



NEWSLETTER

Oklahoma 4-H launches second annual virtual fishing tournament

Building on last year's inaugural success, Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development will host the second annual Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Fishing Tournament April 1 through June 1. The statewide tournament is designed to make fishing accessible, family-friendly, and educational.

This year's event expands with online classes and the addition of an adult division to encourage family participation alongside youth.

"We're excited to expand the tournament with more educational components, including Zoom classes with industry professionals, and the addition of an adult division that promotes family outdoor recreation and involvement," said Ruth Pratt, [OSU Extension](#) state program specialist.

The virtual format allows youth from across the state to compete close to home on their own schedules. Participants submit catches during the tournament window using the FishDonkey app in three categories — bass, crappie, and catfish — with awards for junior and senior divisions, plus adult division recognitions. Cloverbuds may participate for fun by sharing photos of their catches.

"The virtual format helps knock down access barriers that can keep youth from participating in traditional fishing tournaments," Pratt said. "You don't need a boat or transportation to a certain part of the state. You just need a rod and reel, a measuring board, and

an internet-capable device. Anglers can fish any Oklahoma waters as long as Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation regulations are followed."

Last year's participants said the structure allowed them to try out new fishing spots and sharpen skills.

"The tournament was fun because it pushed me to fish my best and try new places," said Tate Straub of Jackson County, the 2025 junior division Grand Slam champion.

Pratt said she hopes the tournament gets more families outdoors together, building skills and making memories.

"You don't need prior experience to participate," she said. "It's a fun learning opportunity for everyone and a great way to practice healthy living, outdoor safety and environmental education."

Active 4-H'ers and adults can register in [ZSuite](#) March 2 through April 1 for \$40. After that, late registration is available for \$50 until April 30. There is no fee for Cloverbud participation.

To learn more about the tournament or using the FishDonkey app, contact Ruth Pratt at ruth.pratt@okstate.edu or [\(405\) 744-8886](tel:4057448886). For questions about registration and ZSuite, contact Leah Haxton at leah.g.haxton@okstate.edu or [\(405\) 744-8891](tel:4057448891).

More information about [Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development](#) is available online.

Dewey County Extension Office

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Social Media

Facebook: Dewey County 4-H

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Dewey County Farm Safety Day

The annual Dewey County Farm Safety Day for 1st and 2nd graders will be held on April 21, 2026. 4-H teen leaders (grade 7th and up) may gain some leadership experience by assisting or conducting an educational session. Adult volunteers are also needed. If you can't help on Farm Safety Day, consider volunteering to help set up or clean-up. In addition to presenting sessions, volunteers can help in the kitchen with snacks and lunch for the volunteers or help with the flow of students throughout the day.

Contact the extension office for more information or to volunteer.

Summer Project Days

Plans are being made for summer project days. Youth and adult volunteer are encouraged to share your knowledge and skills with 4-H'ers. Contact the extension office to discuss ways you can help or to offer suggestions for Project Days topics.

Nature Navigators

Congratulations to the 14 Dewey County 4-H members that earned their fall Nature Navigator Sticker Badge.

Remember the winter season ends March 15th. Enter your reflection answers and picture on zsuites by March 15, 2026, to earn you Winter Sticker Badge. The spring nature navigator project will cover April, May, and June. Members will sign up for the spring session on zsuites.

Save the Date – Watch for more information

Multi County 4-H Camp

June 24-26

N.W. Baptist Campground – Vici
Camper's grades 3-7
Counsellor's – completed grade 7-12

Roundup

July 22-24

7th -12th grade members

Discovery Day And Volunteer Conference – Woodward

July 1, 2026

All 4-H members

State 4-H Record Books

4-H members who have completed grade 7-12 are invited to submit a state record book. Be sure you use the updated form that is on the state 4-H website. Record books need to be submitted to the county office by April 22, 2026. The top three record books in each project area will be notified after May 12th. Interviews will be held on June 9th to select the first-place winner.

Contact Jean for assistance or additional information.

4-H Leader and Parents Meeting March 26, 2026, at 5:30 County Fairgrounds

All 4-H Leaders and parents are welcome to attend the meeting. Agenda items will include upcoming district and state events, county summer activities, and leadership opportunities.

Everyone is invited to the 4th Annual Langston Conference on Food & Agricultural systems topics will include goats, hair sheep, and emerging technology.
April 30- May 2, 2026

**105th State 4-H Roundup
July 22-24, 2026**

**Roundup cost \$220/ person
County Night Out (optional) July 21
\$250 including County Night Out**

All 7th grade and above 4-H members are invited to attend.
Several state contests are held at state Round up.
Contact the county extension office by May 18th to register.

**Oklahoma Department of Agriculture,
Food and Forestry - Forestry Camp
Registration**

Do you know a 13–15-year-old who needs to unplug from his or her electronic devices and enjoy an adventure in the forest? At Oklahoma Forestry Youth Camp, kids learn from experts from different parts of the forestry sector to learn about sustainability, conservation, and management of the forests- all while having a ton of fun! We are a sleepaway camp that offers swimming, canoeing, hiking, wood turning, fly fishing, archery, tree climbing and the take notes opportunity to make new friends, all while learning about the environment.

Check out the camp video and previous camp photos for a look at a day in the life of Forestry Camp!

This year, camp happens June 15-20, 2026, at Beavers Bend State Park. Registration is \$100 and includes cabin lodging, meals, and programming for the week. Scholarships are available based on need and availability. **Registration deadline is May 1.**

Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Fishing Tournament

April 1 – June 1, 2026

Each 4-H family entered is responsible for the safety of individual youth anglers within their family registered for the tournaments in any fishing activities related to the tournament.

Registration Opens: March 2

Cost: Early Bird Registration \$40 per angler

Tournament Begins: April 1 – June 1, 2026

4-H youth anglers (3rd-12th grades): must be enrolled and in "Active" status.

Cloverbuds (K-2nd grades): There is no fee for Cloverbud participation; however, they must be registered in ZSuites. Cloverbuds participate for bragging rights and a certificate.

Literacy Educational Grant Program

The Oklahoma 4-H Foundation is happy to announce the 2026 AARP Digital Literacy Educational Grant Program.

Submission due date is Tuesday, March 23, by 5:00pm.

Thanks to a generous grant from AARP Oklahoma, the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, Inc. is awarding up to five (5) grants in the amount of \$1,000 each for Oklahoma 4-H clubs to offer technology-focused educational programs to senior adults.

Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP began in 2004 with the goal of helping seniors learn and use technology so they could live better in the digital age.

Part of the OATS mission is to help senior adults feel more confident connecting socially online, enable them to find resources for their needs (including healthcare and financial services) online, and to generally feel more connected to the world.

To learn more about this exciting new 4-H grants program and proposal requirements, click the information button below.

<https://oklahoma4hfoundation.com/community-beautification-project-grants-1>

West District Horsemanship Clinic April 11th, 2026

The West District Horsemanship Clinic will be held at the Alfalfa County Fairgrounds on April 11th from 10:00 AM – 2:00PM featuring clinician Erin White. This is a mounted clinic! Bring your horse! Youth must be accompanied by an adult. There is a \$25 registration fee due by April 10th call the Alfalfa County Extension Office to register. (580) 596-3131.



WEST DISTRICT NORTH REGION 4-H HORSE SHOW & RANCH HORSE SHOW

May 29 & 30, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
Alfalfa County Fairgrounds, West 5th
Street, Cherokee, OK

PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY

A Horse Certification Form is required. The exhibitor and a parent or guardian must sign certifying that they meet ownership requirements and will comply with the general rules and regulations and code of ethics governing Oklahoma 4-H Horse Shows. Your Extension Educator's signature is required on the Horse Certification form. They are signing only that the 4-H member is enrolled and meets age and eligibility requirements. Entries must be received by the extension office by March 18th. Contact the extension office for more information.

The Rockin' Rabbit Show

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - at Hanger 36 in Altus

9:00 – noon Rockin' Animal craft contest, Rabbit fun quiz, showmanship clinic and contest
1:00 P.M. Rabbit Show
Open to all youth – ages 4 to 18 - Entry fee \$3.00 per rabbit.

4-H Calendar

March 18: Registration deadline for West District Horse Show

March 18- Round Up Registration Due

March 25-29 IGNITE

March 26 – 4-H leaders & Parents Meeting

March 27: District culinary contests

March 28-29: Shooting Sports Instructor Training

March 29-30 District Horse Show

March 31: District contest day

April 1-June 1: Okla. 4-H Fishing tournament

April 7 – S.E. District Livestock Judging

April 10-15: National 4-H Conference

April 11 – West District Horsemanship Clinic

April 18 – Rockin' Rabbit Show, Altus

April 21 – Farm Safety Day

April 22: Okla. 4-H Day at the Capitol

April 22 – State Record books due

April 30 – May 2 – Langston Conference on Food & Agricultural Systems

May 1 – Registration due for Forestry Camp

May 29-30 West District Horse Show

June 13-23: Citizen Washington Focus

June 15-20 – Forestry Camp

June 21-26: National 4-H Shooting Sports Grand Island

June 24 – 26 – Multi County 4-H Camp, Vici

June 26-27: Okla. Extension Conference on Volunteerism

July 1: District Discovery Day

July 22-24: State 4-H Round Up

Sept. 9-12: County Fair

Adult Volunteers: Step Into District and State Leadership Role!

Oklahoma 4-H is looking for passionate, certified adult volunteers who are ready to make a bigger impact! The Oklahoma 4-H State Volunteer Board is seeking leaders to help strengthen and support youth and volunteers across our state.

Why Serve?

State Volunteer Board members play a **key role** in:

- Expanding the reach of 4-H at the **local, county, district, and state levels**
- Supporting and mentoring volunteers
- Strengthening the overall 4-H program through leadership and service

If you—or someone you know—has a heart for service and strong leadership skills, now is the perfect time to step forward!

Deadline Extended: March 20

Application, position descriptions, and the Board Bylaws can be found at:

<https://4h.okstate.edu/members/state-volunteer-board/>

Important: Applications must include:

- A county Educator's signature
- A letter of reference

Contact your extension office for more information.



2026 Tuesday Tool Time Schedule

The OK 4-H Volunteer Board has planned another year of timely topics for parents, volunteers, and Extension educators. **Each session has its own [registration link](#)** and scheduled from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

May 19 - [Beyond the Basics: Creative Club Meetings that Click](#) – Learn easy ways to add creativity, youth voice, and hands-on activities to your club meetings. This session offers simple strategies that make meetings smoother, more engaging, and more memorable.

Aug 4 - Volunteer & Leadership Development

Nov 3 - [STEM in Your Club and Project Areas](#)

Dec 1 - [Next Steps of Leadership](#)

Southwest District 4-H Invitational Livestock Judging Contest

The Southeast District 4-H Invitation Livestock Judging Contest will be held April 7, 2026, at the Johnston County Fairgrounds in Tishomingo, OK. Registration is from 8AM – 9AM with contest orientation beginning at 9:00 AM and contest will begin immediately after orientation. Awards will be mailed.

- Pre-registration of teams is required by March 26 on judgincard.com Murray State College Link
- Open to all Oklahoma 4-H members who have been in active status in 4-H Zsutes at least 30 days prior to the contest date.
- Jr's 3rd – 7th grade – 2 sets of reasons
- Sr's 8th – 12th grade – 2 sets of reasons



West District 4-H Contest Days March 31, 2026 ~ Burns Flat, OK

Contact the extension office for to register for these district contests. Deadline is March 18th.

- Speech Contest
- Livestock Skillathon
- Livestock Quizbowl
- Educational Displays
- Clover Quizbowl
- Consumer Judging



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OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**Dewey County
Extension Office**

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