December: Dreams of 4-H Projects to Come! #findyourspark

Dear 4-H Families,

We hope your holidays are filled with excitement and good cheer! If you haven’t done your 4-H enrollment for the 2021-22 4-H year, PLEASE do so right away. This helps Project Leaders plan; and also helps us find project leaders for the areas needed. Merry Christmas from Trisha, Marty & Jean!

Congratulations to our award winners at 4-H Achievement Night!! Special Awards went to:

4-H Family of the Year – Scott & Jeana Schaller Family
4-H Alumni – Marlin Butler of Lewis
Friend of 4-H – Rex Woods
Extra Mile 4-H’er – Levi Taylor
4-H Record Book Champions are: Cassidy Ary, Joey Prieto, Bethany Palmer, Hartley Takaishi, Morgan Sebes, Levi Taylor, Joshua Stuckey, Blaine Ybarra, Laci Taylor, Dylan Haselhorst, and Caitlen Gleason
4-H Story Award Winners: Joshua Stuckey, Laci Taylor, Caitlen Gleason, Joey Prieto, Carson Domme, Courtney Arensman, McKenna Schaller

Plus 4-H’ers received their achievement pins and their project pins! The leaders were recognized and of course, their thank you gifts had not arrived. BUT now the leader gifts are in! Thank you to Northern Star for the awesome decorations and a special thanks to the meal committee for a great meal!

Thank you Northern Star for providing the lanyards for all the 4-H’ers. If you did not receive one, contact the Extension Office. The new project awards system is that 4-H’ers will receive a project pin for the appropriate project the 1st year they are in the project and complete a project record; in the subsequent years, they will receive a star pin.

Holiday Food Boxes Once again 4-H’ers will be helping with the Christmas food boxes for Edwards County. Families in need will turn in applications to the Edwards County Health Department. Dates to remember are:

Christmas Food Boxes & Gifts: Dec. 20 4:00 – 6:00 pm (Food box & gift pickup – All 4-H’ers are encouraged to help. Boxes are heavy! If a younger 4-Her wants to help, parents, please accompany them. They are still able to help carry potatoes or the meat but you may have to carry the box.)

Bring Your Project to Life Central Kansas District and McPherson County 4-H are collaborating on a 2nd year project titled: "Bring Your Projects to Life". These are hosted every second Thursday of the month at 7 PM (Zoom). They focus on different 4-H projects and skills and connect youth with college, leadership and career opportunities. The program to be held on December 9, 2021 at 7 PM will be presented by Dr. Elizabeth Kiss from K-States Department of Personal Financial Planning. Youth DO NOT have to be currently enrolled in any specific project to participate! Sessions are geared towards 10-14 year olds, but we will welcome all ages to register. For more information, contact the Extension Office.

YAC (Youth Activity Committee) Trip Update A YAC trip is a day for younger 4-Her’s (grades 1-6) to take an education field trip. The YAC trip will be held on Friday March 11, 2022. We will tour Boot hill Museum in Dodge City, eat lunch at Pizza Hut, and travel to Parrot’s Cove Waterpark in Garden City. The cost will be $5.00 per member. At your December club meeting, we will be taking poll to see what members will be interesting in attending. We need an approximate number to make reservations.

EYE Trip Update On Saturday, December 4, 2021 the participants will be serving breakfast and lunch at the fair building during Christmas Fantasy. Be sure to help support our EYE participants!

4-H Shooting Sports BB Gun & Air Rifle project meetings will be starting this weekend. If you have not already done so, please do your enrollment. For more information, contact the Extension Office.
Edwards County Fair Dates  The Edwards County Fair Board have set the dates for the 2022 Edwards County Fair for July 19-23, 2022. Mark your calendars.

Enroll in 4-H  As always, October 1 began the New 4-H Year. Go to: https://v2.4honline.com to re-enroll your 4-H’ers. If you need help, contact the Extension Office. There is a Family & Sponsor Resources webpage at https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online/index.html We ask that you have your enrollment done by Dec 1st. If you don’t remember your password, the site will send you a link to retrieve it. If you are needing help selecting projects, go to: https://www.edwards.k-state.edu/4-h/project-resources.html and look at the Project Selection Guide. The Project Selection Guide is also attached to this newsletter.

Volunteers and 4HOnline  We encourage parents, project leaders and club leaders to also sign up on 4HOnline. We are available to help you complete the process and would be willing to attend your next 4-H meeting to help get families entered. If you want our assistance, please contact the Extension Office. If you are a new family to 4-H, please go to: https://www.edwards.k-state.edu/4-h/ or feel free to contact your community club leaders or the Extension Office staff.

We want to remind you that we have a closed Edwards County 4-H page on Facebook for only 4-H members. Families have been invited to join this page. Be sure to check this Facebook page regularly to keep up on what’s happening! If you have not been added, please contact the Extension Office.

FSA Youth Loans  The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Call the FSA county office in Kinsley for additional information: 620-659-3142.

We are in desperate need of Project Leaders!! You don’t have to be an expert to be a project leader, just interested. The Extension Office has lot of materials to help you get started as a project leader. If you are interested or know of someone who would be able to help, please contact the Extension Office. Our most popular projects in need of leaders are: Beef & Bucket Calf, Buymanship (Clothing/Fashion), Foods, Photography, Swine and Visual Arts (Crafts). Some other projects than have growing interest are: Meat Goats, Leadership, Sheep, Rocketry, and Woods.

4-H Project Selection Guide is available on our website. This guide explains all 37 4-H projects offered. When a family enrolls in 4-H, this guide is especially helpful. Here are a few projects I wanted to bring to your attention because they are some that aren’t well known in Edwards County, but are a good fit for extracurricular family activities that some families participate but don’t realize they fit right in with a 4-H project.

As always, if you have questions or need more information, please don’t hesitate to contact the Edwards County Extension Office, 620-659-2149. We are here to help!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS