



4-H CLOVER CONNECTION

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February 2026

Youth Leadership Thrives in 4-H Ambassador Program

Since 1994, the Oklahoma 4-H Ambassador program has provided youth with opportunities to grow as leaders while promoting 4-H across the state. For many members, becoming a State 4-H Ambassador is more than a title — it is a chance to make a lasting impact.

“Being a State 4-H Ambassador is an honor, but it’s also one of the best ways a teen can stretch their leadership skills,” said Cathy Allen, 4-H curriculum coordinator at the state 4-H office at Oklahoma State University. “This program takes what’s already inside them, their potential, their passion, their story, and turns it into something bigger than them.”

Applications for the State 4-H Ambassador program are due March 15. Hard copies must be postmarked by that date, and electronic applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Applicants must be at least 13 years old and have one year of high school remaining.

State 4-H Ambassadors work with club members and adult partners to make their local 4-H program more visible in their county and across the state. They also play an important role in communicating with 4-H alumni and supporters. Ambassadors may remain in the program for the duration of their 4

-H careers, provided they remain in good standing.

Applicants who score the highest will advance to the interview selection day, which includes an extemporaneous speech, a face-to-face interview and a writing assignment.

For Taryn Gathers of Custer County, the decision to apply came after observing ambassadors at state events.

“I love to lead, but I don’t always feel the need to be front and center,” Gathers said. “I consider myself a ‘silent leader,’ someone who leads from behind the scenes. Seeing that leadership style reflected in the ambassador program is what encouraged me to apply.”

As an ambassador, Gathers has helped with major events such as the Clover Classic Golf Tournament and the Clover Bowl contest at State 4-H Roundup, and she met U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins during a visit to Express Ranch.

“Being an ambassador has strengthened my confidence, leadership and perseverance,” she said. “I’ve learned how to manage my time and set boundaries, which has helped me grow not only as a leader, but as a person.”

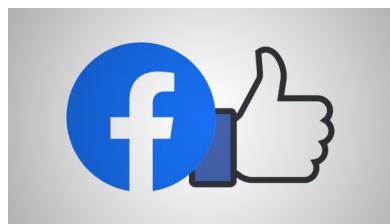
Rebecca Whiteley of McCurtain County became interested in the program after interacting with some of the ambassadors at State 4-H Roundup and said it was a major turning point for her.

“I met a few of the state ambassadors, and learning what they do and how the program helped them really inspired me,” she said. “That was what ultimately led me to apply.”

Whiteley’s favorite experience as an ambassador came during the 2025 State 4-H Roundup.

“I was able to meet and have lunch with Jill Bramble, president and CEO of the National 4-H Council,” she said. “She was extremely kind and supportive of our 4-H ventures, and this was an event I’ll never forget.”

For more information about the State 4-H Ambassador program or the application process, contact Allen at 405-744-8892 or cathy.allen@okstate.edu.



DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Pickens Legacy Scholarship Due | Feb 1 |
| County Speech and Jo Readiness | Feb 5 |
| Expressive Arts Club | Feb 5 |
| Horse Club | Feb 9 |
| Junky to Funky | Feb 11 |
| Sewing Club | Feb 12 |
| Garfield Cnty Jr Livestock Show | Feb 13-15 |
| PLO | Feb 16 |
| Lego Club | Feb 17 |
| Cooking Club | Feb 19 |
| NW Dist. Jr Livestock Show | Feb 21-27 |
| Cloverbuds | Feb 25 |
| Horse Club | Mar 2 |
| Expressive Arts Club | Mar 5 |
| Junky to Funky | Mar 9 |
| Sewing Club | Mar 10 |
| OYE | Mar 8-20 |
| PLO | Mar 23 |
| Lego Club | Mar 24 |
| Cloverbuds | Mar 25 |
| Cooking Club | Mar 26 |
| Junky to Funky | Apr 8 |
| Sewing Club | Apr 9 |
| Horse Club | Apr 13 |
| Expressive Arts Club | Apr 14 |
| PLO | Apr 20 |
| Lego Club | Apr 21 |
| Cloverbuds | Apr 29 |
| Cooking Club | Apr 30 |

CLOVERBUDSFebruary 25 @ 4:30 pm. *Must sign up by February 20.***COOKING CLUB**February 19 @ 4:30 pm. *Must sign up by February 12.*Remember we are cooking and practicing food safety.
Please have your child come with their hair pulled back!**SEWING CLUB**

February 12 @ 4:00 pm.

*Must sign up by February 5.*Also, you **ALWAYS**
need your sewing
kit.**LEGO CLUB**

February 17 @ 4:30 pm.

Must sign up by February 10.

PLO
February 16
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

JUNKY TO FUNKY CRAFT CLUBFebruary 11 @ 4:30 pm. *Must sign up by February 4.*

Please bring a cereal box.

**EXPRESSIVE ARTS CLUB**February 5 @ 4:30 pm. *Must sign up/pay by January 29.***Cost is \$5.00**

We will be making a burlap heart door sign.

HORSE CLUB

February 9 @ 4:00 pm at the Extension Center.

You don't have to own a horse to be in Horse Club.

**ROBOTICS CLUB**

Robotics club is postponed until a leader is found.

If you are interested, contact the office.



4-H TUESDAY TOOL TIME



2026 Quarterly Webinars

6:30 – 7:30

Registration Necessary

February 3 — Lead the Way: Guiding Youth in Service Project Success

May 19 — Beyond the Basics: Creative Club Meetings that Click

August 4 — Volunteer & Leadership Development—TBD

November 3 — STEM in Your Club and Project Areas

December 1 — Next Steps of Leadership



Registration Link

STATE 4-H AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

State 4-H Ambassador applications are now open, and Oklahoma 4-H is seeking outstanding young leaders ready to represent our program with enthusiasm, professionalism, and service.

The Ambassador role offers youth the opportunity to share the 4-H story, strengthen their communities through alumni and donor relations, and serve as a positive voice for 4-H across the state.

If you know a motivated 4-H member age 13 or older with at least one year of high school remaining, this is their chance to inspire others and gain leadership skills.

Applications are due March 15, 2026.

For more information visit: <https://4h.okstate.edu/members/4h-ambassadors/>

2026 Be The BEST In Oklahoma 4-H Public Speaking Contest Registration Deadline May 1

ENTRY INFORMATION:

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

Pre-Recorded Video entries and \$5 registration fee are due on or before Friday, May 1 mailed to:

Pontotoc County
4-H 1700 N. Broadway
Ada, OK 74820.

They should note the county and participant(s) name in a note along with the registration fee. There is not a paper form for video entries. All the information is captured in the JotForm when they sign up. Video uploads should be submitted at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/210336187529155>

In-Person entries and \$5 registration fee are due on or before Friday, May 1. Entries should be mailed using the provided entry form/scoresheet attached to Pontotoc County 4-H, 1700 N. Broadway, Ada OK 74820. Contest date and location: Saturday, May 16, Pontotoc County Extension Office/Agriplex – Ada OK. Registration at 9:30a; Contest at 10a

For more information on categories and rules, please contact the Extension office.

Attention Seniors and College Students

Pickens Legacy Scholarships will be due February 1st.

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>



Oklahoma 4-H Rising Leaders Conference – Sara Randolph

Are you a Rising Leader in 4-H? Join us at the Oklahoma 4-H Rising Leaders Conference! This event is designed for 4-H members in grades 3-7 who want to explore the many opportunities that 4-H has to offer. Participants will engage in hands-on experiences across a variety of projects, develop essential leadership skills, and make lasting friendships with fellow 4-H members. Whether you're looking to grow as a leader or discover new passions, this conference is a perfect opportunity to connect, learn, and lead in the 4-H community.

The 4-H Rising Leaders Conference will be held on March 7, 2026 at Oklahoma State University, in Ag Hall. The cost will be \$20. Please register on ZSuite at <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/43882>.

Parents/volunteers may attend lunch for an additional \$20 per adult. Volunteers who would like to register that are not signed up under a youth's registration may do so at this link: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/43883>.

Registration is limited, and may close before the deadline if we reach 160 registrants before February 6.

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*Save
THE
Date*

4-H camp will be July 8-10 at
Camp Canyon in Hinton.
More information to come.





Garfield County OSU Extension Center
Oklahoma State University
316 E. Oxford
Enid, Oklahoma 73701

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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."

