

THE PLEDGE

KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION

FALL 2021



LAUNCH INTO THE NEXT 4-H YEAR BY ENCOURAGING ENROLLMENT!

ENCOURAGE 4-H ENROLLMENT

“The new year for 4-H is filled with opportunity and fun! When I see the local 4-H families in my community involved and engaged with programming, I am reminded of the leadership and learning opportunities that come with being a member of a 4-H Club. As a 4-H alumna, I use the leadership skills I learned from my leader daily. My confidence grew as a member and officer in the Prairie Dell 4-H Club. The new year is here, and it is filled with exciting learning opportunities.

– Teresa Clouch, Kansas 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees



MEET MAISIE

Maisie, Cloverbud of Olsburg Boosters, represents the future of 4-H

At age 6, Maisie is living out the 4-H Pledge. As a cloverbud, Maisie attends meetings and activities with older 4-H youth and caring adults. Maisie played an active role in helping her club, the Olsburg Boosters, meet their fundraising goal by soliciting \$5 contributions from local residents. Go Maisie!

In her introduction to 4-H, Maisie is already mastering skills, experiencing belonging, gaining independence and demonstrating generosity.

Do you know someone like Maisie in your community who would benefit from the 4-H experience? Encourage them to join. We are looking for youth ages 7-18 to join the 4-H family.

SHARE THE BENEFITS OF 4-H

By being involved in 4-H, youth build life skills that foster growth, confidence, independence, resiliency and compassion. As the largest positive youth development program in the state, Kansas 4-H:

- meets the four essential needs of youth: belonging, mastery, independence and generosity through hands-on learning experiences;
- serves youth ages 7-18 in all 105 Kansas counties;
- delivers programming through extended learning, immersive experiences; and
- fosters career exploration and readiness that translates to any industry.

Encourage youth to enroll in 4-H by sharing the benefits and memories of your own 4-H experiences.

SHARE THE ENROLLMENT LINK

www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online

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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 1952, a committee of Kansans convened to determine what entity should hold the title for Rock Springs Ranch. With a vision for providing educational opportunities for Kansas youth, this committee created the Kansas 4-H Foundation, Inc. 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.

LIKE WHAT YOU ARE READING?



Let us know what you enjoy about this publication. Email your feedback to info@kansas4hfoundation.org

the power of positive YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



JAKE WORCESTER
PRESIDENT/CEO

“One of my favorite things about 4-H is watching the other youth I have mentored in a project beat me. It’s fulfilling to know I helped encourage them to reach their goal.”

– Kara Kunselman, Wild West District,
Haskell County 4-H Club

Oh, wow! What a profound statement from a Kansas 4-H member. It truly encompasses the outcomes 4-H sets out to instill in young people -

compassionate leaders and creators for the 21st century. Our world needs more of these individuals in each and every community. *Do you agree?*

I had the opportunity to facilitate conversations with Kansas 4-H donors and Kansas Award Portfolio (KAP) winners this summer as a part of the virtual Emerald Circle celebration. The conversations were full of statements like the one above that show young people who participate in **4-H Positive Youth Development** gain, not only the technical skills to be a leader, but the heart and compassion needed to take on the challenges they will face in the future. Their self-awareness and understanding of the environment around them gives me hope for the future. They are living out the 4-H pledge in every way, and thriving!

In a rapidly changing world with access to information and influences, youth have more opportunity and risk than ever before. 4-H programs give youth opportunities to discover their greatest passions with positive networks of youth and adults to assist them ensuring they are on a path to thrive. The power of positive youth development is transformational.

As we begin a new 4-H year, I am excited to see what another year of **4-H Positive Youth Development** will do for youth and communities around the state. The last two years might have felt like a standstill in many ways, but 4-H youth are resilient and through adaptive programming, Kansas 4-H focused on meeting their needs. There has never been a more important time for youth to have a place to belong and for caring adults to invest in them. I see youth wanting to do more and make an even greater impact.

My hope is that people like you recognize this desire in our young Kansans and encourage them; advocate for them; and support their deep learning. One simple way you can do this is by seeking out youth in your community who are following their spark and cheer them on. By

intentionally making the effort to encourage these youth, you are accelerating their growth.

Through your philanthropic gifts to Kansas 4-H you are committing to providing immersive experiences, fostering innovation, and enhancing accessibility across the state. Join me and together, let’s make a commitment to live out the 4-H pledge for the young people in our communities.



4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H Positive Youth Development is a research-based experience that includes a mentor, a hands-on project, and a meaningful leadership opportunity. 4-H’s reach and depth are unmatched, nationally reaching kids in every corner of America – from urban neighborhoods to rural farming communities.

The Kansas 4-H Foundation is the 501(c)(3) fundraising arm for Kansas 4-H, the state’s largest positive youth development organization, and Rock Springs Ranch, the state 4-H center. Kansas 4-H began in 1905 and is delivered by Kansas State University Cooperative Extension reaching more than 80,000 kids yearly in all 105 Kansas counties.

As part of 4-H, youth learn mastery, independence, belonging, and generosity through hands-on experiences with guidance from mentors. 4-H experiences empower youth to be leaders and engaged citizens with the skills to lead for a lifetime.



Each morning, campers gather around Flag Pole Plaza to say The Pledge of Allegiance and The 4-H Pledge.

CAMPERSHIPS

Similar to how a scholarship provides access to education, we are establishing statewide Camperships to respond to youth who indicate the highest level of financial need during the camp registration process. Funds will be available to support current 4-H members and serve as a recruitment resource to introduce 4-H to other Kansas youth. Your gift of a Campership will ensure that all youth in Kansas have the same opportunity to explore, learn and grow at Rock Springs Ranch!

OUR GOAL IS
TO PROVIDE
5,000
YOUTH
ACCESS TO CAMP

YOUR
INVESTMENT
WILL
IMPACT MULTIPLE
KANSAS YOUTH

ESTIMATED
ANNUAL NEED IS
\$200K

THE MIKSCH FAMILY LAUNCHES CAMPERSHIPS

“Our family has a legacy of giving to Rock Springs Ranch. We enjoy hearing youth share about their memorable experiences. We hope more donors will join us in supporting Camperships.”

– Duane & Pat Miksch, Manhattan

Thank you donors for everything you do to make it possible for me to come to camp! You have inspired me to be more generous back in my club + community.

Elizabeth
Shawnee



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GIVE THE GIFT OF CAMP CALL 785.775.0123 OR EMAIL US AT [GIVING@KANSAS4HFOUNDATION.ORG](mailto:giving@kansas4hfoundation.org)

encouraging positive YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Extension professionals are invested in 4-H Positive Youth Development experiences and seeing the power it can have on Kansas youth. 4-H Positive Youth Development is a research-based experience that includes a mentor, a hands-on project, and a meaningful leadership opportunity. Amy Sollock, Southwest Area Extension Specialist, and John Jobe, 4-H Youth Development Agent in Riley County, share how they see the impacts of 4-H Positive Youth Development and importance of supporting Kansas 4-H.

Q: WHAT DOES 4-H POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MEAN TO YOU?

JOHN: 4-H Positive Youth Development is the positive experience or exchange between an adult and a young person. This exchange could be with a volunteer, parent, peer or extension professional, and is often presented in some sort of praise for an activity or action that youth has achieved. 4-H Positive Youth Development paints a picture of youth moving forward, growing, learning and embracing hardships alongside a supportive adult.

AMY: 4-H Positive Youth Development is about creating a space, or fostering an environment, that is hopeful, and optimistic. It is all about a growth mindset and creating a space where youth feel safe, motivated and challenged.

Q: WHY IS THE 4-H PROGRAM SO SUCCESSFUL?

JOHN: The 4-H program structure is very unique, because it is so simple, yet so powerful. When recruiting 4-H youth I always tell people there is something for everyone. What I like about the 4-H model is it is scalable for everyone, but the structure and the foundation behind it is very simple. I've been involved in several different youth and early childhood entities, and there is nothing that has the sense of community and the army of volunteers invested like the 4-H program. Having the volunteers that we have, knowing that they're on their own time – that is pretty powerful.

AMY: I believe the 4-H program is so successful because it does a phenomenal job at giving all youth a voice. All 4-H youth in the program have a say in the direction of their experience. Being involved in 4-H allows youth to practice and apply leadership, citizenship, public speaking skills and to make it their own. I don't know of any other organizations where the youth's voice is heard and embraced throughout the entire experience. By allowing youth to have a voice in their experience is what makes 4-H unique and impactful.

Q: WHAT IS 4-H DOING TO REACH NON-TRADITIONAL AUDIENCES?

JOHN: We have outlined a few strategies that have helped us interact with the various audiences and share what 4-H

Positive Youth Development is. Our first step is identifying the "gatekeeper", which is an individual that can relate in a particular community to make others feel comfortable. When approaching the particular audience, the gatekeeper listens to the needs of the community and finds a way that 4-H could connect youth to various opportunities. We have found that this is an important avenue to build trust with these communities.

AMY: We traditionally think of new audiences as a different ethnicity or culture, but it can be anybody that we're not reaching. That audience looks different for individual units across the state. I believe in terms of reducing barriers, we could to step up our game. This could be as simple as eliminating acronyms and verbiage, for example, things such as "4-H age" and KAP's. These terms naturally roll off our tongue, but may not translate well to a family who knows nothing about 4-H. There is a lot of work happening to remove these types of barriers and create this inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels welcome and invited.

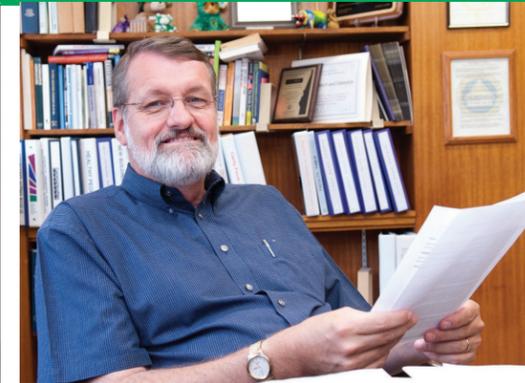
Q: WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WISH MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT 4-H?

JOHN: 4-H is one of the greatest investments that you could make for your child. If a parent would embrace the investment, they would be more likely to push their young person to engage in all of the programming that is offered in 4-H and find themselves more willing to latch on as a volunteer. The generation of volunteers that are currently involved in the 4-H program believe that 4-H is one of the greatest programs to have youth involved in, so they are willing to pour out energy to see the program continue.

AMY: Hands down... 4-H is the best, holistic, and potentially life changing gift you could give to your child, family and community. I don't know of any other youth serving organization that has the potential impact that the 4-H program has on their young people. 4-H is everywhere and is for everyone.



(Left) Amy Sollock serves as the Southwest Area Extension Specialist. (Right) John Jobe serves as the Riley County 4-H Youth Development Agent.



Daryl and his wife, Joyce, at Rock Springs Ranch.

Daryl Buchholz inducted in 4-H HALL OF FAME

"Extension isn't about agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, or community development, it's about changing people, communities and society in ways to lift them up to a better place, and to do it in ways that it becomes their own solutions."

– Daryl Buchholz, 2021 National 4-H Hall of Fame Inductee

A visionary leader of Kansas 4-H and K-State Research and Extension (KSRE), Daryl Buchholz, Manhattan, was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 12, in Washington D.C. This prestigious award recognizes volunteers, financial supporters, staff and pioneers who made a significant impact on 4-H at the local, state and national levels.

Growing up in South Dakota, Buchholz was grounded in faith for guidance and direction, and Cooperative Extension for education and learning. His parents encouraged membership with the Belmont Baby Beef 4-H Club to enhance his learning experience.

Following high school graduation, Buchholz headed to South Dakota State University, where he earned a degree in agronomy. This is where he developed a strong interest in the translation of research into practice.

Encouraged by Extension faculty, Buchholz completed his master's degree at Oklahoma State University followed by a Ph.D at Kansas State University. He began his Extension career in 1980 at the University of Missouri. In 1992, Buchholz joined Kansas State University as the Assistant Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Community Development. While directing the agriculture section, he served 18 months as the Interim 4-H Youth Development Program Leader, before being named to the top leadership position as KSRE Associate Director in 2004. In this position, he provided leadership for the operations of the Kansas Cooperative Extension Service, including overseeing a program that included a workforce of 250 Extension agents, 120 faculty, and more than 500 support staff with an annual budget exceeding \$50 million.

Throughout his career, he was always in a position where his work directly impacted others. "The most

gratifying moments were seeing colleagues, mentees, farmers, youth excel and improve their lives because of something I somehow helped them accomplish," Buchholz said.

One example of his work directly impacting others was when Kansas 4-H was challenged with restricted funding. He encouraged the faculty to look beyond the regular sources of funding and pursue new partnerships. The faculty has been very successful in bringing new resources to 4-H that enhance youth development.

Buchholz's vision and wisdom led to his selection as the Chair of the Extension Committee on Policy (ECOP), a national leadership committee of the Cooperative Extension Section (CES) of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) Board of Agricultural Assembly. Under his leadership, ECOP discussed at length the responsibilities of USDA, ECOP, National 4-H Council and land-grant universities for program delivery.

Always known for asking the "why" question, Buchholz remained strategic in his vision as a leader guiding Extension agents and specialists in their planning process by encouraging programming to be relevant, sustainable, and educational. In 2017, Buchholz retired as Associate Director for Extension.

"One of the lasting impacts of Daryl's leadership is a significantly greater degree of alignment and collaboration between the Kansas 4-H Program and the Kansas 4-H Foundation," Jake Worcester, President/CEO of the Kansas 4-H Foundation said. "His belief that we are stronger pursuing aligned visions is one of the reasons we have been successful in so many endeavors. His belief in people - that together we can pursue great goals and succeed in reaching them - is an example we should all follow."

gifts of real estate benefit **YOU** and **KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION**

“The most important advice I give to clients considering a gift of real estate is to not sell the land before donating it to the charitable organization.”

- Lori Rogge, Real Estate, Broker & Charitable Auctioneer, CAP

Does the thought of gifting real estate feel overwhelming? Let the Kansas 4-H Foundation be a partner in the process.

Charitable plans may provide a way to sell property to maximize value, increase income for retirement and leave a lasting legacy to the Kansas 4-H Foundation. While benefits will vary by plan, it is important to build a team and contact the Kansas 4-H Foundation early in the process.

Doug Mitchell, K COE ISOM, and 1905 society members, Chad Chase, J.D., CTFA of CGN Advisors, and Lori Rogge, Real Estate, Broker & Charitable Auctioneer, CAP, Gene Francis & Associates, share their advice on the process of gifting real estate.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN DONATING GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE.

CHAD: My experience comes from two sides of my career – the first as a practicing attorney and the second as a financial advisor. I have worked with families who have donated land directly to charity, created estate plans that bequeathed land upon death, and administered charitable remainder trusts using land for funding and ultimately benefiting a non-profit organization.

DOUG: As an attorney, I have worked with a number of clients that have donated land to charity. We have helped with direct gifts, gifts through split-interest trusts (charitable remainder trusts), conservation easements and private foundations.

LORI: My career path includes serving as a financial advisor, director of development for a charitable organization and now as a real estate broker and auctioneer. I have assisted families in strategizing what works best for them to handle their land. Gifts of real estate can be given outright, or through life income arrangements and/or estate plans.

WHAT ARE THE TOP 2-3 THINGS FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW WHEN CONSIDERING GIFTING REAL ESATE?

CHAD: The first thing we discuss is making sure that families have that charitable intent and that they aren't just interested in making a gift because of the tax benefit. While the tax benefit can be tremendous, the selfless act of making a gift should really be at the heart of the transaction. When dealing with farmers and ranchers, most family operations are multi-generational and so that conversation should include the entire family. Once charitable intent is confirmed, then I urge families to engage experienced professionals. This includes attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors. Make sure these professionals are collaborative to ensure the best outcome for the family.

LORI: Don't sell, tell! The most critical component is to tell the Kansas 4-H Foundation of your interest before you sell. Charities, real estate professionals, legal, tax and financial advisors should come together to understand the intricacies of the real estate gift to make the best decision for all parties.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO THE FAMILY OF DONATING REAL ESTATE TO PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS?

CHAD: I think the first benefit is the unmatched feeling of the selfless act of giving something you have for the benefit of others. That is first and foremost. Second, there are many tax benefits of gifting land both outright and through a charitable trust.

DOUG: Gifting real estate to a charitable organization helps perpetuate that organization's mission. Additionally, there are tax benefits of charitable giving, the opportunity to get families involved in philanthropy, and potentially preserving the land for future generations.

LORI: I believe the number one benefit is the significant impact you can make to the Kansas 4-H Foundation as you are able to help others and create a positive change. Secondly, is to avoid capital gains on the real estate or receiving a charitable income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the property. There are also opportunities for you to receive income and gift the land. The good that can be done for the Kansas 4-H Foundation, as well as the benefit for you, requires careful attention and technical knowledge of the questions and issues. When all these skills are brought together, the benefits can be truly outstanding for everyone.



DID YOU KNOW?

PRESTON COTTAGE WAS BUILT FROM A GIFT OF REAL ESTATE IN 1966. This cottage is named for Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Preston, Douglas County, who contributed the majority of the funds needed for construction. These dedicated 4-H leaders willed their home and acreage to provide a cottage that now hosts more than 50 youth each camp session. In 2020, several families contributed to the renovation to meet increased camper care and safety needs.

TOP 3 TIPS

when gifting real estate

To maximize the value of your gift and tax benefits don't sell your real estate before consulting with the Kansas 4-H Foundation

*- Lori Rogge
Real Estate, Broker & Charitable Auctioneer, CAP*

Contact Kansas 4-H Foundation early in the planning process to explore your real estate gifts

*- Doug Mitchell
Attorney*

Assemble a team of partners to explore current and future plans for your real estate, while considering your philanthropic gift to the Kansas 4-H Foundation

*- Chad Chase, JD, CTFA
Professional advisor*



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TYPES OF REAL ESTATE



LAND



PERSONAL RESIDENCE



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

WAYS TO GIVE



OUTRIGHT



CHARITABLE
REMAINDER TRUST



ESTATE PLANS

preparing youth to explore CAREER PATHWAYS

Each year Kansas 4-H programming paves a path for 80,000 youth to explore, learn and practice diverse skills that are key to empowering their future careers. A study by the Institute for The Future shows that eighty-five percent of today's youth will work in a job in 2030 that does not yet exist. *So how does 4-H Positive Youth Development prepare its youth for employability in today's society?*

While future careers are unknown, the skill set needed to gain and excel in those careers is known. The 21st century life skills, such as collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and flexibility are crucial for long-term success. 4-H programs provide ample opportunities for youth to learn and practice these skills needed to thrive. As 4-H youth immerse themselves in different projects, camps and leadership positions they are both developing soft skills and exploring their interests. This prepares them to transfer these skills and preferences to a yet unknown career.

Equipping youth from age 7-18 with skills that are applicable to their future careers is a unique attribute of 4-H. The close connection between 4-H and K-State Research and Extension allows youth to become exposed to the University throughout their experience. The latest research provided by land-grant universities like K-State, gives 4-H Positive Youth Development a leg up in creating programming that ensures youth are learning the necessary skills they need today and in future career opportunities.

By getting involved in 4-H, youth become problem solvers, critical thinkers and learn how to collaborate with others to build their future. The foundation for growth of 4-H youth begins in their communities.

Generous Kansas 4-H donors like you are ensuring youth can cultivate these life skills through your philanthropic gifts. As preparing for a career takes place in different ways, so does philanthropic support. Check out how these donors choose to invest in the 4-H program for career readiness.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has witnessed how Discovery Days allows 4-H youth the opportunity to explore the various careers within agriculture. With agriculture being the largest economy in the state, the Kansas Department of Agriculture recognizes the importance of investing in the future workforce for Kansas.

BETH JOHNSON, Bartlesville, OK, credits Rock Springs Ranch for the transformational life skills she learned while attending camp, being a counselor and serving as summer staff. The life skills learned during these experiences prepared her for her 30-year career at ConocoPhillips. Johnson has developed a summer internship for individuals to learn and enhance their life skills at Rock Springs Ranch.

COLLIN DELKER, Albuquerque, NM, directly attributes 4-H for the inspiration and interest he developed for his career in engineering. An interest in exploring technology has led him to be a Senior Member of Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories, working in the Primary Standards Laboratory. As avid advocates for the life skills that the 4-H program provides, Collin and his wife Kim, support the Kansas 4-H Foundation Innovation Fund which promotes a culture of experimentation and innovative thinking at the local level.

KANSAS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION invests in career readiness by being an Emerald Alliance member. Kansas Soybean Association believes that 4-H is a workforce solution that builds leaders who have strong ethics and transferable skills for the workplace.

There are various ways to invest in career readiness. Each opportunity allows youth across the state of Kansas to explore, learn and develop numerous skills that are transferable to their futures.



EXPLORE
"I like to do this."

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, EMERALD ALLIANCE

"The Kansas Department of Agriculture is proud to support 4-H Discovery Days and the opportunities it presents to engage young people in meaningful career **exploration**," said Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam. "The future of Kansas agriculture will rely on a talented, accomplished workforce, and we know from experience that the skills learned in 4-H help youth develop into the leaders and citizens who will make up the backbone of that future."



LEARN
"I can do this."

COLLIN & KIM DELKER, 1905 SOCIETY

"Looking back at my formal education, I feel that one of the biggest deficiencies was that the typical subjects are all taught in isolation. You go to math class and learn math, you learn writing in English class, and history in history class. Yet all these subjects are intertwined, and many students fail to see the connections. 4-H projects help combine these seemingly different subjects and show how they're applied to solve real problems. For example, a 4-H woodworking project may involve math to lay out the geometry of furniture components, history to understand traditional furniture styles and techniques, and English to write about the project and share it with others. While the project skills are important, the real value of 4-H is using projects like these to **learn** creative ways to solve the problems that will be encountered along the way."



DEVELOP
"I might like to be."

BETH JOHNSON, 1905 SOCIETY

"When growing up, 4-H was an important part of my life. I participated in foods, clothing, livestock and other projects. I went to Rock Springs as a camper and camp counselor. During college, I was an employee for two summers at Rock Springs. Because of my Rock Springs experiences, I choose to sponsor a Rock Springs intern. 4-H helped me **develop** valuable skills that equipped me to succeed in school and my career. The 4-H experience helps youth develop communication, leadership and organizational skills that will be used in future career endeavors."



EXPERIENCE
"I will be a..."

KANSAS SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION, EMERALD ALLIANCE

"4-H is a fantastic platform for preparing youth for their future careers. There are hundreds of **experiences** to build confidence, practice public speaking, sharpen your leadership skills, and gain confidence in your own abilities," Kaleb Little, CEO of Kansas Soybean Association, said. "It's also designed in a way that 4-H members can do all those things through whatever interests them. Like showing livestock? Rather lead your club rocketry project group? Be a camp counselor? Interested in fashion? Regardless, the structure is there to build those key skills to become future leaders through 4-H."

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

**Rhonda Atkinson, retires from
Kansas 4-H Foundation**

Celebrating 35 years of loyalty to Kansas 4-H, Rhonda Atkinson has retired from the Kansas 4-H Foundation. In September 1986, Rhonda was hired under Executive Director, Bill Riley, as Kansas 4-H Journal Editor. Her first Journal was released in Fall of 1986. Throughout her career with the Kansas 4-H Foundation, Rhonda contributed to numerous communication efforts such as the annual Essence of Kansas 4-H Calendar, newsletters and cookbooks. Additionally, she enjoyed serving as a liaison to volunteers throughout the state and collaborating with state and county extension professionals on various efforts aimed at growing 4-H and enhancing youth experiences. Another significant highlight of her 4-H career is working with the leadership of both former and current Board of Trustee members.



Rhonda Atkinson, retires from Kansas 4-H Foundation

"For 35 years, Rhonda's loyalty to the 4-H mission impacted thousands of 4-H youth and volunteers. Her commitment to honoring 4-H values and traditions has been evident in her work for the Kansas 4-H Foundation," Jake Worcester, Kansas 4-H Foundation President/CEO says. "We know she will be a lifetime ambassador for Kansas 4-H. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire 4-H family, we wish Rhonda a joy-filled retirement."

Rhonda looks forward to the opportunity to enjoy more family time, alongside her husband, Eric, and continue to volunteer with her trained therapy dog, Bat. Rhonda and Bat currently participate with the Wamego Public Library Youth Services "Read with the Dog" program and enjoy visiting schools, assisted living and nursing homes. Congratulations, Rhonda on your retirement!



Bat and his friend, Blythe



enhancing accessibility for KANSAS 4-H YOUTH

For 115 years, Kansas 4-H has been meeting the essential needs of youth through hands-on learning experiences. **To address the various needs of youth, accessibility has always been a focus, and when we know better we do better.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the importance of providing accessible accommodations and resources to youth. Kansas 4-H has taken action to make 4-H accessible to all Kansas youth. To fully grasp the ways that 4-H provides accessibility, it is first important to understand the difference between accessibility and accommodations.

Two words that go hand-in-hand, accessibility is about being equitable and fair. Being inclusive and creating a sense of belonging for our youth, Kansas 4-H acknowledges that all youth will not start in the same place. Accommodations are a tool that help us work towards accessibility. There are a lot of ways that we can create accessible programming and accommodations through the 4-H program.

“Accommodations are a way of modeling justice and equity so that all youth can see that accessibility is an important part of being a good citizen and being part of society. We are committed to providing tools, programs and services for all,” Aliah Mestrovich Seay, 4-H Youth Development Specialist for community vitality with K-State Research & Extension, said.

The Kansas 4-H Foundation’s philanthropic priorities include providing immersive experiences, fostering innovation, and enhancing accessibility which demonstrates our commitment to access, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Examples of this commitment include: Engagement initiatives (1st generation, foster children, Spanish speaking communities, and special needs youth) and accommodations to increase accessibility (financial, physical, and social/emotional).

Youth’s accessibility needs aren’t always visible. To understand how to address these needs through accommodations it’s important to acknowledge that youth’s needs can be physical, financial, social and/or emotional.

“KSRE professionals are equipped with program development tools that include community engagement strategies, partnership development, program planning, and specifically in 4-H, we train on the foundations of positive youth development. With the latest youth development research surrounding the 4-H Thrive Model and the Science of Learning and Development (SoLD), there are expanding tools available to grow competencies in social, emotional, cognitive, and cultural considerations in 4-H program design and practice. All this equips professionals to maximize the learning engagement in 4-H for any participant,” Wade Weber, Department Head, 4-H Youth Development and State 4-H Program Leader, said.



PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Over the last several years there has been an increase in awareness about the needs of youth coming from different backgrounds. This awareness inspired a group of Kansas Extension professionals to look into ways to be more intentional and committed to how they could be more inclusive, which led to a formalized process to acquire and fulfill accommodations.

Since the formalization of this process, there has been an increase in communication around disability requests. A spike in requests are often

seen around the beginning of the 4-H year, events and county fairs. The increased awareness and demand for accommodations emphasize the need for a pool of funds at the state level that will assist in completing requests.

To meet the growing demand of these accommodations volunteers are always needed. One way you can enhance accessibility within 4-H is by volunteering your efforts to help fill an accommodations request.



FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

Immersive experiences and 4-H projects are not always affordable for families. David Pierson, 4-H alumnus from Ellis County, is dedicated to enhancing accessibility for youth across the state of Kansas. Pierson has contributed annually to Kansas 4-H since 2008 with a goal to ensure that Kansas youth have the ability to experience 4-H. His fund directly provides financial accessibility to youth in the foster care system.

Enhancing accessibility is a continued commitment Kansas 4-H has to support positive youth development. Pierson believes that youth who are involved in 4-H set themselves up for great success in their future. He recognizes that his 4-H experience still impacts him today. “Through 4-H I learned patience, dedication, follow-up, compassion, responsibility and appreciation. 4-H teaches youth to focus on others instead of

oneself. The values gained through 4-H are worth repeating for youth and adults,” Pierson said.

Through his philanthropic support, Pierson finds joy in making an impact on youth through accessibility and accommodations.

“Growing up my club leaders invested in me,” Pierson said. “Youth are our future and our legacy. I want to teach values like personal responsibility through 4-H to future generations. Philanthropy is my legacy.”

THE KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION PROVIDES ENROLLMENT FEE WAIVERS TO YOUTH WITH FINANCIAL NEED.

Due to generous donors to the Greatest Needs Fund, 4-H is accessible to all Kansas youth. Additional philanthropic gifts could provide support for project costs and immersive learning experiences.



SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL ACCESSIBILITY

Today’s teens are more confident in their physical health than their mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic increased teens’ feelings of loneliness and depression.

Two ways Rocks Springs Ranch is meeting the social and emotional needs of youth is by completing a renovation to the Health Center to accommodate the various health needs and providing trained medical personal.

Over the last 10 years, there has been a significant increase in children who have daily medications. According to the CDC, on average 27 percent of the adolescents, are prescribed medication for regular use. Rock Springs Ranch with a goal 5,000 youth during the summer months, the Health Center’s medical personnel are responsible for safely administering prescribed medication.

“All Camp Counselors & Program Staff will be required to complete a series of camp specific

education modules in the areas of Physical, Health, Mental, Mental & Emotional Health through our contracted provider, Expert Online. All staff also will complete an 1-2 week extensive training program based on their position. These trainings will include having all staff become certified in American Red Cross Basic, CPR & AED,” Jim Wheaton, Executive Director, said. “Additionally, staff will learn the risk factors, warning signs, and prevalence of mental illness in adolescent campers to include some practical skills, tools, and strategies to prevent mental health crises and ensure safe and high-quality summer programs.”

FEELING INSPIRED?

Give the Development Team a call at 785.775.0123 or email giving@kansas4hfoundation.org.



your philanthropic support FUNDS IMPACT IN 4-H

We count on your annual support! Your philanthropic support inspires youth to explore new and favorite interest areas.



PROVIDE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Immersive experiences encourage 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 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 empowers the 4-H program to meet the needs of youth today.



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.



MAJOR AND PLANNED GIFTS

Designated gifts typically funded with cash, securities or property have greater impact and provide for a long-term partnership between you and the Kansas 4-H Foundation. Planned gifts allow you to support Kansas 4-H for generations.



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. Visit www.kansas4hfoundation.org/give or scan the QR code with your phone camera.



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 all gifts \$1,000 and 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.

"I believe in the 4-H program and what it teaches. When my children were young someone else had supported Kansas 4-H and built the programs that my children took part in. I believe it's important to pay it forward and allow future generations to have a similar experience. 4-H gave our children the opportunity to learn about life skills, leadership, responsibility, perseverance and volunteerism. I want the 4-H program to thrive and be available for Kansas youth for many years to come. I feel blessed to have the ability to support youth with the Kansas 4-H experience."



- LONA HINSHAW, 1905 SOCIETY MEMBER

stay connected TO KANSAS 4-H

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



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

RHONDA BAER, KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION STAFF

This summer, Rhonda Baer celebrated 15 years of service as the administrative assistant at the Kansas 4-H Foundation. In her years of service she has become affectionately known as “Rhonda Red Pen” for her editing assistance. She is oftentimes the first point of contact, providing helpful assistance to donors and potential donors. She believes all gifts—large, small, and everything in between—make a difference today and for the future of Kansas 4-H. Congratulations, Rhonda!



Jake Worcester, Kansas 4-H Foundation President/CEO, recognizes Rhonda Baer for 15 years of service at the Board of Trustees meeting.

CHASE AND ELIZABETH DRESSLER, DOUGLAS COUNTY, 4-H ALUMNI

Chase Dressler and Elizabeth Donaldson were married on Aug 28, 2021. They met in 2009 during a Stull Busy Beavers 4-H club meeting. Chase and Elizabeth spent several years showing together at the Douglas County Fair. At the 2020 Douglas County Fair, 10 years later, Chase proposed during the Douglas County 4-H Feef Show. The couple share many 4-H memories together and look forward to raising their own 4-H members in the future.



Chase Dressler, and his wife, Elizabeth, were engaged at the Douglas County Fair.

CHERYL GLEASON, ROCK SPRINGS RANCH ENTHUSIAST

Cheryl Gleason, who served as an Assistant Executive Director for the Kansas State High School Activities Association, retired in July. This past summer, Gleason attended her 50th Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) Camp at Rock Springs Ranch. In these fifty years, Cheryl

participated as a youth camper, a camp staff member, and KAY director. Gleason served as KAY State Director for the past 32 years.



Cheryl Gleason

MICHELLE HIGGINS, KANSAS 4-H ALUMNA

Michelle Higgins, Ph.D., a student at Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine (Arizona Campus) and Kansas 4-H alumni, uses 3-D printing, 4-H values and 21st century technology to forge a new collaboration between Mayo Clinic and surgery residents in Vietnam. Drawing on the values of leadership and community service she learned in 4-H while growing up in Kansas, Dr. Higgins was inspired to help. Read more about her work here, <https://mayocl.in/39r3KEY>.

SUKESH KAMESH, KINGMAN COUNTY, 4-H MEMBER

Sukesh Kamesh designed an app that sends reminders to take medicine on time. He shared his innovative idea with Governor Laura Kelly, honorary board chairman of the Kansas 4-H Foundation, at the Kansas State Fair. “With innovative young people like Sukesh in our state, I know our future is brighter than ever,” Governor Laura Kelly said in a Facebook post. Kamesh is a junior in high school who plans to study medicine in college.



Sukesh Kamesh sharing his app with Governor Laura Kelly at the Kansas State Fair

FRED AND NANCY KERR, PRATT KANSAS

Fred and Nancy Kerr celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary on July 24, 2021. Fred served on the Kansas 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees from 1995-2015. They traveled to Rock Springs Ranch the day prior to their

anniversary to attend the Summer Board Social with current and former trustees. Fred and Nancy were married in Nancy’s hometown, Newton, KS. They have one daughter, Kathryn Harrison of Valley Center, KS, and one son, Alan Kerr of Pratt, KS. Happy 56th wedding anniversary to Fred and Nancy!



Fred and Nancy Kerr at Rock Springs Ranch.

DIANE MACK, K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Diane Mack retired as Extension 4-H Specialist on Sept. 30. Diane dedicated 35 years of tremendous leadership as a local extension agent, regional specialist, and Interim Department Head of 4-H Youth Development at K-State. Most recently Diane’s duties included supporting the NE/NW local extension units, PFT leadership, Dane Hansen and National Mentoring grant management, club/project support working groups, and the foods project leadership. Thank you for your service, Diane!

DEANA MCCLURE, ROCKS SPRING RANCH ENTHUSIAST

Heritage Council member and Rock Springs Ranch enthusiast, Deana McClure, turned 101 in June. Deana’s fondness for Rock Springs Ranch developed through her Kayette organization and the leadership events held at Rock Springs Ranch. After several years of fundraising, Deana was serving on the Kansas Council of Women Board when construction of the KCW Cottage at Rock Springs Ranch began in 1981. KCW Cottage was dedicated in 1982, that same year Deana was named Secondary Teacher of the Year by Native Sons and Daughters. In 1986, again working on behalf of the Kansas Council of Women, Deana led a fundraising effort for additional philanthropic support for the Cottage.

ANNA (SETTER) RAMSEY, SOUTHWIND DISTRICT, ALLEN COUNTY, 4-H ALUMNA

Proud parents Anna (Setter) and Will Ramsey welcomed a healthy son and future 4-H member, Luke Barrett Ramsey, Aug. 17. He weighed 8 lbs 7 oz. and was 21 in. long. Anna Ramsey is the Marketing & Events Manager for the Kansas 4-H Foundation, and former Allen County 4-H member.



Luke Barrett Ramsey was born on August 17, 2021.

KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION HONORS RETIRED TRUSTEES

Volunteer leadership is the guiding force behind the Kansas 4-H Foundation and its ability to impact Kansas youth and communities. Since 1952, dedicated Board of Trustee members have volunteered their time, talent and treasure to assist the Kansas 4-H Foundation in fulfilling its mission as the fundraising arm for the Kansas 4-H program and Rock Springs Ranch. The Kansas 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees serve in a leadership role providing guidance and expertise to Jake Worcester, President and CEO of the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

During the board meeting on July 23, 2021 the Kansas 4-H Foundation honored retired and retiring trustees who have served during and since the Growing Kansas Leaders Campaign with a Best Seat in the House in Heritage Halls Spencer Auditorium at Rock Springs Ranch.

- Steve Baccus, *Minneapolis, KS* - 7 years
- Jim Bassett, *Topeka, KS* - 14 years
- Dan Bonine, *Great Bend, KS* - 27 years
- Lee Borck, *Manhattan, KS* - 16 years
- Marilyn Pence Galle, *Manhattan, KS* - 32 years
- Norma Hoagland, *Leavenworth, KS* - 11 years
- Doug Hofbauer, *Manhattan, KS* - 7 years
- Steve Irsik, *Santa Fe, NM (Ingalls, KS)* - 8 years
- Fred Kerr, *Pratt, KS* - 20 years
- John Montgomery, *Junction City, KS* - 27 years
- Barbara Morris, *Hugoton, KS* - 4 years
- Robert Munson, *Junction City, KS* - 8 years
- Bill New, *Leavenworth, KS* - 19 years
- Dolph Simons III, *Lawrence, KS* - 12 years
- Joe Stout, *Cottonwood Falls, KS* - 19 years
- Mary Vanier, *Manhattan, KS* - 7 years

We greatly appreciate the volunteer leadership these individuals have provided over the years.

Oops... We have a correction to our last issue. Alice Walker, highlighted on page 8 in the Spring 2021 issue is from Blue Mound, KS.



KAP WINNERS 2021

Emerald Circle is annually hosted to recognize the Kansas Award Portfolio (KAP) winners for their outstanding work and mastery of a project area. The event took place virtually this year on June 17 and 24. Take a look at their achievements by scanning the QR code with your phone to find the Emerald Circle 2021 events.



Kristy Beene
Beef
Southwind District



Krista Haley
Citizenship
Marais des Cygnes



Kara Kunselman
Clothing & Textiles
Wild West District



Korben Clawson
Communications
Meade County



Cole Meyer
Dairy
River Valley District



Alex Mork
Dog
Sedgwick County



Ashdynn Lehmann
Energy Management
Coffey County



Tessa Miller
Entomology
Rice County



Ellie Seeger
Family Studies
McPherson County



Calista Covel
Fiber Arts
Shawnee County



Lakota Persing
Foods & Nutrition
Wild West District



Keaton Littrell
Geology
McPherson County



Kyla Lankton
Health & Wellness
Coffey County



Kaylee Lukert
Horse
Wabaunsee County Central Kansas District



Adelaide Easter
Leadership
Central Kansas District



Kate Rees
Meat Goat
Lyon County



Emma Littich
Performing Arts
Central Kansas District



Evan Shupe
Pets
Leavenworth County



Jaden Fox
Photography
Johnson County



Jonathan Knapp
Plant Science
Meadowlark District



Cole Stahlman
Poultry
River Valley District



Victoria Bryan
Rabbit
Wild West District



Grace Young
Self-Determined
Marais des Cygnes



Sadie Marchiano
Sheep
Southwind District



Dylan Harris
Shooting Sports
Frontier District



Adam Snowball
Space Tech
Chisholm Trail District



Cody Loganbill
Swine
Douglas County



Kyanna Lankton
Visual Arts
Coffey County



Grant Heintz
Wildlife
Chisholm Trail District



Jesse Stockebrand
Wood Science
Southwind District



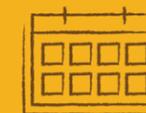
CALLING ALL ADVENTURERS CLIMBERS FLIPPERS & BUG CATCHERS!

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RockSpringsRanch4HCamp.org



Your choice of 4 days/3 nights
or 7 days/6 nights!



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than ever!



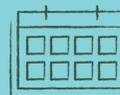
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See You In '22!

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RockSpringsRanch4HCamp.org