



**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
EXTENSION**

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC October 2021

Master Gardeners Class of 2021 GRADUATION

Despite the challenges of studying to become a Master Gardener during a pandemic, twenty-eight students completed the course and graduated on October 8th, 2021. The students studied gardening, lawn and landscaping topics for the last year. They also interned in the Extension Call Center, Teaching Gardens, and volunteered at other gardens across our community.

They will now join the existing Master Gardener Organization and continue to teach and volunteer at our various partner sites including area community gardens, public gardens, school gardens and library gardens in Oklahoma County.





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2021 Master Composter Training

The third annual Master Composter Program was held every Wednesday from September 15th through October 20th. Each class included four hours of compost training with classroom and hands-on experiences capped off by a tour to a commercial composting facility. Participants of the program received 21 hours of classroom instruction and will complete a composting-related service project in their community in the coming months. Each year, Master Composters are encouraged to continue to serve their communities through volunteering. Thirty-four students completed the 2021 Master Composter training, the largest class to date.

2021 Graduating Class





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2021 Oklahoma Compost Conference

The 7th Annual statewide Oklahoma Compost Conference was held at the Oklahoma County OSU Extension Center both in person and virtually on Friday, October 15, 2021. The theme was "Don't be Afraid to Compost." The Conference included sessions on backyard, agricultural, and municipal composting, with the target audience being both the backyard composter as well as commercial composters.

This Conference included an OSU Extension compost tour featuring low and high tunnels, information on livestock mortality composting, and several vendor booths that offered a variety of composting products and much, much more. There were over 75 participants and the conference was a huge success.





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"DIY Family History Gifts" Workshop Held

Jan Beattie, president of the OHCE (Oklahoma Home and Community Education) Genealogy group taught a DIY Family History Gifts workshop in four counties during the month of October.

Participants learned simple techniques on how to turn their old photos, documents, and other family heirlooms into treasured gifts. To promote the program, Jan appeared on KFOR news with anchor, Heather Holeman.





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**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**



Southeast District Teen Leadership Day

Nine members of Oklahoma County 4-H attended the District Teen Leadership Day in Ada on October 14th. They had a day filled with enticing leadership workshops, safety lessons, and a game show!



Not only that, the results of the officer elections were revealed. Oklahoma County 4-H Recreation Leader, Violet Spencer, was elected by her peers to serve as the Southeast District Recreation Leader for 2021-2022! Congratulations, Violet!



Fall Break Hike

Oklahoma County 4-H youth and volunteers embarked on a fall break adventure!



These 4-H'ers showed their grit and dedication throughout the 6.7 mile hike through the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. They took in the incredible views and got up close and personal with the wildlife including elk, bison, and longhorn cattle!



OSU EXTENSION
**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Tips for Mental Health presented at the Southeast District's Administrative Staff

Rachel Morse, Youth Mental Health Educator, presented an in-service for the SE District Administrative Assistant's conference on October 27, 2021. The program was titled, "Finding Inner Peace in the Chaos of Work & Life" and this interactive session gave participants several tools to de-stress in fun, engaging ways. One of the activities involved picking a focus word or phrase that one can use to center themselves and find inspiration and motivation, such as the words "relax" or "be present." Participants wrote their chosen word on a wooden block and were encouraged to keep this block somewhere they can see if often and remind themselves to slow down and find what calms them. The group also talked about meditation, self-compassion, and goal setting. Given the events over the last 18 months, the topic was timely and well-received by the SE District's Staff.





OKLAHOMA COUNTY EXTENSION

Extension Staff:

LaDonna Hines - Extension Director

Lisa Hamblin - Family & Consumer
Sciences Educator

Taylor Conner - Family & Consumer
Sciences Educator

Julia Laughlin - Horticulture
Educator

Josh Campbell - Urban Agriculture
& Natural Resources Educator

Cody Yount - 4-H Educator

Mindy McNeil - 4-H Educator

Christi Evans - CNEP Area
Coordinator

Rachel Morse - 4-H Youth
Mental Health Specialist

OSU Extension provides research-based resources you can use to improve your home, workplace and community. We offer programs and services that are specifically designed to solve the problems that county residents face. Please check out our website for the calendar of events <https://calendar.okstate.edu/oces/>

You can follow us on Facebook for a glimpse into how your Oklahoma County Extension Educators and staff are serving you and the communities.

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