

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: Shawnee County 4-H Ambassadors Provide Leadership Development to Teen 4-Hers

Why is this issue important?

The Shawnee County 4-H program has lacked a 4-H Ambassador team since 2019. As a result, there has not been a core group of 4-Hers to promote the program and to host fun educational opportunities for younger youth. This leaves a critical gap for 4-Hers who wish to stay in the program through their high school years.

How did Extension address this issue?

4-H Agent Grace Wiens began in April 2024 by hosting a planning meeting for any 4-Hers who were at least 12 to determine their needs and interests. Those 4-Hers then worked through the summer to generate enthusiasm for the program, and 11 members attended a kick-off party in August. Meetings will be hosted every other month focusing on building interpersonal skills, leadership, team-building, and learning how to promote 4-H.



What was the impact?

10 4-Hers have officially signed up for the group, and they set goals to put on at least 5 promotional activities through the year. In Addition to the promotional activities the youth want to host one day camp in the spring.

Ambassadors attended their first promotional activity on August 31st at Wildly Creative at the Topeka Zoo. Members helped 300 zoo attendees make a craft and talked to them about the opportunities in 4-H.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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