



**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
EXTENSION**

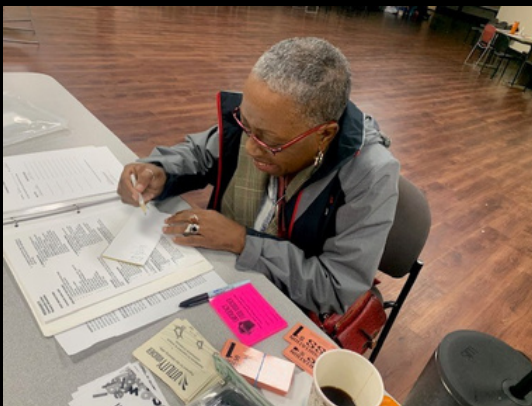
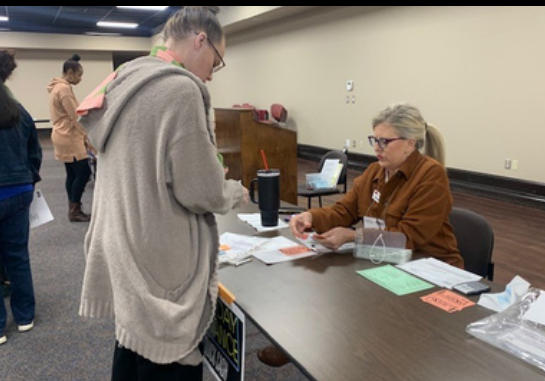
REPORT TO THE PUBLIC October 2024

Poverty in Oklahoma

OSU Extension educators and volunteers hosted a poverty simulation for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority staff. Poverty is a reality for many individuals and families. Unless poverty has been experienced, it's difficult to truly understand. This simulation sensitizes community participants to the struggles of many Oklahoma families.

During the simulation, participants role-played a month's time in the lives of low-income families. They had to make daily choices based on their specific situation.

The simulation promoted awareness and increased understanding with the goal to transform perspectives and inspire local change. The main focus of this program is to shift the paradigm of poverty away from being seen as a personal failure and toward the understanding of poverty as a societal, structural collapse.





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EXTENSION PROGRAMS HELD AT METRO LIBRARIES

Oklahoma County Extension educators have partnered with the Metropolitan Library System to provide a variety of programming for many years.

In October, Family and Consumer Sciences educator, Lisa Hamblin taught free workshops at the Edmond and Northwest libraries. Individuals interested in selling or valuing their mid-century kitchenware attended the "Vintage Kitchenware: What's in Your Cupboard?" workshop at the Edmond Library, and parents interested in improving their communication skills attended the "What's Your Parenting Style?" workshop at the Northwest Library.

Future workshops at the Northwest Library include "Sharing Family History Through Food" on November 4th and "Vintage Kitchenware" on December 6th. At the Edmond Library, "Co-Parenting Challenges" will be offered January 18th, and "Babysitting 101" for teens will be held during Spring Break, March 20-21, 2025.





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

National 4-H Month



The Oklahoma County 4-H members actively engaged in civic duties by participating in a local County Commissioner meeting for the reading of the 4-H Month Proclamation. This tradition is a significant milestone for 4-H youth, allowing them to step into the realm of local governance, gaining firsthand experience in civic involvement.

The proclamation reading serves as a meaningful opportunity for our members to represent not only themselves but also the entire 4-H program. By standing before community leaders and local officials, these youth proudly embody the values of leadership, citizenship, and public service.

The 4-H Month Proclamation is more than just a ceremonial reading—it's an invaluable moment for youth to sharpen their public speaking skills and build confidence in addressing public audiences. For many, it's the first opportunity to directly engage with elected officials, understand the importance of local government, and be a voice for youth programs in Oklahoma County.





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

Celebrating Achievement



The 2024 Oklahoma County 4-H Awards Banquet was a night of celebration and recognition that honored the hard work and dedication of 4-H members. During the event, youth were awarded project pins, highlighting their achievements and commitment to their chosen project areas.



A highlight of the evening was the announcement of this year's County Hall of Fame inductees. Molly Brown was honored as the Junior Hall of Fame inductee, and Karson Potter received the Senior Hall of Fame award—both exemplified outstanding leadership and dedication to their 4-H journey.

The evening took an exciting turn with a special surprise for attendees. The guest emcee, Serena Woodard, was introduced as Oklahoma County's newly hired 4-H Educator. This announcement marked an inspiring moment for everyone in attendance as Serena was warmly welcomed into the 4-H family.





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H.O.P.E Helping our People Excel: A Healthy Living Summit



The Southeast District was well represented at the 4-H Health Living Summit in Stillwater this month. This was a day-long event presented by the Oklahoma 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors for 6-12th grade 4-H members. All workshops were taught and led by youth leaders. The day was filled with inspiring speakers, engaging workshops and a share fair.



Extension Youth Mental Health Specialist, Danyelle Kuss, assisted youth leaders by gathering information for the workshops and served as a guest on the Healthy Living Career panel. She shared her knowledge of having previously worked in the mental health field as a therapist, as well as the work she does now in mental health education and prevention.

Youth in attendance gained valuable information and ideas to bring back to their communities to support Healthy Living for all Oklahomans.



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Graduating Master Gardener's Class of 2023



On October 11, 2024, Oklahoma County Master Gardeners 2023 class graduated after studying and volunteering in the county for over a year.



The class began in September of 2023 with 12 weeks of classroom education in horticultural topics such as soils, landscaping, vegetable gardening and many others.



Once the classroom experience was completed, they volunteered as interns at the OKC Zoo, Will Rogers Gardens and the Extension Demonstration Gardens. As interns, they also fielded calls, emails and walk-ins with horticulture questions brought to the Extension Call Center.



Thirty-one students graduated from the program and each received a Master Gardener badge, certificate, manual, and tote bag. These Certified Master Gardeners will now join the Oklahoma County Master Gardener Association and serve as volunteers all over Oklahoma County, participating in educational and gardening activities.



**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
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Aleshia Maldonado, Strong Dads
Educator

Kenny Garcia-Taveras, Strong Dads
Educator

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/> to learn of new workshops or programs being offered.

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

Be sure to check out Oklahoma County OSU Extension's monthly podcast "The Urban Gardener" with Julia Laughlin, Horticulture Educator, and Lili LeClaire and Andrew Fleet, Program Assistants.



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