



4-H CLOVER CONNECTION

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POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY 4-H'ER HAS A BIG HEART FOR PROJECT WORK

Pottawatomie County 4-H'er Grace Hobbs has a big heart and she's hoping to make a difference to nursing home residents across the state this Valentine's Day – and she's hoping Oklahoma 4-H'ers will want to help.

Hobbs, a member of the North Rock Creek 4-H Club, began creating Valentine's cards for local nursing homes in Shawnee two years ago. The first year she took cards to nine nursing homes and the project grew to 16 nursing homes the next year. In 2024, Hobbs would love to see nursing home residents in all 77 counties get Valentine cards, and she's offering free card kits to help make this project as big as possible.

Hobbs delivered 500 cards in 2022 and doubled that amount in 2023. With the help of 4-H'ers across the state, she is hoping for 2,000 or more cards to be delivered to Oklahoma nursing home residents for Valentine's Day in 2024.

"I think this is important because nursing home residents deserve to be loved and it's a great way for 4-H'ers to be involved in their communities," Hobbs said.

This project started after a conversation with her aunt who is the director of rehabilitation in a nursing home. Hobbs said her aunt told her about how the nursing home residents feel lonely a lot of the time.

"They get lots of visitors at Christmas, but the rest of the winter can be sad for them. This is one way we can help brighten their days," she said.

Hobbs is making Valentine card kits, free of charge, for any 4-H'er or 4-H club who wants them. The kit includes lacing hearts, needles, yarn, construction paper and a link to an instructional video. Use [this link](#) to place orders and this [link contains additional information](#) about Hobbs' project and what steps club members need to take in their counties. "This project just really warms my heart. When I delivered the cards, some of the residents told me stories about when they were involved in 4-H," Hobbs said. "I hope other 4-H'ers who participate learn that helping people is important."

Hobbs said she is thankful to her family and friends who donated the supplies needed to make the card kits so she can offer them free of charge to 4-H'ers who want to participate.

Kacie Jasper, [Oklahoma State University Extension](#) 4-H educator in [Pottawatomie County](#), said she will bring the kits to OSU Extension's Biennial Conference in Stillwater that takes place Jan. 10-12 for educators to pick up. Orders must be placed by Jan. 5 to be picked up in Stillwater.

"It's exciting as an educator when a member is able to identify needs in the community and comes up with a plan to meet those needs and connect it to their 4-H project," Jasper said. "Grace is involved in the fabrics and fashions project and she has been able to connect the dots between basic sewing skills she has learned, teaching others and meeting a need in the community by bringing joy to nursing home residents."

Providing hands-on learning opportunities has been the backbone of the [4-H Youth Development](#) program since it started. These learning opportunities help youth develop skills they'll use throughout their lives. Jasper said when club members interact with the nursing home residents who often may not get the same kind of daily interaction and socialization they once had, it's beneficial to the residents, but also the club members.

"The daily lives of youth are typically busy, and having youth take time to slow down and build connections with another generation reminds us of how important it is to show others they are valued and not forgotten," she said. "We can learn from each other."

Hobbs is utilizing the skills she learned through her fabrics and fashions project, and she's now teaching those skills others. She's developing her written and verbal communication skills, as well as learning graphic design and planning skills as she develops her marketing material. In addition, she's also building her public speaking and technology skills with the development of her video tutorials.

For more information about taking part in Hobbs' Valentine project, contact Jasper at 405-273-7683 or Kacie.jasper@okstate.edu. Remember, the deadline to order card kits to be picked up at OSU Extension's Biennial Conference is Jan. 5.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Cloverbuds	Jan. 24
District 4-H Has Talent	Jan. 27
Sewing Club	Jan. 29
Cooking Club	Jan. 31
Horse Club	Feb. 6
Robotics	Feb. 7
County Speech/Job Readiness	Feb. 7
West Dist. Speaking Contest	Feb. 10
West Dist. Volunteer Conf.	Feb. 10
Recycling Club	Feb. 13
PLO	Feb. 19
Cooking Club	Feb. 20
Adult Sewing Class	Feb. 21
Cloverbuds	Feb. 28
Sewing Club	Feb. 29
Leadership Summit	March 1-2
Dress Revue/Impressive Dress	April 3



PLO meeting to be held on February 19 at 5:30

- 2023-24 COUNTY OFFICERS**
- ◆ President— Summer Prince
 - ◆ V. President— Bailey Nickels
 - ◆ Secretary— Shelbi Prince
 - ◆ Reporter—Joe Sharp
 - ◆ Recreation Leader—Monte McReynolds
 - ◆ Executive— Josiah Benson

SEWING CLUB

Sewing club will be held January 29th, sign-up by January 24th and February 29th, sign-up by February 22. Both start at 4.



CLOVERBUDS

All cloverbuds are invited to come join the fun at the Extension Office January 24th and February 28th, at 4:30.



COOKING CLUB

The date for Cooking club has been changed to January 31st at 4. The February meeting will be on the 20th at 4:30. Sign-up by February 14th.

Remember we are cooking and practicing food safety. Please have your child come with their hair pulled back!



SEWING CLASS FOR ADULTS

There will be a beginning sewing class for adults only on Wednesday, February 21st at 10 am. Participants will be making an apron.

Bring 1 1/2 yards of cotton or cotton blend material and matching thread. You can bring your own sewing machine or there are a few available for you to use. Call to reserve a machine if you need one.



ROBOTICS CLUB

Interested in coding and robotics? Come to the next robotics meeting February 7th, at 4 pm, at the Extension office.



Join the GroupMe!



2024 BE THE BEST IN OKLAHOMA 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

ENTRY INFORMATION:

Members may only participate in either the prerecorded video contest or the in-person contest, but not both. Youth are limited to one (1) presentation.

Due to rising costs of awards: A \$5 registration fee per participant in both the prerecorded video and the in-person contest is requested mailed to Pontotoc County 4-H, 1700 N. Broadway, Ada, OK 74820. Please note the participants name(s) along with the registration fee. No refunds. Families will enter themselves.

Pre-Recorded Video entries are due on or before Friday, May 3. Entries should be submitted at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/210336187529155>

In-Person entries are due on or before Friday, May 3. Entries should be submitted by postal mail using the provided entry form/scoresheet. Contest date and location: Saturday, May 18, Pontotoc County Extension Office/Agriplex – Ada.

For entry form, please contact the office.



2024 INNOVATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The 2024 Innovate Leadership Summit will take place March 1-2 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Guthrie, OK. Tracks for this year's summit include Engineering and Natural Resources. Participants will also learn a set of Computer Science lessons.

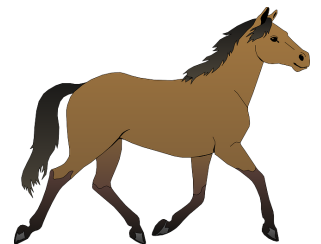
Applicants must be active 4-H Members in Grades 8-12 and have an adult partner registered to attend. Adult partners must be a Certified 4-H Volunteer. Adults may partner with more than one youth.

Applications are due by Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 5pm.

Cost is \$50. For application to attend, please contact the office.

HORSE CLUB

The next horse club meeting will be February 6, at 5 pm at the Extension office. You don't have to own a horse to be in horse club. Come learn something new!



Join the GroupMe app:



4-H TUESDAY TOOL TIME



For Volunteers, Parents and Extension Professionals

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. These are on zoom.

2024 Quarterly Schedule and Registration Links:

- January 23 – Registration for 4-H 101: Tips and tricks for keeping the club organized and informed <https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqcO2upzsoEtdXYX8-aoBzXPM4nIlgG8wc#/registration>
- April 23 – Registration for “Project” Success: A Curriculum Smorgasbord #1 – Forestry, Wildlife, Outdoor Skills https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvceiuqDqvGtldoL_4IirED4s2INghCuFy#/registration
- June 25 - Registration for “Project” Success: A Curriculum Smorgasbord #2 – 4-H Cooking 101-401, Hobbies/Textiles Design and Construction, and Electric Excitement <https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqceisqikiH9RV0pPFcvthr-ZPxQdRhHvK#/registration>
- October 22 – Register for Set the Record Straight 4-H Record Books bring lots of questions. Most are answered with planning quality project work. https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0of-6urDspEtN7GQKZIWBX_xwVB5F6v4Ai#/registration

WEST DISTRICT SPEECH CONTEST AND VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE February 10, 2024

For information and how to sign-up for the West District Public Speaking Contest and Volunteer Conference, contact the office. Registration must be done by January 25, 2024.

Be sure to ‘like’ and follow Garfield County 4-H to keep up on reminders and the latest in 4-H.



RECYCLING CLUB

Come join the fun at Recycling Club at the Extension office! The next class will be February 13, at 4:30.

Call the Extension office to sign up, limited 15 spaces.



Are you currently in the 8th Grade or older? You are eligible to do a State 4-H Record Book. These books are due in April and can earn you scholarship money! If you are interested in completing a book, please let me know so we can start now.



Attention Seniors and College Students: Pickens Legacy Scholarships will be due February 1. You MUST ATTEND OSU to receive Pickens scholarships.

Level III and Level IV Scholarships will be due in April and many can be used at any accredited college or trade school.

More information at: <https://4h.okstate.edu/members/record-book-and-scholarship-information/record-book-and-scholarship-info.html>

COUNTY SPEECH AND JOB READINESS CONTEST

County Speech and Job Readiness Contest will be February 7th at 6:00 at Monroe Elementary. MUST register at <https://bit.ly/countyspeech> by JANUARY 29th at 5:00 PM. If they plan to do the Job Readiness contest, contact the office for the packet.

Information and rules can be found in the green yearbook on pages 33-35.

NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED.





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Jessica Nickels



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Extension Educator 4-H & Youth Development

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"Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact (Jessica Nickels, Extension Educator, 4-H) at (580-237-1228 or jessica.nickels@okstate.edu) at least two weeks prior to the event."

