

THE PLEDGE

KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION

SPRING 2021

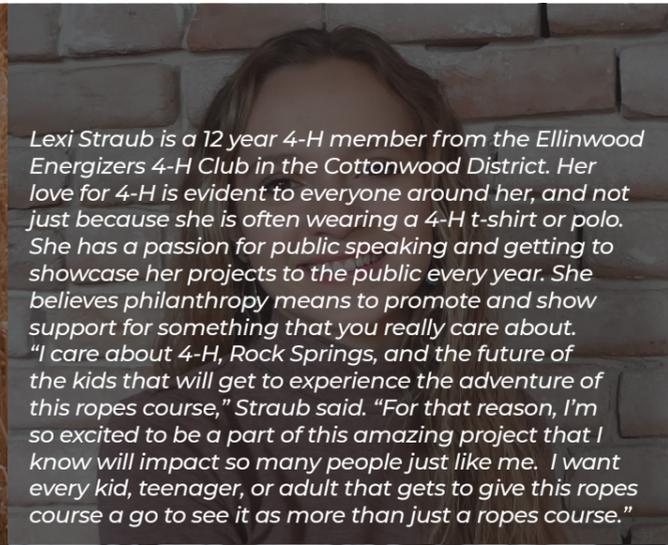


TEEN LEADERS CREATE *ENDORSE THE COURSE* CHALLENGE

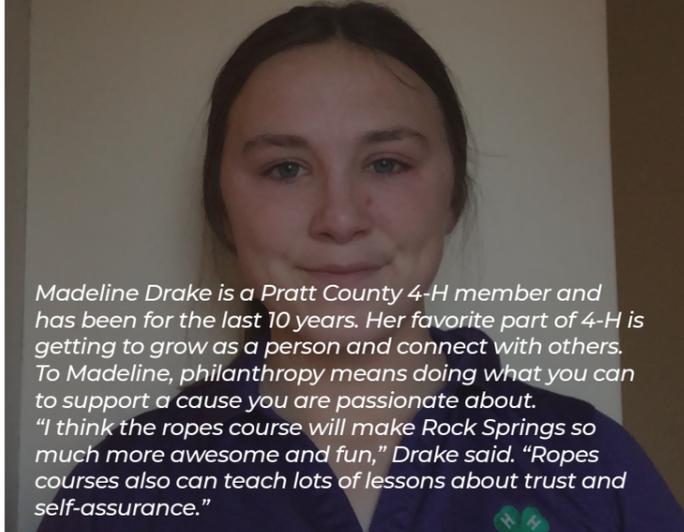
ON THE COVER



Blakely Aldridge is an 17 year 4-H member from the Sunflower District. Her favorite part of 4-H is being able to work with youth across the state and attending state 4-H events! My favorite projects are leadership and showing livestock. To Blakely, philanthropy means planning a project to help serve others. She is excited about the Leadership Adventure Course as it will bring a new level of fun to Rock Springs Ranch. "Participating in the ropes course will teach campers trust, strength, and develop friendships," Aldridge said. "I cannot wait to see it all come together and to have it at camp this summer!"



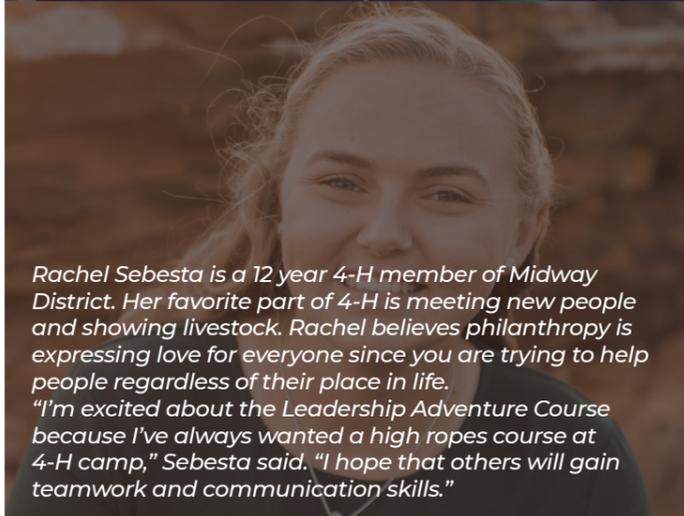
Lexi Straub is a 12 year 4-H member from the Ellinwood Energizers 4-H Club in the Cottonwood District. Her love for 4-H is evident to everyone around her, and not just because she is often wearing a 4-H t-shirt or polo. She has a passion for public speaking and getting to showcase her projects to the public every year. She believes philanthropy means to promote and show support for something that you really care about. "I care about 4-H, Rock Springs, and the future of the kids that will get to experience the adventure of this ropes course," Straub said. "For that reason, I'm so excited to be a part of this amazing project that I know will impact so many people just like me. I want every kid, teenager, or adult that gets to give this ropes course a go to see it as more than just a ropes course."



Madeline Drake is a Pratt County 4-H member and has been for the last 10 years. Her favorite part of 4-H is getting to grow as a person and connect with others. To Madeline, philanthropy means doing what you can to support a cause you are passionate about. "I think the ropes course will make Rock Springs so much more awesome and fun," Drake said. "Ropes courses also can teach lots of lessons about trust and self-assurance."



Annika Wiebers is a 12 year 4-H member in Riley County. Her favorite part of 4-H is meeting amazing people and the bonding experiences they have had. Annika believes philanthropy is valuing your own experiences and advantages enough that you are willing to invest in providing those experiences and advantages for others. "I'm excited about the Leadership Adventure Course," Wiebers said. "I have been going to Rock Springs for various events for the past decade and I am so excited to have a big new activity for myself and future generations to enjoy."



Rachel Sebesta is a 12 year 4-H member of Midway District. Her favorite part of 4-H is meeting new people and showing livestock. Rachel believes philanthropy is expressing love for everyone since you are trying to help people regardless of their place in life. "I'm excited about the Leadership Adventure Course because I've always wanted a high ropes course at 4-H camp," Sebesta said. "I hope that others will gain teamwork and communication skills."



Korben Clawson is a 10 year 4-H member of Meade County. His favorite part of 4-H is getting to see younger 4-H members grow in their own leadership and communication skills. He believes philanthropy means to come together to support a common goal and give generously for a great cause. "I am excited about the Leadership Adventure Course because I think that it will be a great way for kids all over Kansas to grow in their leadership and communication skills," Clawson said.

CONTENTS

FEATURES



**KANSAS 4-H TEEN LEADERS
CREATE ENDORSE THE
COURSE CHALLENGE** **3**



**EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS
DEVELOP 4-H THRIVING MODEL** **5**



**I PLEDGE...MY HEART TO
GREATER LOYALTY** **7**



**RETURNING TO OUR CORE
PRINCIPLES** **9**



**CREATING THE CLOVER
CLASSROOM** **10**



**4-H MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN
KANSAS BEATS THE VIRUS** **11**

PHILANTHROPIC PRIORITIES **13**

WAYS TO GIVE **14**

KANSAS 4-H FAMILY NOTES **15**

KEEP ON CAMPIN' ON **17**



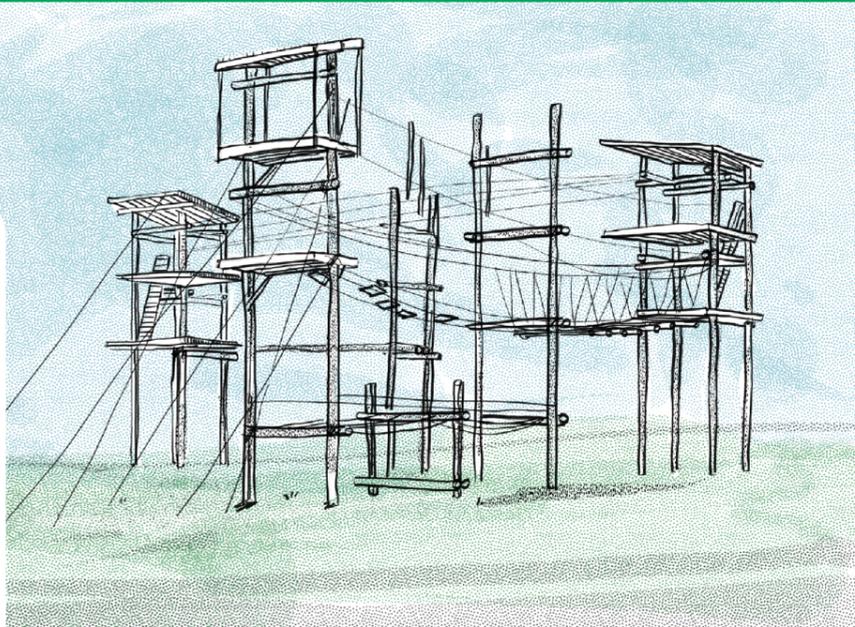
KANSAS 4-H
FOUNDATION

Kansas 4-H began in 1905 when organized groups of youth came together to "learn by doing." In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension System connected to Land Grant universities and nationalized 4-H as a positive youth development program. As Kansas 4-H grew, a national trend for 4-H camping was growing, and Kansas 4-H Clubs purchased Rock Springs Ranch in 1946.

In November 1953, a committee of Kansans convened to determine what entity should hold the title of Rock Springs. With a vision for providing educational opportunities for Kansas youth, this committee created the Kansas 4-H Foundation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. In addition to holding the title for the property of Rock Springs, early Foundation goals included international programs, leader training and advancement of Rock Springs Ranch.

The Foundation continues to partner with the Kansas 4-H program to meet the evolving needs of Kansas youth and develop future leaders. We acknowledge and appreciate our longtime 4-H friends. Their lifetime of generosity creates new opportunities for the youth of Kansas.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN FERGUSON
POST ROCK DISTRICT



The new Leadership Adventure Course is a team obstacle course, which contains high ropes, low elements and a zip line to use as leadership development tools.

Kansas 4-H teen leaders create ENDORSE THE COURSE

Six Kansas 4-H members were selected as the 2020 National 4-H Conference Delegates to attend the conference in Washington D.C. in April 2020. Like so many events due to COVID-19 health concerns, the youth conference was canceled. This group of teen leaders were determined to not let the year stop them from making an impact. They came together to continue the tradition of youth philanthropy and created the Endorse the Course challenge to raise funds by May 1, 2021 for a new Leadership Adventure Course at Rock Springs Ranch.

The Endorse the Course challenge is a youth-led fundraising initiative for Kansas 4-H Clubs to collectively contribute \$25,000 towards a newly constructed Leadership Adventure Course, a team obstacle course, which contains high ropes, low elements and a zip line to use as leadership development tools. The addition of a Leadership Adventure Course will enhance the camp experience starting this summer by teaching valuable life and leadership skills for 8-18 year olds and adult retreat guests. Teams that participate in this new activity will learn about teamwork through collaboration and compassion, build confidence, and grow in resilience and perseverance.

The six teen leaders involved in leading this youth fundraising initiative are Annika Wiebers, Riley

County; Blakely Aldridge, Sunflower District; Korben Clawson, Meade County; Lexi Straub, Cottonwood District; Madeline Drake, Pratt County; Rachel Sebesta, Midway District. In this role, they serve as Youth Philanthropy Ambassadors and are also serving a two year term on the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council.

“Because of 4-H, I’m connected to people all across the nation, I’m connected to my community, and I’m committed to the motto: To Make The Best Better. I really care about 4-H, Rock Springs, and the future of the kids that will get to experience the adventure of this ropes course,” Straub said.

The Youth Philanthropy Ambassadors are passionate about 4-H, actively participating in 4-H positive youth development for ten or more years. Because of their involvement and dedication to the program, they wanted to create a legacy that would impact future generations of Kansas 4-H members after them.

“It is so cool that we get to be a part of the tradition for Kansas 4-H Clubs to come together,” Clawson said. “Kansas 4-H Clubs around the state are pledging their hands to larger service and contributing to the next 75 years of Rock Springs Ranch. This is our legacy for the next generation of Kansas 4-H members.”

As the word spread about Endorse The Course and the resiliency and drive of the Youth Philanthropy Ambassadors, Kansas 4-H donors, Jackie Hartman Borck and Lee Borck, from Manhattan, were inspired to help them make this dream a reality.

“Jackie and I look first to youth opportunities for our philanthropic giving, which includes 4-H youth development,” Borck said. “Seeing young people at Rock Springs Ranch and the enthusiasm they have for programs and projects made this decision a no-brainer for us.”

Jackie and Lee have been Kansas 4-H donors for 26 years contributing to the growth and development of Kansas 4-H members. To show how much they believe in the youth of Kansas, the Borcks created an additional matching challenge for Kansas 4-H Clubs participating in Endorse the Course. For each \$5,000 raised of the \$25,000 goal, they will match it dollar for dollar. This matching opportunity allows Kansas 4-H Clubs to double their impact and contribute up to \$50,000 towards the Leadership Adventure Course.

“I can always tell when working with a student if they have been in 4-H,” Hartman Borck said. “They are such good presenters. The leadership skills they had were far above other students.”

The Leadership Adventure Course will provide opportunities for youth to showcase their leadership skills and work together as a team in order to complete each level of the course.

“The most valuable lesson is teaching the young people to not be afraid to be first to try something new and to volunteer to be a team leader - don’t wait to be asked. I think the Leadership Adventure Course gives them the opportunity to do so,” Borck said.

The total fundraising goal for the Leadership Adventure Course is \$285,000. Achieving this goal is only possible because of generous donors like the Borcks. Jackie and Lee’s lead gift to the Leadership Adventure Course is accompanied by additional donors who also admired the vision of the Youth Philanthropy Ambassadors. Shawn and David Delker, Salina; Jim and Deb Gordon, Westmoreland; Goldstein Foundation, Manhattan; Lindy and Jack Lindquist, Manhattan; and other 4-H families contributed additional funds to ensure the Leadership Adventure Course is available for youth to experience this summer.

Youth are currently working towards their \$25,000 goal by May 1. Are you inspired to join Kansas youth in their quest to fund the Leadership Adventure Course? Contact Lindsey Oakes at the Kansas 4-H Foundation at giving@kansas4hfoundation.org or call 785.775.0123 to Endorse the Course. The youth fundraising total is updated daily at <https://www.kansas4hfoundation.org/etc/>.

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE



TO SEE HOW FAR KANSAS 4-H CLUBS ARE TO THE \$25,000 GOAL BY MAY 1!

“Thank you so much for donating to the Leadership Adventure Course! Kansas 4-H is so lucky to be able to have people who keep pouring into this program that is so near and very dear to our hearts! I cannot wait to see it all come together this summer! Without your generous contribution, the Leadership Course would not be possible. Thank you so much again for engaging with Kansas 4-H youth, and proudly Endorsing The Course!”

**- BLAKELY ALDRIDGE
SUNFLOWER DISTRICT**

“Thank you to everyone who supports Endorse the Course! You are helping the 4-H program grow future citizens and leaders. Through your giving you are showing Kansas 4-H members just how much you care.”

**- MADELINE DRAKE
PRATT COUNTY**

“Thank you for your generosity, vision and willingness to invest in the future of 4-H and the next generation of members.”

**- ANNIKA WIEBERS
RILEY COUNTY**

extension professionals develop 4-H THRIVING MODEL

Two K-State Research and Extension Youth Development professionals, Anissa Jepsen and Dr. Sarah Maass, were selected to serve on a National 4-H Council committee dedicated to cutting-edge research for positive youth development. The research they are conducting will help Kansas 4-H explain the “how” of 4-H positive youth development and why Kansas 4-H alumni thrive compared to their peers.

Q: WHAT PROMPTED THE COMMITTEE?

ANISSA: This work was prompted by the research conducted by Dr. Mary Arnold, professor at Oregon State University, regarding “youth sparks” and “thriving.” In the past, 4-H professionals knew that something “happened” during the 4-H experience, but had never identified specifically the thriving trajectory that leads to the developmental outcomes.

Q: HOW WILL THIS RESEARCH HELP SHAPE PROGRAMMING IN THE FUTURE?

SARAH: This research will help continue to refine the 4-H Thriving Model and ensure we are continuing to meet the needs of youth and help them find their spark. In 4-H, we concentrate on the head, the heart, the hands, and the health. The 4-H Thriving Model encompasses all four of our H’s. According to the 4-H Thriving Model, youth who thrive because of participating in 4-H, are youth who have a positive youth development experience within the following key developmental outcomes: positive academic attitude, social competence, personal standards, connections to others, personal responsibility and contributions.

Q: DID THE NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL PARTNER WITH OTHER POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS?

ANISSA: National 4-H Council is partnering with the Search Institute to conduct the research for the 4-H Thriving Model. The committee is working to be able to ensure that the developmental context of the 4-H Thriving Model, as well as the outcomes, can be applied to all youth-serving organizations. This research lead by 4-H leadership is leading the way for all positive youth development organizations.

Q: HOW CAN THE 4-H COMMUNITY HELP SUPPORT THIS EFFORT?

SARAH: We will be asking for members, parents and volunteers to complete surveys based on their 4-H experiences. The best way for the 4-H community to help support this effort is by contributing to the research when asked. This will be a nationwide effort that looks at the programming we do now and how it fits in the 4-H Thriving Model. Are we helping youth thrive? Are we helping them find their spark? As a 4-H Extension Agent,

I know this happens because I see it. But, we need to hear it from those who are participating in our program. We need to have the research to back what we see and what we know happens.

HOW DOES PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT IMPACT 4-H YOUTH ACROSS THE STATE?

ANISSA: Philanthropic support allows youth development professionals to be able to facilitate and create quality programming for Kansas youth. They help youth identify their spark in partnership with caring adults and mentors. Without this support, local agents would not have the resources to create experiences that are so important for youth as they develop.

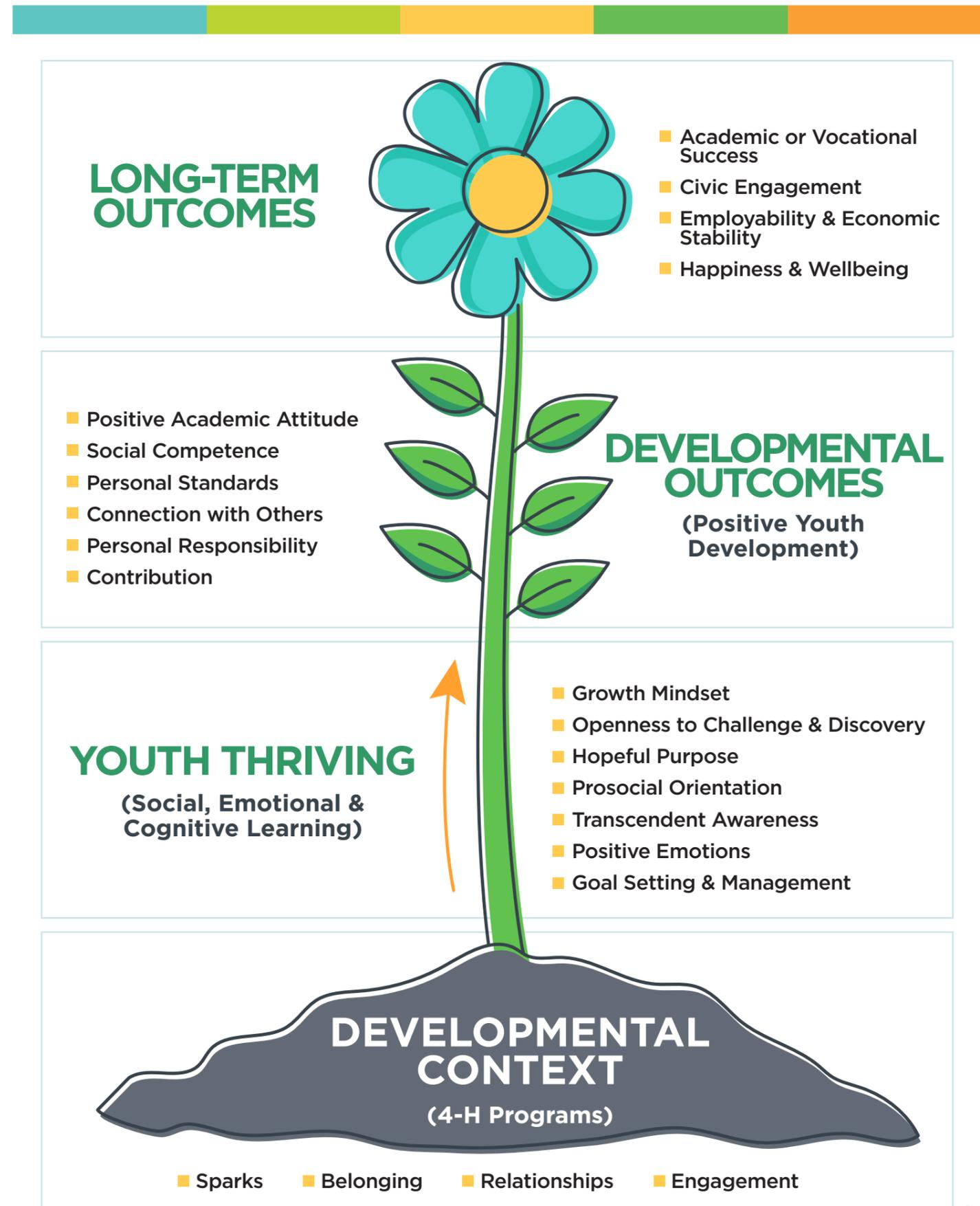
Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO DEVOTE YOUR CAREER TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?

ANISSA: I have a BS in Human Resources, MS in Organizational Psychology, and an EdD in Adult Learning. My first Extension job was as a part-time office professional, then a local agent in Clay County, Iowa. I worked with Kansas Girl Scouts as a regional specialist and came to Kansas 4-H in 2018 as a state specialist. Personally, both of my daughters had life-altering injuries that limited participation in other activities. 4-H gave them the ability to explore different project areas and identify their sparks with the help of caring 4-H leaders, adult volunteers, and industry professionals who took the time to share their own spark.

SARAH: From a young age, I knew I wanted to teach youth. When the math major thing didn’t work out for me in college, I began to explore what I could do to become a 4-H Extension Agent. The 4-H organization gave me so much as a member, I wanted to be able to give back. While that sounds cliché, it is sincere. This organization helped me grow in ways I would have never imagined. I was such a shy kid. Because of those experiences, I wanted to be able to give the same opportunities to youth that were offered to me. To be able to give back and do the same for the youth of today is important to me.



(Left) Anissa Jepsen serves as a state extension specialist for positive youth development. (Right) Dr. Sarah Maass serves as the Central Kansas District 4-H Extension Agent.



I pledge... my heart TO GREATER LOYALTY

"I pledge...my heart to greater loyalty."

These words of the 4-H Pledge represent pledging to care more for other people versus only thinking of one's self. Through the pledge, 4-H members commit to being faithful to each and every person and guarantee to help out if anyone is ever in need. The ability to pledge our "heart to greater loyalty" encourages a 4-H member to become a giving person who puts others' needs before their own.

Many Kansas 4-H donors have expressed that they feel more inspired to give when they see 4-H members who value loyalty and embrace this trait through philanthropy.

"Kansas 4-H has hundreds of loyal donors who make one or more gifts every single year," Jake Worcester, President/CEO Kansas 4-H Foundation, said. "When I'm reviewing gift reports, I often recognize familiar names

of individuals who respond to our annual requests with cash contributions, gifts of stock and even gifts of grain. The list reflects generations of 4-H families who demonstrate that giving to 4-H is a family tradition. I also see valued business partners who are investing in youth in hopes they will be future Kansas leaders. By committing to Kansas 4-H each year, I see this loyal group living out the 4-H pledge through philanthropic giving. I can share numerous examples of how consistent, loyal support has provided the Kansas 4-H Foundation with the ability to meet the greatest and most immediate needs of 4-H youth."

Join me as we celebrate just a few examples of loyal donors who have contributed to Kansas 4-H and Rock Springs Ranch for more than three decades.



**- BLACKJACK 4-H CLUB, POTTAWATOMIE CO.
45 YEARS OF GIVING**

"Our loyalty to Kansas 4-H and Rock Springs Ranch stems from the fact that 4-H camp is held there. It is a great way to meet new people and friends and also to experience different activities. When giving back to our community, our club focuses on opportunities that impact 4-H members. I would recommend that other clubs focus on giving back to their communities so they can see all their hard work pay off and to make sure to give something that contributes to all age groups."

-Grant Dugan, Blackjack 4-H Club member

"It is amazing to me to think that our club has been giving for 45 years! This year having a specific focus to *Endorse the Course* made it very exciting for the kids to donate knowing exactly what the money was for. 4-H camp at Rock Springs is the highlight for many members and they loved the idea of adding the course to Rock Springs and felt pride in helping to build it to improve the camp experience for future 4-H members.

-Sara McCarn, Community Club Leader

"You do not have to make a big donation to make a difference, a small donation is just as effective, especially in helping the youth feel that they have made a difference."

- Amanda Rottinghaus, Co-community Leader/
Poultry Leader

"In many cases, 4-H is where youth begin to learn about service and giving back. Our club provides many opportunities for members to feel good about giving their time to service activities and hard earned funds to philanthropy. Once the giving mindset is established, it is easy to continue."

-Brandie Disberger, Parent's Committee/Clothing Leader

"As a former educator, I believe that 4-H leaders are, in a way, another form of teachers. They provide growth opportunities for kids. Volunteers won't think of themselves as teachers, but they are having a big impact on kids. 4-H helps youth find what it is that they're interested in and at the same time they learn things like - responsibility, public speaking and how to keep records. My husband and I chose to support 4-H because we wanted to help where it is needed."

**- ALICE WALKER
BLUE MOUND, KS
60 YEARS OF GIVING**



(Left) Alice Walker and her granddaughter, Caitlin, at Rock Springs Ranch in the 2000s. (Right) Alice and her late husband, Howard, were 4-H club leaders when they began giving to Kansas 4-H. The Walkers made 4-H a family tradition which allowed them to build a strong bond and a lasting legacy of shared experiences, expressing the true spirit of volunteerism.

"4-H is a tradition in my family. I have great memories of 4-H Camp, but I never realized the full power and value of Rock Springs Ranch until I (Bill) became a Kansas 4-H Foundation Board member. We believe that 4-H provides the best youth leadership program in the United States. Education and youth development are critically important for the future of our country and the world, so educational entities and youth development entities are high priority for our giving. I think any donor wants to be able to see or at least know that their community and their world will be a better place because of their generosity. Advice we would give to other donors is that they should give more than their first instinct tells them to give. Stretch your giving beyond token amounts. If you are thinking about giving \$100, give \$500. Once someone begins giving regularly, they will feel great about themselves and understand why it is better to give than to receive."

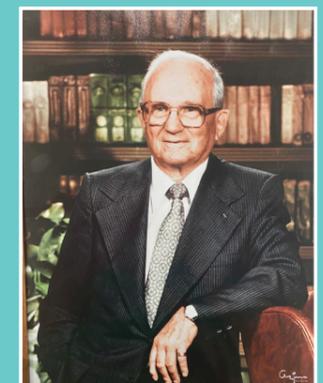


**-BILL & CINDY KELLER
PRATT, KS
30 YEARS OF GIVING**

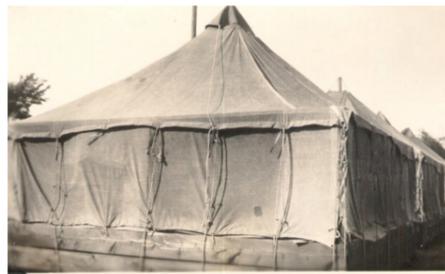
"I give every year to honor my father, W. Dale Crister, who was instrumental in starting the Kansas 4-H Foundation in 1952. He would come up to Rock Springs Ranch frequently and share about his experience with others. He served as the chairman of the board from 1952-1970. When he died in 1986, I decided the best way I could honor him and his career was through philanthropic gifts to the organization he loved. I hope my gifts continue the tradition that was his vision of supporting Kansas 4-H youth and a place for them to thrive.

Over the years, I have discovered that charitable giving makes me feel better. I think that is an important part of giving too. By giving to a specific organization or cause, it ties you to the past and the future, all in one."

**- CAROLYN DILLON
HUTCHINSON, KS
43 YEARS OF GIVING**



W. Dale Crister was chairman of the Kansas 4-H Foundation board from its beginning in 1952 through 1970.



(Left) Rock Springs Ranch used post-war army surplus supplies and tents during the first years of 4-H camp. (Middle) In 1963, archery was added as an activity. The range was originally located below the dining hall. (Right) The swimming pool was the first permanent structure at Rock Springs Ranch. Here are campers enjoying the pool in 1975.

returning to our **CORE PRINCIPLES**

Seventy-five years ago, America was in a new dawn. World War II had ended the year before, and soldiers were returning home victorious. The Dust Bowl and Great Depression of the 1930s were over, the economy was ticking up, college educations were becoming more common, and people were buying houses for \$5,600 and cars for \$1,100 at a record pace. The first children of the baby boom generation were being born.



**JAKE WORCESTER
PRESIDENT/CEO**

Heck, even Tupperware was introduced to Americans in 1946!

There was hope for better jobs, better education, and better lives in general. And in the Flint Hills of Kansas, 4-H youth were coming together to do something visionary: create a place to call home, where young people from around the state would come together To Make the Best Better in the outdoors, camp under the stars, and learn about each other and the world around them.

Youth across Kansas raised \$22,500 to purchase Rock Springs Ranch, and a life-changing vision was launched. Since that date, 1.5 million youth and adults have learned and enjoyed the Ranch while 40 billion gallons of life-giving water have flowed from the Spring.

As we celebrate 75 years of 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch throughout this year, we're also emerging from new challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic affected all Kansans in different ways. One of the things I challenge all of us to consider is how history will look back on this time in 75 more years.

Just like in 1946 - and many times between then and

now - generous donors are making gifts that allow us to enhance facilities, create safer environments, and provide access to 4-H experiences to youth anywhere in the state.

A few examples of our current efforts include:

- A modern health center to serve as the hub for Camper Care and Safety at Rock Springs Ranch
- Redesigned and remodeled cottages that meet American Camp Association standards
- Accessibility improvements allowing for great experiences for all guests

This is the beginning of the implementation of a new master plan for Rock Springs Ranch that will guide our enhancements over the coming years. Significant leadership gifts are being realized that enable us to continue the tradition of generous individuals investing in Kansas through youth development.

These gifts will allow us to provide access to camp to even more youth, to invest in Centers of Excellence focused on Leadership Development, Conservation Education, and Sportsmanship Skills. Our facilities will be developed to support the incredible programmatic experiences we expect youth to have in the 21st century.

I dream of Rock Springs Ranch serving millions more Kansans over the next 75 years. Now more than ever the opportunity for youth to disconnect from devices, walk in the woods, experience the refreshing cold spring water coming from the earth, see wildlife all around, and do it all with new friends from around Kansas is critical.

Rock Springs Ranch is launching a new logo, a new camp model starting in 2022, an enhanced team of devoted camp professionals, and new facilities and activities. While there is a lot of "new" in that, it's all in an effort to return to the core principles that began in 1946: bringing young people together with caring adults to find belonging, master new skills, gain independence, and experience generosity.

Thank you for being a part of our 4-H family. Join me in dreaming about the next 75 years, and in helping make it happen through the power of philanthropy.

creating the **CLOVER CLASSROOM**

A new resource, the Kansas Clover Classroom, is now available for Kansas 4-H members to access 4-H project lessons in the palm of their hands.

Expedited because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Northwest 4-H Advisory committee, made up of extension agents in the northwest region, were looking for a sustainable idea to provide learning opportunities for 4-H members and families on demand. The Twin Creeks Extension District had started a blended learning platform in 2019 that evolved into the Kansas 4-H Clover Classroom during the months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We needed to provide an opportunity for kids to learn," Susan Schlichting, Kansas Clover Classroom Committee Chair, Cottonwood District, 4-H Youth Development Agent, said. "Parents don't have the time and expertise to guide their children in program areas, so they look to Extension Agents for curriculum. The Twin Creeks Extension District engaged all subject matter agents in working to develop challenges in a variety of project areas."

Some of the initial activity lessons that started the Kansas Clover Classroom include getting to know your camera; learning about pollinators in the garden; and knowing the differences between quick bread and yeast bread.

"Initially, we tried to roll out one Foods and Nutrition lesson every month," Schlichting said. "The goal is to send out three different challenges each month. Kids were encouraged to try out new project areas to see if anything sparked a new interest."

Kansas 4-H is a research-based, positive youth development program and each project challenge available in the Kansas Clover Classroom is developed using specific guidelines. A project challenge includes an exploration of learning, developing and building on skills, a hands-on project, and then a self-evaluation on what they learned.

"It is a stand-alone lesson that 4-H youth can access with all the resources in one place," Schlichting said. "It can be used by an individual, as a tool for project leaders, or as a project for classroom teachers to use."

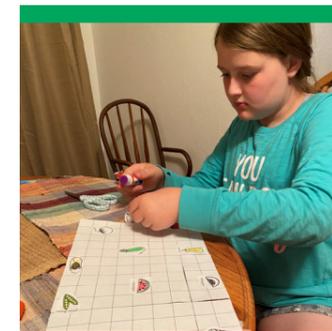
The Kansas Clover Classroom launched during the COVID-19 pandemic for Kansas 4-H members to keep on learning during the unprecedented time. Kansas 4-H members around the state were able to access the project challenges to continue their project learning and skill development.

"Seeing the excitement in the kids and the pictures that they sent in has been rewarding," Patsy Maddy, Twin Creeks Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent, said. "Hearing the comments from the parents that the kids are actually learning things beyond working on an exhibit that they can take to the county fair. They are learning things that they will use throughout their lives."

Gifts given to the COVID-19 4-H Resilience Fund in 2020 were the catalyst to provide blended learning opportunities during the pandemic and beyond. Resources like the Kansas Clover Classroom were developed by youth development specialists, extension agents and volunteers along with converting existing activities to online and blended learning platforms. All of these efforts resulted in an increase in the number of youth reached compared to 2019.

"The Kansas Clover Classroom is one of many examples of how Kansas 4-H was resilient and adaptive in 2020," Jake Worcester, President/CEO, Kansas 4-H Foundation said. "The 4-H program began as a result of visionary leadership thinking differently. The innovation, adaptability and perseverance will benefit us now and in the future."

The classroom is located on the Kansas 4-H website, Kansas4-H.org, then select 4-H Clover Classroom under the Resources tab.



Kansas 4-H members utilized the Kansas Clover Classroom resource to find lessons to continue their skill development and project learning.



Members of the Happy Hustlers 4-H Club in Marion County, Chisholm Trail District, participated in Kansas Beats the Virus initiative and distributed travel size hand sanitizer to five school districts in Marion County.



The Lincolnville Wide Awake 4-H Club in Marion County, Chisholm Trail District, coordinated and distributed face masks to all Lincolnville students as an effort to keep them learning in-person through the Kansas Beats the Virus initiative.

4-H members participate in **KANSAS BEATS THE VIRUS**

Kansas 4-H clubs across the state are pledging their health to better living and hands to larger services with efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. 4-H members practiced civic engagement by participating in “Kansas Beats the Virus”.

The Kansas Leadership Center partnered with the Kansas Department of Health to launch a public health initiative in November 2020. “Kansas Beats the Virus” was created to help combat the spread of COVID-19 and inspire local solutions that keep Kansas healthy amidst the pandemic.

The Kansas Leadership Center challenged Kansas communities to host 1,000 meetings across the state before Dec. 31, 2020. Kansas 4-H responded to this challenge by involving more than 200 4-H members and 50 volunteers that hosted 23 action plan meetings across the state.

These meetings were held virtually to discuss how COVID-19 has affected their personal life and their communities. After this discussion, 4-H members were encouraged to brainstorm how these identified problems could be solved. Youth participants developed action plans to guide their progress and maintain focus on the goal: slowing the spread of COVID-19.

“The meetings began with the 4-H members brainstorming ideas and how COVID-19 affects their life in the community. Then they moved on to how to combat those problems,” Tristan Cope, Youth Development Agent in Chisholm Trail District said.

Cope participated in a facilitator training course

hosted by the Kansas Leadership Center to learn how to facilitate the discussions. She learned how to encourage brainstorming and discussion without disturbing the flow of conversation.

“I was tasked with reaching out to each club leader and presenting them this opportunity to make a difference and make change in their own local community,” Cope said.

Each participating club received \$500 as a part of the State of Kansas through the federal CARES Act. In addition to these funds, each group was encouraged to apply for a \$3,000 grant to implement their action plan.

The K-State Research and Extension Chisholm Trail District - Marion County hosted two Kansas Beats the Virus meetings with 4-H clubs, Happy Hustlers and Lincolnville Wide Awake.

HAPPY HUSTLERS 4-H CLUB

The Happy Hustlers 4-H Club held a meeting and discussed the current issues in the community related to COVID-19. The club had noticed how difficult it was to find hand sanitizer in their area and decided to use their mini-grant funds to purchase and distribute hand sanitizer to all of the students in Marion County. The action plan they implemented was called ‘Project Sanitize Kids’.

“Hand sanitizer was getting kind of hard to find,” Noah Schmidt, 12, Happy Hustlers 4-H member, said. “If kids are not able to use soap and water to wash their hands, they could use this hand sanitizer.”

The club made a final decision to reach out to a local

company in Marion to provide travel size hand sanitizers with 4-H green carrying cases to students. A total of five school districts, totaling 1,700 students, received hand sanitizers.

“We brainstormed lots of other ideas, but hand sanitizer seemed like the best option to reach the most students,” Schmidt said.

Schmidt coordinated the hand sanitizer sorting and distribution. He separated the 1,700 hand sanitizers by which school district they were sent to and also delivered the sanitizers to the elementary, middle and high school in Marion.

“I have seen a lot of students carrying them on their backpacks and I see people actually using them everyday,” Schmidt said.

LINCOLNVILLE WIDE AWAKE 4-H CLUB

Also in Marion County, the Lincolnville Wide Awake 4-H Club implemented their action plan. A topic the club was passionate about was returning to in-person classes as soon as possible and remaining in-person.

“We were remote for the whole month of December because of a large breakout,” Olivia Carlson, 14, Lincolnville Wide Awake 4-H Club president, said. “We wanted to find a way that kept us from going remote again and affecting sports and afterschool activities.”

Remote learning in Lincolnville led these 4-H members to create an action plan in hopes of returning and staying together for in-person learning. The club used their funds, received from hosting a ‘Kansas Beats the Virus’ meeting, to purchase 150 masks to distribute to the entire school district, including teachers.

“I’ve seen several students, at least 10 a day, wearing the

mask and I have heard a lot of good comments about them,” Carlson said.

The Lincolnville Wide Awake 4-H Club saw positive impacts from the action plan they created.

“We have not had many quarantines since January, so I think the masks are helping everyone. They are able to have another mask to wear,” Carlson said.

Carlson was in charge of reaching out to a local company to determine their availability of producing customized masks. She then created a design and after the club approved, placed the order for the masks.

“In addition to helping the community, I learned how to talk to people over the phone and have responsibilities,” Carlson said.

The ‘Kansas Beats the Virus’ initiative provided an opportunity for 4-H members to show how they make the best better in their communities by implementing action plans to slow the spread of COVID-19. These action plans show how 4-H members are dedicating their hands to larger services.

The overall effort resulted in more than 7,000 Kansans from 72 counties participating in 851 different meetings that led to the implementation of 827 action plans across the state.

LIKE WHAT YOU ARE READING?

Let us know what you enjoy about this publication by sending your feedback in an email to info@kansas4hfoundation.org.



your philanthropic support FUNDS IMPACT IN 4-H

This is an exciting year as we celebrate the 75th 4-H camping season at Rock Springs Ranch and continue to celebrate the opportunities Kansas 4-H provides youth across the state. Your philanthropic support in 2021 will impact these three areas:



PROVIDE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Immersive experiences encourages deep learning, create meaningful growth and sparks curiosity so youth can grow and thrive in an inclusive environment. By providing immersive experiences youth unleash their creativity and discover oneself. These experiences ensure youth can grow and thrive.



FOSTER INNOVATION

Through fostering innovation, it prioritizes initiatives that encourage a culture of experimentation and 21st century approaches. Innovation values diverse perspectives that generate better ideas to solve complex problems of an ever-changing world.



ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY

As we seek to enhance accessibility to Kansas 4-H and Rock Springs Ranch, we know how important a positive environment with supportive and caring adults can strengthen youth and family relationships. We have an ongoing commitment to provide access to 4-H, accommodating financial, physical, social and emotional needs of Kansas youth.

Are you interested in learning more about these three philanthropic priorities and discussing how you can provide philanthropic support? We invite you to have a conversation with us. Give the development team a call at 785.775.0123 or email giving@kansas4hfoundation.org.

YOUR GIFT

Your philanthropic support impacts the lives of Kansas 4-H youth. Philanthropy makes the 4-H program possible which meet the needs of youth today. You fund impact.



CASH GIFTS

An outright gift of cash is the most efficient way to invest in Kansas 4-H youth. Make cash gifts to Kansas 4-H using a credit card through our secure online giving page, by mailing a check, or through a charitable IRA. With all avenues, you realize tax savings by deducting cash gifts from your taxable income.



RECURRING GIFTS

A recurring gift is a convenient, budget-friendly way of meeting your annual philanthropic goal by giving weekly, monthly or quarterly. Set up your recurring gift on our online giving page.

"A monthly gift makes my yearly donation more budget friendly. Instead of saving each month for an annual donation, my contribution to 4-H is built into my budget. Automatic payments mean I don't even have to think about it."

- STACI DEGEER, PH.D.
SENIOR FOOD SCIENTIST, CARGILL



MAJOR AND PLANNED GIFTS

Designated gifts are larger gifts and typically funded with cash, securities or property and provide for a long-term partnership between you and the Kansas 4-H Foundation. Estate planning is a means of leaving your legacy for Kansas 4-H.



TRIBUTE GIFTS

A gift given in tribute of another is a reflection of a truly generous spirit, as well as a way to improve the lives of others. Honor or remember a special individual or group with a gift to Kansas 4-H.



DAILY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Support Kansas 4-H Youth Development on an everyday basis with our partner organizations including AmazonSmile, Dillons Community Rewards and Thrivent.

MATCH YOUR GIFT

You can increase the impact of your gift with your employer's matching gift program. Visit our website to learn more and find out if your company has a matching gift policy. www.kansas4hfoundation.org/give

GIVING SOCIETIES



1905 SOCIETY

The 1905 Society is the Kansas 4-H Foundation's exclusive recognition society honoring leadership annual giving donors and celebrating the deep philanthropic roots of Kansas 4-H. You will be recognized as a 1905 Society member through gifts \$1,000 or greater within the calendar year.



EMERALD ALLIANCE

Recognizing the generosity to Kansas 4-H, the Emerald Alliance is our exclusive giving society celebrating leadership annual gifts from business and organizational partners. Businesses and organizations contributing gifts \$1,000 or greater annually through one or multiple gifts are recognized as Emerald Alliance members.



HERITAGE COUNCIL

Members of the distinguished Kansas 4-H Heritage Council have pledged through their estate plans to enhance Kansas 4-H. As members of the Heritage Council, they encourage others to become part of the Kansas 4-H legacy. Opportunities to make an impact through planned gifts to the Kansas 4-H Foundation include:

- bequests through a will or trust.
- designating the Kansas 4-H Foundation as the beneficiary of a bank account, brokerage account retirement plan or life insurance policy.
- utilizing a gift model such as a charitable remainder trust or charitable IRA rollover.

"As I updated my will a few years ago, I decided I would leave part of my estate to the Kansas 4-H Foundation for on-going support of the Kansas 4-H Youth Development Program. I have a strong love for 4-H, working 38 years in Extension, mostly doing 4-H work, in Kansas, Colorado and California before retiring in 2019. I had many wonderful experiences growing up as an 11-year 4-H member in Greeley Co. I know the value of Kansas 4-H, and want to remain involved."

- DERYL WALDREN
HERITAGE COUNCIL MEMBER



stay connected **TO KANSAS 4-H**

The Kansas 4-H family wants to celebrate when Kansas 4-H alumni accomplish great things. Stay connected with us by sharing your updates and achievements with us at <https://www.kansas4hfoundation.org/update/>.



CONNECT WITH US
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KATIE BUHLER, PRATT COUNTY 4-H ALUMNA

Katie graduated Kansas State University in May of 2020 with a degree in Elementary Education and minors in Nonprofit Leadership Studies and English. As a graduating senior she received the K-State Alumni Association's Tony Jurich Community Commitment and Leadership Award, Kyle Pelton Student Employee of the Year Award and the Kansas Excellence in Education Network's "Teacher of Promise" Award. During her time at K-State she coordinated the Alternative Breaks service learning program based in the Staley School of Leadership Studies and was involved with other civic leadership organizations and programs such as the Student Alumni Board, Hands on K-State, and the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Her experiences with civic leadership and service in the Kansas 4-H program allowed her to explore service as a means of learning from diverse communities. It also showed her the power of education as a tool for youth to make lasting change in our communities and around our world. Katie is now teaching fourth grade at West Elementary School in Wamego.



Katie Buhler, Kansas 4-H Alumna, earned three distinguished Kansas State University awards as a graduating senior.

NATHAN DIBBEN, DICKINSON COUNTY, CHISHOLM TRAIL DISTRICT, 4-H ALUMNUS

On October 17, 2020 Nathan Dibben married Rachel Boelter during a micro-wedding ceremony at Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York. Nathan is a former member of the Jolly Jayhawker's



Nathan Dibben, Kansas 4-H Alumnus, and his wife, Rachel, married at the Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York in October 2020.

4-H Club in Dickinson County. Nathan and Rachel, born in Oklahoma and raised in New Jersey, met in/through the theatre scene in the New York City area. Rachel is the Artistic Director for Dreamstreet Theatre Company. The couple plan to celebrate with all their family and friends during a ceremony in fall of 2021. Nathan graduated from Millikin University with a degree in acting and specializes in Shakespeare/classical theatre and stage combat. "I sought out opportunities to grow in public speaking through 4-H," Dibben said. "4-H Days became my "fair" with acting solos and group plays I directed. 4-H provides the flexibility for youth to find their spark!"

LUKE GARRISON, MIAMI COUNTY, MARAIS DES CYGNES DISTRICT, 4-H ALUMNUS

Luke was promoted to Energy & Infrastructure Consultant at Black & Veatch Management Consulting. In his role, he is responsible for integrated strategy, operations, and deployment of technology solutions on the electric grid to improve grid operations and reliability while concurrently reducing cyber and security risks. Luke has been with Black & Veatch Management Consulting for four years after graduating from Kansas State University with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He credits 4-H with teaching him about parliamentary procedure and helping him develop public speaking and other tangible life skills he uses today. He believes 4-H provided him a platform to experiment, fail, and overcome. "After failing early and often in life, it became ingrained that failure was simply part of the process to success," Garrison said.



Luke Garrison, Kansas 4-H Alumnus, was promoted to Energy & Infrastructure Consultant at Black & Veatch Management Consulting.

MAGGIE GILLES, SEDGWICK COUNTY 4-H ALUMNA

Maggie returned to her family's farming operation after working in industry as a journalist for Hoard's Dairyman in Wisconsin for five years. As a dairy farmer she is focused specifically on animal health and animal nutrition on the third generation dairy farm. Kansas 4-H gave Maggie the space to explore her interest in dairy as well as gave her the chance to learn more about leadership and develop skills critical to her professional and personal growth.

SARAH LAMM, THOMAS COUNTY 4-H ALUMNA

Sarah is currently pursuing her master's degree in geology at Kansas State University. Her current research is focused on determining the chemical composition of chlorite with a Raman laser. The Mars Rover, Perseverance, that arrived on Mars Feb.



Sarah Lamm worked on the ChemCat instrument on the Mars Curiosity Rover during an internship at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Curiosity and Perseverance Rovers are the same size and look similar.

21, 2021 has a Raman laser the same wavelength as the one Sarah is using for her research. She is hopeful the calibration will allow her to determine the chemical composition of Mars chlorite. Orbiters have sensed that chlorite is on Mars. Sarah's interest in space and geology came from 4-H experience. She credits 4-H for giving her the opportunity to explore sciences not available in school, leadership and public speaking. Sarah was named K-State's Student SciComm Award Winner, Colby Community College's Dr. Max Prickerill Lecturer and has presented multiple presentations about the Curiosity and Perseverance Rovers.

COUNTRY KIDS 4-H CLUB, SEDGWICK COUNTY

The Country Kids 4-H Club in Sedgwick County contributed their first philanthropic gift to the Kansas 4-H Foundation in response to the Endorse The Course challenge for Kansas 4-H Clubs. The Endorse The Course challenge was sent to all Kansas 4-H Clubs to collectively contribute \$25,000 by May 1 for a new Leadership Adventure Course at Rock Springs Ranch. The club's gift will be added to the collective goal of \$25,000 for Kansas 4-H clubs. "I believe the club voted to Endorse The Course because it's something they have first hand

experience with and they would get to use it at camp," Angela Bennett, County Kids 4-H Club Community Leader, said. "The school district has a ropes course and many talked about how much they enjoy that. They believe it will be a great addition to 4-H camp at Rock Springs Ranch." The Country Kids 4-H Club was chartered 11 years ago.

ANN SPARKE, 4-H VOLUNTEER, FLINT HILLS DISTRICT, MORRIS COUNTY

Ann Sparke enjoyed the opportunity to meet the recipient of the Warren and Mabel Johnson and Ann Johnson Sparke 4-H Scholarship, Claire Clark. Clark is from Stevens County and is a sophomore at Kansas State University majoring in Marketing with a minor in Leadership. Ann shared stories about her parents' dedication to positive youth development which inspired her to establish this scholarship. Claire described how impactful 4-H has been in her life in helping her develop leadership skills. Both reminisced about favorite 4-H events and experiences.



Ann Sparke with scholarship recipient, Claire Clark.

SPONSOR A NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS DELEGATE!

Did you serve as a delegate to National 4-H Congress as a 4-H member?

The history of the National 4-H Congress goes back a hundred years. Kansas 4-H sends the 35 state Kansas Award Portfolio (KAP) winners to National 4-H Congress each year as a reward for their achievement. To help offset the expense of the trip, the Kansas 4-H Foundation provides a sponsorship for each 4-H member. In 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic health concerns, National 4-H Congress was canceled. The 2021 National 4-H Congress is set to happen in-person this November and will include both 2020 and 2021 KAP winners.

Will you help us provide additional sponsorship dollars for all delegates wishing to participate in National 4-H Congress this year?

Contact Lindsey Oakes at giving@kansas4hfoundation.org or call 785.775.0123 no later than July 1 to sponsor a National 4-H Congress delegate!



BIG THINGS ARE COMING TO ROCK SPRINGS RANCH!

In Kansas 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born – they're grown. That applies to camp, too! Time spent at Rock Springs Ranch empowers 4-H campers to return home confident, independent and resilient. They have a greater respect for the natural environment, improved self-worth and are more community minded. They learn to think big.

That's why we are so happy to announce that camp is happening in 2021!

We can't wait to welcome our campers back after such a long time away. Camp

2021 will be our 75th camp season and we are celebrating by looking back on our history but also looking ahead to our amazing future.

This summer our campers and guests will be greeted by the new Leadership Adventure Course! This new addition to Rock Springs is a team obstacle course with high ropes, low elements and a dueling zip line. It's a whole new view of Rock Springs!

We are also launching our renewed website at RockSpringsRanch.org with updated information and reservation opportunities so be sure and take a look. A brand new camp-focused website will debut at the end of this camp season.

Even more exciting is what's on the horizon for Camp Season 2022. We will have expanded opportunities for attendance, extended stays, a new Health Center and remodeled facilities! Our programming will continue to remain firmly grounded in the values of 4-H

as an essential component in the plan to develop Kansas youth into future community leaders.

As we embark on our 75th year at Rock Springs Ranch we want to thank our campers, camp staff, volunteers, extension leaders and everyone else who has made us what we are today. Without you we would not have been able to provide the kinds of experiences that last a lifetime.

YOU ARE ALL A PART OF THIS PLACE, LIKE THE KIDS BEFORE YOU AND THE KIDS TO COME.





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