



### CONGRATULATIONS!

You have almost completed your first year as a 4-H member. We hope you had a great first year. We've enjoyed seeing you involved, getting to know you better, and we look forward to the years ahead. Thank you for being part of the Sunflower District 4-H program this year!

### How Does the 4-H Year End?

After the county fair, the 4-H year begins to wind down and plans are made for a new 4-H year. Three things mark the end of the 4-H year:

- 4-H members complete a Project Record Form for one or more of their projects.
- Achievement Day is held in November. This event provides an opportunity for 4-H members to be recognized for project work and participation in 4-H events and activities; 4-H leaders to be recognized for their 4-H contributions; and a celebration of a great year of 4-H experiences completed by 4-H club members, leaders, and families. (Watch for announcements for Project Record Form due dates.)
- National 4-H Week is scheduled the first week of October. 4-H brings together youth and adults to build a nation of stronger communities from family farms to urban environments. You can help by telling others about your 4-H experiences. Spread the word. Promote 4-H! Tell your neighbors and friends about 4-H. Invite a friend to join your club.

### And then it starts all over again!

Just as you are starting a new school year - the new 4-H year begins too (October 1). Extension offices will send re-enrollment information to each family.

Anytime you have questions, please don't hesitate to call or stop by the Extension Office. We are here to help you!

*Did you find this "Welcome" newsletter series helpful as a new 4-H family? Do you have suggestions to improve this newsletter for future new 4-H families? If so, please forward your comments to [karennelson@ksu.edu](mailto:karennelson@ksu.edu)*

## Sunflower District 4-H New Family Newsletter Series Fall Edition

### What does that mean?

Every organization has a vocabulary that seems to only make sense to long-time members and 4-H is no different. Here are a few of those words:

**Re-enrollment**—4-H members and leaders use 4hOnline *each year* to enroll in 4-H and choose their projects beginning October 1. The 4-H year runs from October 1 through September 30.

**Junior Project Leader** – A junior project leader must be 12 by January 1 and ready to step up to leadership! A 4-H Junior Leader works collaboratively with an adult leader and may set goals, develop plans, and teach 4-H members skills in a particular project. They may also coordinate details such as meeting times, locations, materials, and supplies for members.

**How do I sign up to be a Jr. Project Leader?** If a member would like to be Jr. Project Leader, there is a box to check in 4-H Online.

**National 4-H Week**—held the first week of October. It is an opportunity to celebrate and promote 4-H.

**Project Record Forms (fillable or online)**— <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/LocalRecordKeeping.html>

4-H members complete fillable project record forms to reflect on what they accomplished in their project/s. The permanent record helps members keep track of their leadership and community service efforts for future reference for trips, resumes, scholarships, and job applications. **ZBooks Online** is a second option for record keeping.

- <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/ZBooks.html>
- <https://4h.zsuite.org/>

**Achievement Pins**—Awarded to members who meet the pin requirements and turn in a completed project record form.

**Achievement Day**—An event where 4-H members are recognized for their work in a project area. Other areas of recognition are determined by each county.

**Key Award**—Recognizes 4-H members who have an exemplary record of accomplishments. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age, completed four or more years of 4-H and meet the other nine requirements.

## How do I Re-enroll in 4-H in the Sunflower Extension District?

You will re-enroll online. Be sure to re-enroll in 4-H by December 1 and pay your State 4-H Enrollment Fee to be eligible to participate in the 4-H Division at your County Fair. The Cheyenne and Wallace County 4-H Council groups may cover the enrollment fee for members enrolling/re-enrolling by December 1. (New members may enroll in 4-H and participate in the 4-H Division until May 1.)

- Complete all the information and provide correct addresses, e-mails, and phone numbers so your leaders and the Extension Office can communicate with your family.
- You will sign up for new projects and re-enroll in current projects you want to continue to take. You may add additional projects\* until May 1 and enter them in the 4-H Division at the County Fair.

## Choosing My 4-H Projects

Now that you are in your second year of 4-H think about project demonstrations and fair exhibits created by other members. Are there different projects you are interested in trying out? Look through the Kansas 4-H Project Selection Guide to learn about available projects. <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/>

In 4-H projects, you will learn more than ‘subject matter’ as you complete your projects. Members learn many life skills that help prepare them for the future. Things like teamwork, understanding yourself, communication skills, problem solving, decision making, and working with others are some important skills learned.

When is a project over? Projects can be completed in a year. However, members can work at their own pace. A member may re-enroll in the same project until the experiences they planned have been completed. Some enroll in the same project for multiple years, identifying new goals each year.

**Unsure what projects you might want to take this year? Explore your interests, answer these questions and choose the ones you are most excited about.**

After school and on weekends I like to:

Hobbies I enjoy are:

I’m curious about:

I’d like to try:

**As you are talking with your parent, guardian, or 4-H leader, consider things like:**

How much time do I have to spend on a project I’ve identified?

Do I have enough help or support to complete the project I’m thinking of taking?

How much money do I have to spend on a project?

What supplies do I have available to complete the project I’d like to take?



**What project level do I choose?**

Many members will stay in a project level for three (3) years. In some projects, you’ll have a choice of signing up for beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels. If you’ve had a lot of experience with the subject matter, you may want to

My Interests	Related Project/s	Things I’d like to learn or create in this project.	Do I have time to do this project?	Do I have help to complete this project?	Do I have the equipment and funding required to complete this project?

## Watch for ...

- **Project Record Form and Achievement Pin due dates for your club and county.**
- **Club Committee Descriptions and Sign Up Sheets**
- **Enrollment information for the new 4-H year.**
- **Club meeting dates for the new year.**
- **Officer Training Announcement**
- **Fall 4-H Promotion Events**
- **National 4-H Week**
- **48 Hours of 4-H—The weekend after National 4-H Week groups of 4-H members are encouraged to complete a service project in their community.**
- **October 4-H STEM Challenge**

## Coming Up...

### September

- **State Fair in Hutchinson**
- **KJLS (Kansas Junior Livestock Show) - Hutchinson**



### October

- **1—4-H Enrollment for the new year opens**
- **National 4-H Week (The first Sunday in October is National 4-H Sunday.)**
- **County Project Record Form Judging**
- **Achievement Pin Applications Due**
- **Sunflower District 4-H Leadership/Officer Training**

### November

- **County 4-H Achievement Day**
- **Re-enrollment deadline in the Sunflower District is DECEMBER 1. (Must re-enroll by this date to show in the 4-H division at your county fair.)**

## What your club may be doing...

- Encouraging members to complete and turn in their Project Record Forms.
- Electing Club Officers and club representatives to county 4-H groups.
- Signing members and families up for club committees. These are a good beginning for future leadership roles for members in a 4-H club.
- Setting club goals.
- Developing a calendar of events for the 4-H year.
- Promoting 4-H.

## To-Do...



- Invite a friend to join 4-H!
- Re-enroll in 4-H by December 1.
- Run for an officer position; sign up for a club committee.

## Tips...

As you complete your 4-H project year and Project Record Forms, it is time to think back on all you've accomplished.

- What did you learn?
- How did you feel about the activities you completed?
- Did you do some of the things you wanted to do?
- Sometimes plans change and that's okay! Just talk about what changed and why.
- What would you have done differently?
- Start NOW to set your project goals for next year!



## Officer Elections

- Are you ready to become a leader in your 4-H Club?
- Do you attend most of your 4-H club meetings?
- Do you get things done right and on time?
- Are you responsible?
- Are you ready to work with others to carry out the work of the club for the next year?

Being a club officer is one of the most recognized leadership roles in your 4-H club. Most clubs elect officers in September or October. Let your club leader know if you are interested in being considered for an officer position. Check out this link for handouts and recordings that explains the duties of some of the club offices. <https://www.sunflower.k-state.edu/4-h/Club%20Leaders.html>

## Officer positions in your club may include:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Reporter  
Historian  
Recreation Leader  
Song Leader  
Parliamentarian



If you are a club officer, watch for officer training information in the Sunflower District!

## Connect with us on social media!

A monthly Extension newsletter is published in the Sunflower District and information is routinely posted to the Sunflower District Extension website and various Facebook pages.



K-State Research and Extension Sunflower District: <https://www.facebook.com/SunflowerExtensionDistrictAGFCS/>

Sunflower Extension District Cheyenne County 4-H: <https://www.facebook.com/sunflowerextensiondistrictcheyennecounty4h/>

Sunflower Extension District Sherman County 4-H: <https://www.facebook.com/sunflowerextensiondistrictshermancounty4h/>

Sunflower Extension District Wallace County 4-H: <https://www.facebook.com/sunflowerextensiondistrictwallacecounty4h/>

<https://ks.4honline.com/Login.aspx?403D4065476E5551444A414B68513D>



Sunflower Extension District #6 Website: <https://www.sunflower.k-state.edu/>

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