us by reason of birth. It is the history of a family. Where the family came from and all of the traditions, customs and more that have been passed down from generation to generation make up a family's heritage.

It is important for youth to learn about their family and gain an greater appreciation for their family heritage. The Heritage Scrapbook Project will take some time to research and develop. You will build and grow your project as you grow. As you work through this project, take your time and explore the many facets of your family.

The Heritage Scrapbook manual provides activities for each age group. There are required and optional activities to include in the scrapbook. Page 4 of the manual provides more information on putting together a Heritage Scrapbook. Page 5 outlines the required and optional activities for each age division. The age divisions include:

- Beginner -- Ages 9-11
- Intermediate -- Ages 12-14
- Advanced -- Ages 15-19

How do I get started? The Heritage Scrapbook project can be taught by a leader or teen leader to a group of 4-H members or as an individual study project. Lessons are easy to follow. Print off the manual and get started with your project today!

Can I enter my Heritage Scrapbook in the Fair? YES! There is a class in the Fair for each level of the Heritage Scrapbook. The classes are included in the Personal Development category.

Contact the county extension office for more information.

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

Office Hours

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

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Dewey County Extension Educator FCS/4-H &
CED



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

Sign up at 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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4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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