



4-H CLOVER CONNECTION

<http://oces.okstate.edu/garfield>
<http://extension.okstate.edu/county/west-district/>
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July 2025

Brighter Future Program Prepares Students for the Future

Oklahoma high school students are getting help navigating the road post-high school thanks to a program offered through [Oklahoma State University Extension](http://oces.okstate.edu/garfield).

The Brighter Future program is a college and career readiness program that connects freshmen through senior high school students with the tools they'll need to navigate the path toward college enrollment or other post-high school career opportunities.

Numerous schools across Oklahoma opened their doors three years ago to 4-H Youth Development educators and certified volunteers to come into the classroom to teach the program, said Mindy Aragon, OSU Extension Brighter Future state specialist.

"The inaugural class will be starting their senior year of high school in the fall," Aragon said. "Our 4-H educators and certified volunteers have been in the classroom providing educational opportunities and guidance for students regarding their next step after high school graduation."

A big part of Brighter Future is career exploration through college or trade school, joining the workforce right out of high school or for those considering a military career. Students who complete the program have pre-admittance to OSU.

Each year of the program has a different focus on the skills youth need to succeed, including public speaking, time management, preparing a resume, filling out a job application, reading and note-taking, as well as learning more about the college application process, scholarships, financial aid and money management.

For three years, Brighter Future was available only in the classroom, but starting in the fall, interested high school students will have the option to participate online. A training session for OSU Extension educators who are interested in implementing the Brighter Future program is slated Aug. 12. More information will soon be available regarding the training.

"Our goal is to have Brighter Future available in every county in the state," Aragon said.

Savanna 4-H Club member Natalie Hollingshead said creating a timeline and schedule for college as part of Brighter Future helped her understand what she needed to do to prepare.

"It really opened my eyes to how different college would be compared to high school," she said. "It made everything feel more real and showed me how to plan ahead so I can succeed."

Hollingshead, who plans to become a neurosurgeon, said she's always had a clear idea of where she wanted her future to go, but Brighter Future gave her a better understanding of the path she needed to take to achieve her goals.

"The program helped me figure out what type of schooling and learning environment works best for me, which is just as important as knowing what I want to do. I feel more confident and prepared to pursue my goals in a way that fits my strengths," she said.

Greg Owen, Pittsburg County OSU Extension educator, has been a part of Brighter Future since its inception and has enjoyed implementing the program in the Crowder and Savanna school systems.

"The feedback I get is the material is very beneficial to answering a great deal of the questions students have for their post-high school plans," Owen said. "I have seen with each year that we progress with the program, the questions increase from the students. I believe the closer graduation is to a reality for the students, the more questions they know to ask, and the curriculum provides me guidance to help answer those questions for the students."

He is looking forward to another year of the program when he'll wrap up the fourth year with his inaugural students.

"It's my goal that when we're done, they feel as prepared as possible for their lives after high school," Owen said.

The 4-H Youth Development program has a new national campaign called Beyond Ready, which fits hand-in-hand with Brighter Future.

"4-H has a great focus on the development of life skills in youth and this structured curriculum is a great way to deliver that information," Aragon said. "It helps students take what they're learning in their core subjects and enables them to focus on career development for the future."

For more information about Brighter Future, contact Aragon at 405-744-7690 or mindy.aragon@okstate.edu.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Beginning Sewing	July 9-10
Bread and Jam Class	July 11
PLO	July 14
Repurpose Workshop	July 16
Wheat Show Samples Due	July 16
Adulting 11	July 17
4-H Tuesday Tool Time	July 22
State 4-H Roundup	July 22-25
Diamond Art Class	July 28
Lego Marble Run WS	July 29
County Cloverbud WS	July 30

Shooting Sports Instructor	
Training Registration Due	Aug 4
Shooting Sports Instructor	
Training	Aug. 16-17
County Record Books Due	Aug. 4

Garfield County Fair	Sep. 11-14
Oklahoma State Fair	Sep. 12-21
Tulsa State Fair	Sep. 25-Oct. 5

Dist. Leadership Conf. Oct 15 - 17



PLO meeting to be held in July 14 at 5:30

2025-26 COUNTY OFFICERS

- ♦ President— Shelbi Prince
- ♦ V. President— Joe Sharp
- ♦ Secretary— Bailey Nickels
- ♦ Reporter— Sydnee Prince
- ♦ Recreation Leader— Bentley Wickersham
- ♦ Executives — Jayton Zimmerman & Lindy Pitts

TULSA STATE FAIR DEADLINES

July 7, 2025: Junior Market Broiler Order Deadline

July 7, 2025: Junior Livestock Show Nomination Deadline

August 1, 2025: Livestock & Horse Show Entries Open

August 25, 2025: Livestock & Horse Show Entry Deadline

September 5, 2025: Contest Deadline

September 5, 2025: Livestock & Horse Show Late Entry Deadline

September 8, 2025: Late Contest Entry Deadline

September 19, 2025: 4-H & FFA Competitive Exhibits Entry Deadline

September 22, 2025: Junior Livestock Show Substitution Deadline

FAIR DATES: SEPT. 25—OCT. 5

QUESTIONS:

Michelle Helm, Agribusiness Event Coordinator

(918) 744-1113 x2051

(918) 744-1113 x2012



EYO at the Oklahoma State Fair

If you haven't heard already, the OYE staff will be running EYO at the Oklahoma State Fair September 10 - 14.

Entries: Online starting Aug. 1 - Aug. 22.

State Fair Dates: Sept. 12- Sept. 21

OYE: (405) 235-0404



JUNIOR RECORD BOOKS

DUE TO 4-H OFFICE: August 4, 2025.

The form for the junior record book is located on our

Garfield County website:

<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/garfield/4-h.html>



2025-2026 4-H Enrollment

Enrollment for the new 4-H year will begin August 1, 2025

Anyone that is 8 AND in the 3rd grade or 9 years old may join 4-H. Members must be enrolled 30 days prior to compete in a county event and 60 days prior to compete in a state event. Enrollment is not complete until the \$20 enrollment fee is paid.

YOU MUST BE RE-ENROLLED TO COMPETE AT THE COUNTY FAIR

4-H TUESDAY TOOL TIME

4-H TUESDAY
TOOL TIME



For Volunteers, Parents and Extension Professionals

2025 Quarterly Webinars
6:30 – 7:30

Registration Necessary

July 22 – Club Management; Strengthening Your Club Officers and/or Leadership Team

October 28 – Project Leaders and Project Groups Spark Interest



Registration Link

BREAD AND JAM CLASS FRIDAY, JULY 11, 10-1

What could go wrong with this combination?

Class will be held where each participant will prepare, and water bath food preserve a jar of jam and a loaf of yeast bread ready for baking.

Information will be shared on proper food preservation techniques for safety and the science of yeast bread.

Cost is \$15 and includes supplies, instructions and recipes for homemade jam and bread.

Must register by July 7.



DIAMOND ART CLASS July 28, 10-12

Come work on a Diamond Art coaster for the county fair.
Cost is \$2.

Call the office to register by July 23.



Summer Workshops

Workshops are for 4-H age members, not Cloverbuds, EXCEPT the Cloverbud workshop.

This means youth who have just completed the 3rd grade.

Repurpose Workshop: July 16, 2:00 – 4:00: Come make a small bag out of a banner. Must sign-up by July 10th. Space is limited.

Lego Marble Run Workshop: July 29, 10-2: Come work as a team to build a giant marble run in the conference room. *Must bring a lunch and sign up by July 23.*

County Cloverbud Workshop: July 30, 2:00-4:00: All Cloverbuds welcome to craft and learn with the teen leaders! *Must sign-up by July 21.*

2025 4-H Wheat Show

If you are interested in more information about the state wheat show, please contact the office.

All 10 pound wheat samples will need to be delivered to Stillwater by 8:15am on July 16.

4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training

Certification Training for 4-H Adult Volunteers in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program

The 4-H Shooting Sports program is one of the largest 4-H programs in the nation. Community-based and family-oriented, it offers a diverse curriculum that not only helps young people develop good citizenship, personal responsibility, and leadership skills but also teaches shooting safety and gun owner responsibility. Leaders will be trained to help youth learn self-discipline, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and an appreciation for the great outdoors.

Training Dates: August 16-17, 2025

Location: Fairview, OK – Major County Fairgrounds and Historical Society

Cost: \$100, registration fee covers instructor manual, class materials, meals, snacks, and insurance.

Courses: Shotgun, Archery, Rifle/Pistol, Muzzleloader, Hunting Skills, Western Heritage

Registration fee must be paid online or to County OSU Extension Office by August 4, 2025.

Requirements:

- ♦ Shooting Sports Instructor Training participants must be a certified 4-H Volunteer in their home county.
- ♦ All adults serving as county coaches in any discipline or as the county coordinator of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program must complete and pass the entire training in their discipline or as a coordinator and the Youth Development/Risk Management component.
- ♦ The instructor in each class reserves the right to NOT certify a person if he/she feels the candidate will not be a competent instructor or coordinator.

An Adult Medical Form 4 is required for each participant.

We highly recommend you complete &/or update the Medical Health form in your ZSuite volunteer enrollment.

Registration - <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/39987>





ADULTING 101 JULY 17, 1:00 - 9:00

Youth 7th Grade and older. . . Join us for Adulting 101 & Dance on Thursday, July 17th at the Grady County Fairgrounds.

Find out some of the things you need to know about Personal Safety, Shopping on a Budget, Car Maintenance and much more.

Cost is \$10 and you must bring a completed Youth Information Form.

Dinner is provided and we'll Dance after dinner!

Register by July 10th! Space is limited!

Here is a link to Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/66YDQUTDnu>

Questions: Call Liz Taylor 405-224-2216 or email :: liz.taylor10@okstate.edu



GARFIELD COUNTY FAIR Wed. Sept. 10 - Sun. Sept. 14 Chisholm Trail Expo Center, Enid



Changes for 2025 County Fair

There will be a few changes in the fair due to the fair date changing that will affect 4-H entries only. In order to have 4-H entries judged so they can be entered in the state fair, we will judge entries the week before the county fair.

September 4: ALL 4-H entries due to Expo Center for judging by 6:00. 4-H food entries may still arrive on September 5 by 9:30.

September 4: Consumer Judging, FCS Skill-a-thon, and Livestock Skill-s-thon will be open 1-6 at the County Extension office.

September 5: 4-H Exhibit judging and building will be open from 3-7 for viewing of judged items.

September 10: ALL OPEN Class entries due to the fair by 6:00 for judging on September 11.

All 1st place 4-H items will be collected and taken to the OK State Fair on September 10 by our office and will not be on display during the county fair. 4-H entries will be due to the Expo Center by August 27 at 5:00PM.

The newspaper will no longer be printing the 4-H portion of the county fair. The 4-H entry information can be found online at the Chisholm Trail Expo website and copies will be available at the Extension office mid-July.

CAPITOL CAMP SEPTEMBER 3-4, 2025



Capitol Camp is an immersive two-day experience for incoming high school juniors and seniors to learn about Oklahoma's legislative process and how bills become law through a mock legislature held on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Sponsored and put on by the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, this camp proves to be a premier event to educate youth through hands-on methods about the government and legislative process. Before the camp, students will have the opportunity to write a piece of legislation about an issue important to them with help from mentors through informative Zoom calls.

Capitol Camp will be Sept. 3-4, 2025, and applications are available now and due on Aug. 15 to the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. For more information or the application, please visit: [Application Center | Oklahoma Farm Bureau](#).



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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."

