



4-H Clover Connection

Tips and Tricks for 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.

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. 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. 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](#).

Major County/Blaine County OSU Extension

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Major County 4-H
Blaine County OSU Extension

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Enrollment for 2023-2024 Members & Certified Volunteers

August 1 started the new 4-H year!
Enroll at <https://4h.zsuite.org/>



If you are a RETURNING 4-H Member, Family, or Volunteer, log in with the email associated with your profile and just update your information and pay your enrollment fee. Please DO NOT create a new profile.

If you are a NEW 4-H Member or volunteer you will need to create a new profile and then complete your enrollment.

The \$20 enrollment fee can be paid online (this is the fastest way to complete enrollment) or by coming to the Major County OSU Extension Office and paying with cash or check. Youth are not considered enrolled until enrollment fees are paid.

If you have any questions, please contact the Major County OSU Extension Office at 580-227-3786 or the Blaine County OSU Extension Office at 580-623-5195.

COUNTYWIDE FUNDRAISER

For Major County, please see the insert in this newsletter about the countywide fundraiser that starts on October 4th! Make plans to participate!



MAKE IT YOURSELF WITH WOOL CONTEST

The District Contest is November 4th in Woodward with an entry deadline of September 25th. Contact Dana for an entry form and/or more details.



“Major County 4-H”

or

“Blaine County OSU Extension”

Information can also be found on our websites:

<http://extension.okstate.edu/county/major>

<http://extension.okstate.edu/county/blaine>

West District 4-H Leadership Conference

This event for 4-H members in the 7th grade and up will be October 11 to 13 at the Delta Marriott and Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. This event is a great opportunity to learn and grow with other members from across the district. The cost is \$125 and registration is due no later than September 8.

State Fair 4-H Indoor Exhibits: First place exhibits in the 4-H division at the county fair will go on to the OKC State Fair for judging on September 13. Those placing there will be on display in Oklahoma Expo Hall during the fair and will be back in the OSU Extension Center after lunch on September 25. **Please have any items that you did not leave at the county fair to the OSU Extension Center by noon on September 11 (Major County) or by noon on September 12 (Blaine County).** Contact Dana with any questions.

YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL CLUB LEADERS

Major County

Aline-Cleo:	Kristie Newton	580-542-4120
Cimarron:	(in need of a leader)	-----
Fairview:	Delane Kehnemund	580-822-5610
	Stephanie Thomas	580-794-0589
Ringwood:	Heather Bailey	580-216-8333

Blaine County

Canton:	Alison Clark	580-791-2580
Geary:	(in need of a leader)	-----
Okeene:	Tara Fisher	580-822-1241
	Alicia Robison	580-747-6015
	Mandy Spaeth	580-822-1058
Watonga:	Tara Cowan	405-714-1053



ZZZZZ's Under the Sea

Spend the night at the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks on November 3 & 4 and see the largest bull sharks in captivity, plus thousands of other captivating creatures including sea turtles, seahorses, jellyfish, and eels. Everyone is invited to participate in this overnight event, even non-4-H members. Cost is \$45 per person. Contact Dana for more information and to register.

FALL/WINTER SHOOTING SPORTS

If you are interested in participating in 4-H shotgun, archery, air rifle or air pistol for the fall and winter seasons in Major County, some practices have started and some will be starting before soon! Call the OSU Extension Center if you plan to or would like more details. **For Archery participants**— Major County is hosting a statewide Invitational Contest on September 30.

National 4-H Week

We will be celebrating National 4-H Week October 1 to 7 and Oklahoma 4-H Month during the entire time in October. Be thinking of how you as members and volunteers can help promote this organization!

Oklahoma 4-H Horse Heritage Experience

A new experience on October 21, 2023— to get a behind the scenes tour of Remington Park, explore the National Western Heritage Museum, and an opportunity to take a photo in the Winners Circle with the Race Winner. Fee is \$25; check with Dana or our Facebook page for more information.



New Mexico Senior Leadership Retreat

An Oklahoma delegation will be going to the New Mexico Senior Leadership Retreat on January 18-22. Delegates must be 15 by 1-1-2024. Included is traveling to Las Cruces, New Mexico and seeing Carlsbad Caverns and White Sands National Park along the way. Cost of the trip will be \$900 for youth participants. Opportunities are participating in workshops and interacting with 4-H youth from a different state. 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. Contact Dana for more information.

4-H CONCESSION STAND AT THE MAJOR COUNTY FAIR

Each Major County 4-H Club is asked to provide at least 4 dozen wrapped snacks (that will sell for \$1 each) by Friday, September 8th at 10:00a.m.. Please have at least one adult and one youth present at all times when your club is scheduled to work.

The work schedule is as follows:

Thursday, September 7

2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Cimarron

Friday, September 8

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Aline-Cleo

3:00 p.m. to close of events: Ringwood

Saturday, September 9

8:00a.m. to close of events: Fairview



ATV Riders Safety Course

Are you interested in participating in an ATV Riders Safety Course at the Oklahoma Farm Bureau/Oklahoma 4-H training facility in Guthrie with your club? Groups can be a maximum of 8 riders at a time. Call the OSU Extension Center for more details.

Cheese Food Contest

The Watonga Cheese Festival is Saturday, October 14 and youth and adults can participate in the Cheese Food Contest held at the Watonga City Hall during the event.

For a flyer with full details, contact Dana or check out our Facebook page.

SHARE THE FUN

Both Major and Blaine County 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in the joint county Share the Fun Contest (also known as 4-H Has Talent) on Sunday, November 5.

Individuals, small groups (2-4 members) and large groups (5 or more members) can sing, dance, perform a skit, and more. The location will be announced soon and registration will be due by October 30.

Are you into it?

"4-H Clover Connection" is published on a regular basis at the Major County and Blaine County OSU Cooperative Extension Centers. This newsletter is just one way of communicating educational information to the citizens of Major County and Blaine County. Major County OSU Cooperative Extension Service educational program and information are provided to you, in part, through the Major County sales tax. Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments Cooperating. *Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service*: Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, visit <https://eeo.okstate.edu>

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President for Agricultural Programs and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$44.00.

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OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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