



**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
EXTENSION**

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC October 2025

GRADUATING MASTER GARDENER'S CLASS OF 2024

On October 10, 2025, Oklahoma County Master Gardeners 2024 class graduated after studying and volunteering in the county for over a year. The class began in September of 2024 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 OSU Extension Community and Giving Garden, 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-two 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.





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OKLAHOMA COUNTY 4-H'ER RECEIVES STATE HONOR

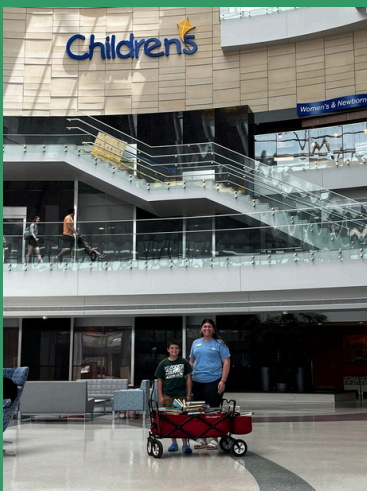


Kase Curtis was honored as the October 2025 a Noble Cause Award recipient in recognition of his compassion, initiative, and dedication to serving others through 4-H and his community. His project, Kase's Little Library, began from a deeply personal experience as a patient at the Oklahoma Children's Hospital. During his stay, Kase often wished he had a good book to help pass the time and bring a sense of comfort. Guided by the values of 4-H and a genuine desire to help others, he launched a community book drive with an initial goal of collecting 50 books. Within two months, his efforts grew far beyond expectations, resulting in the donation of 345 books to the hospital.



Beyond this initiative, Kase serves as Vice President of the Luther 4-H club and is an Oklahoma County 4-H CLOVER, where he participates in monthly leadership development sessions, community service projects, and civic engagement opportunities.

Encouraged by the success of his first book drive, Kase organized a fall book drive to continue providing books to young patients, ensuring that every child facing a hospital stay has access to stories that can inspire hope and imagination.





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CANNABIS PREVENTION AT TEENCON

Youth Mental Health Specialist, Danyelle Kuss, participated in TeenCon in Jefferson County. This is a one-day health convention for 6th and 9th graders that seeks to empower students with the tools they need to make smart choices and protect their mental, behavioral, and physical health.

Danyelle taught roughly 60 9th graders the impact of cannabis use on their developing brains. Youth learned how the adolescent brain is unique, how it reacts to cannabis, including tolerance and withdrawal, and how susceptible it can be to developing an addiction.

9 out of 10 people who struggle with addiction started using when they were teens. Youth participated in a building challenge while wearing cannabis impairment goggles to process their success with and without the simulated impairment as a hands-on part of learning.





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BABYSITTING 101 WORKSHOPS HELD

Family and Consumer Sciences Educator, Lisa Hamblin taught two Babysitting 101 teen workshops recently at OSU-OKC and the Edmond Library. Eighteen teens learned about the business of childcare as well as how to be responsible for children of all ages.



Guest speakers from City/County Health Department, the Extension Community Nutrition Education Program, and an OSU Health Disparities educator taught the students about infant safe sleep, the importance of handwashing, and certified them in CPR/First Aid/AED. The Oklahoma County Safety Coordinator provided infant, child, and adult mannequins for the training.



A Spring Break workshop is planned for March 19-20, 2026 at the Del City Library.





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BACKYARD POULTRY PROGRAM PRESENTED

In October, Mason Huddleston, the Urban Agriculture Educator for Oklahoma County OSU Extension, offered several community programs, including two specifically focused on backyard poultry.



Offered free of charge at the NW Library and the Edmond MAC, these poultry classes certified a total of 54 participants in proper backyard poultry management.

Topics covered included general care, nutrition, and common poultry diseases.





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EXTENSION AND HOPE IS ALIVE CREATE LANDSCAPE DESIGNS

Andrew Fleet, OSU Extension Oklahoma County Water Conservation Educator, collaborated with Dr. Qing Luo, OSU Landscape Architecture State Specialist, her students and the staff of Hope is Alive (HIA) to create landscape design options for their healing center.

The center will be a rural recovery campus designed to support holistic transformation through faith, therapy, wellness and structured living for those looking to be free from addiction.





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COOKING WITH OLLI: SOURDOUGH BISCUIT WORKSHOP



During October, Taylor Conner, Family & Consumer Sciences Educator and Registered Dietitian, partnered with the Oklahoma State University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) to offer a cooking class. OLLI provides programs for adults ages 50 and older, designed to enrich their quality of life through engaging, educational, and social experiences.

On October 30th, Taylor led a Sourdough Biscuits Workshop at the Oklahoma County OSU Extension Conference Center. Participants learned how to make delicious, flaky biscuits using sourdough discard. They prepared the dough from scratch, baked and enjoyed their biscuits, and discovered how to maintain a sourdough starter—taking home one of their own. The class also covered the fundamentals of sourdough bread baking.

Taylor is collaborating with OLLI to offer additional programming in the Spring 2026 semester.



**OKLAHOMA STATE
UNIVERSITY**



OKLAHOMA COUNTY EXTENSION

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Mason Huddleston - Urban Ag
Natural Resources Educator

Andrew Fleet - Water Conservation
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Cody Yount - 4-H Educator

Serena Woodard - 4-H Educator

Danyelle Kuss - 4-H Youth Mental
Health Educator

Aleshia Galura -Strong Dads
Educator

Wilma Schilling - 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 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, Mason Huddleston, Urban Ag & Natural Resources Educator and Andrew Fleet, Water Conservation Educator



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