



POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



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The Kansas State Fair is
September 5-14, 2025 in Hutchinson!



Kansas 4-H
State Fair Website



4-H/FFA Grand Drive
Website

STATE FAIR STATIC (INDOOR) PROJECT ENTRY

Each county fair's 4-H division allows qualification for the Kansas State Fair in accordance with the expectations outlined in the Kansas 4-H State Fair Book.

- Youth must be 9 years old by January 1 of the current year to be eligible for the State Fair.
- To qualify for the State Fair, static exhibits must have earned a purple ribbon at the county fair level. A purple ribbon does not include county fair grand or reserve grand or class champion awards/trophies/rosettes.
- There may be additional exhibit requirements from what you presented at the county-level in order to exhibit at the state fair, and some county-level projects are not eligible to go to state.
- Read the Kansas State Fair 4-H Fair Book for project classes and requirements. Projects WILL be disqualified if requirements are not met! Find the Kansas 4-H State Fair Book at www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/.
- Post Rock District staff will complete the entry process as outlined by Kansas 4-H, using the information submitted by qualifying members. **Your project will ONLY be entered in the state fair if you meet your county's deadline and commit to state fair entry. Call your Extension Office ASAP so you don't miss any deadlines!**

PROJECT TRANSPORTATION TO STATE FAIR - DUE BY AUGUST 28

Post Rock District staff will coordinate transportation of non-animal exhibits to-and-from the Kansas State Fair for 4-H exhibition. Exhibits will ONLY be transported by extension staff if they can easily be moved by one person, if they can fit within an extension vehicle, and if they can be safely transported with many other items. 4-H members can transport their own items, including those that are too large, heavy or fragile.

- **Exhibits (except fresh-baked foods, fresh-picked vegetables, and fresh-picked flowers) need to be dropped off at your Extension Office BEFORE August 28 at close of business.** This will allow staff to confirm your project has all needed paperwork and exhibition permission forms with signatures before the holiday weekend.
- Freshly baked/picked foods, vegetables, and flowers that will be entered as exhibits can be brought to the office at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3. Don't be late or your project may get left behind!
- Bring exhibits to the office ready to be safely transported in a vehicle with many other items. Old towels/blankets and boxes/totes that fit your project's size are very helpful. Make sure everything is marked with your name so you get them back after fair.

SMITH COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

📶 POSTROCK.KSU.EDU

📞 (785)282-6823

✉️ OVERMILLER@KSU.EDU

RISA OVERMILLER, 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Thank You

I want to sincerely say thank you to Sierra and Laura Kingsbury for stepping up and helping make the food stand a great success this year! To Desiree and Dena for taking over Sunday night so I could be at the Beef Show, and Marlene for Thursday's help and making extra pie. Also, to all our 4-H families, your support and help with the fair does not go unnoticed. You are the reason I keep doing this job. Thank you to the fair board for their continued support of our Smith County 4-H program.

Important Dates:

July 30 - 2 dozen cookies to the Extension Office

July 30 - council delivers cookies to donors, 11 a.m.

October 1 - pin and project award applications due

Congratulations to all of you on another successful fair!

State Fair Exhibits



If you received a purple ribbon on a static exhibit, purple in poultry, blue or purple on a rabbit project, and your 4-H age is 9 or older, your exhibit can be sent to the Kansas State Fair! The Extension Office coordinates the transport of static projects to and from Hutchinson, but not animal projects. **Those that qualify for State Fair will soon be receiving an email with more information and deadlines!**

Pin Applications

Wrap up the 2024 - 2025 4-H year by completing a Project Record and Member Pin Application. Applications are due by close of business, Wednesday, October 1 in the Extension Office. The link to forms and resources for these items is:
<https://www.postrock.k-state.edu/4-h/member-resources/>



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4-H PRESENTATIONS AT STATE FAIR

Remember that 4-H Members ages 9 and older who participated in 4-H Day and received a purple can take their project talks, demonstrations, and illustrated talks to the Kansas State Fair. Poetry entries can also be entered. New this year, Public Speaking entries can come to the State Fair; however, regardless of the purple-earning topic used locally, all contestants at the State Fair will use the same topic, "What 4-H Means to Me". Check out the entry requirements in the Kansas 4-H State Fair Book at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/>. Notify your local Extension Office ASAP if you'd like to enter!

STATE FAIR 4-H VOLUNTEER & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities to gain leadership experience as a volunteer at the Kansas State Fair. It is a great way to get leadership hours to contribute toward your project record book or earn an achievement pin. Volunteering is also a fantastic way to grow as a club leader, project leader, or even train to be a county fair judge in a project area of interest! If you want to volunteer or have some questions, contact your local Post Rock District Extension Office and we will assist you with signing up!

- **GREETERS:** Serve as a greeter at the 4-H Centennial Hall informational booth any day during the State Fair.
- **JUDGING ASSISTANTS:** Serve as a judging assistant on September 4 or 5 in a static project judging area of interest. Record notes for judges, assist with organizing projects, help enter exhibits, etc.
- **FASHION REVUE EVENT ASSISTANTS:** The Northwest KS Area is responsible for hosting the fashion revue at State Fair this year. We can use teen and adult volunteers. If you are able to help September 13 please let your local office know!

COOL CAREERS VIDEO PRODUCTION CONTEST ENTRIES DUE AUGUST 1

Last call for Cool Careers 4-H Video Contest entries - entry deadline is August 1! Cool Careers 4-H Video Contest is open to any 4-H member enrolled for the current 4-H year. 4-H members will select a profession within one of their projects in which they are enrolled for the current year. 4-H members will film, edit, and publish an original video (4-10 minutes in length) about a professional working in this field and their career. These videos should be geared towards youth 4th - 8th grade to inspire and introduce them to the exciting opportunities in the selected field of work. 4-H youth are encouraged to use equipment they have at home - cell phones, iPad or other tablet, home computer, camera, etc. More details are on the [Kansas 4-H Cool Careers webpage](#).

INVITE INTERESTED FAMILIES TO A CLUB MEETING



Enrollment for the 2025-2026 year will begin October 1. Current and new members must enroll each year through 4-H Online. **If you know of a family wanting to join a local community club, please share their email and phone number with your local Extension Office. We don't want them to miss out on important enrollment details.**

- Invite families to your 4-H club activities now so they are ready to enroll this fall!

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KANSAS 4-H LIVESTOCK SWEEPSTAKES IS AUGUST 23-24

Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes will be hosted August 23-24 in Manhattan. The deadline to register is August 1 to the state, so **all interested youth must notify their local Extension Office ASAP so we can enter Post Rock District teams.** Youth from multiple Post Rock District counties can make up a team. The expenses and transportation for participation are up to each individual. Post Rock District staff do not coach teams, so adult volunteers are also needed to serve as coaches. The contest rules, schedule, and more information are posted on the [Livestock Sweepstakes](#) page of the youth livestock website. Call your local Extension Office if you have questions.

KANSAS 4-H HORTICULTURE JUDGING IS AUGUST 16

The State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest will be held on Saturday, August 16 in Manhattan. The contest is hosted for the day by the K-State Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources. If you are interested in participating as an individual or on a Post Rock District team, contact your local Extension Office ASAP so that we can meet the state's August 8 deadline. An adult coach will also need to be identified for anyone participating. Costs and travel are the responsibility of each participant. The study list for the knowledge portion of the contest has been updated and is available with other contest details on the [Kansas 4-H State Horticulture Judging Contest webpage](#).

KANSAS 4-H/FFA WHEAT EXPO IS AUGUST 7

The State Wheat Expo will take place on August 7 in Hutchinson. The wheat expo will be a fun, educational and hands-on program for all Kansas 4-H members, siblings, parents, and grandparents. You do not have to be enrolled in crops/plant science projects to participate. 4-H members enrolled in Foods and Nutrition, Photography and Field Crops are encouraged to participate. The Wheat Expo is a wheat fun day showcasing all things wheat. Lunch and refreshments are sponsored, and tours will be available. There will be eight contests open to youth members with cash prizes and ribbons awarded. Event details and registration are available on the [Wheat Expo website](#).

KANSAS 4-H WHEAT VARIETY PLOT ENROLLMENT FOR 2026

The 2025-26 4-H Wheat Variety Plot program begins in the fall of 2025 with planting and wraps up in the fall of 2026 with the State 4-H Wheat Variety Plot displays at the Kansas State Fair. The 4-H Wheat Variety Plot program is open to all 4-H members enrolled in the 4-H Agronomy project who have an interest in studying how different wheat varieties perform in their part of the state. 4-H members are encouraged to work closely with their local agriculture agent and/or an adult mentor. The 4-H Wheat Varieties are meant to be a hands-on experience for youth and set in a similar way as local Extension Wheat Variety plots. There will be no cost for the program in 2025-26 since the five varieties are again being sponsored by commercial companies. Interested members should contact their local Extension Office ASAP so that Post Rock District can meet the state enrollment deadline of August 1.

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KANSAS 4-H STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE DELEGATE APPLICATIONS OPEN

The application and information about the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council and National 4-H Conference are available now! The Youth Council Application and National 4-H Conference Application will be combined this year, with applicants indicating if they are applying for one or both opportunities. Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2026, may apply as a Council Representative, and those 15-18 before January 1, 2026, may apply for the National 4-H Conference. This year's KYLF delegation will elect representatives for one-year terms on the Council. Up to six National Conference Delegates will be selected through an interview prior to KYLF, and they serve a two-year term on the council. The deadline to apply will be October 1, 2025. Complete details are available online at <https://kansas4h.org/educational-experiences/teen-leadership-opportunities/youth-leadership-council/>.

FAIR JUDGES DIRECTORY SIGN-UP TO SUPPORT KANSAS 4-H COUNTIES

Calling all potential 4-H judges! Are you passionate about supporting youth and shaping the future of 4-H? We're looking for dedicated adults to join our Kansas 4-H Judges Database! This is a database used by local extension units and county fair planning groups when scheduling fair judging. There is a great need for more judges in north central Kansas, as well as the entire state! By registering, you agree to be screened according to the Kansas 4-H Code of Conduct and policies. Register by completing the [online form](#). For questions related to the 4-H Judges Database, please reach out to Kelsey Nordyke (klndordyke@ksu.edu) or Beth Hinshaw (bhinshaw@ksu.edu).

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CLUB IDEAS

Are you wanting to add some excitement to your 4-H Club meetings as you finish the 2024-2025 4-H program year? Here's some ideas for your group to consider:



- Pool Fun: Have a club meeting and then cool down at a local swimming pool with your 4-H friends!
- 4-H Parade for Elders: Visit the local Elder Care Home and do a 4-H project parade, showing off your county fair projects and ribbons. Take a moment to ask about the residents' county fair memories from years past.
- I Love 4-H Video / Posters: Make fun videos and posters to share about why you love 4-H! Use them to share about your 4-H club, as families consider youth activities to join during the new school year.
- Record Book Work Night: Have a work night before the busy school schedule arrives and fill out a project record book and achievement pin application. Turn them in early and avoid the stress!
- Use the Club Seal checklist to ensure members are thriving. Remember, Club Seal Applications are due to your local Extension Office by October 1! Club Seal Information: <https://www.postrock.k-state.edu/4-h/club-and-council-support/club-seal/>

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NATIONAL 4-H WEEK IS OCTOBER 5 - 11!

National 4-H Week is October 5-11, 2025. 4-H clubs, 4-H families, and 4-H members can use National 4-H Week as a platform to showcase activities, recruit new members, say thank you to sponsors, and spread the word about the value of 4-H in fostering leadership, encouraging community service, developing friendships, and offering hands-on learning.

48 HOURS OF 4-H SERVICE CHALLENGE

48 Hours of 4-H is a community service challenge for all members in Kansas 4-H! The challenge takes place October 11-12. 48 Hours of 4-H is an opportunity for 4-H members and supporters to engage in a concentrated period of community service and project work. You can complete a service project as a member, family, group, or as a 4-H club project! Remember to register your project with [Kansas 4-H on the challenge website!](#)

4-H MEMBER FEATURES

This year, to promote 4-H, the Post Rock District will be sharing 4-H member features in local newspapers and on our social media platforms. This initiative replaces the daily themed challenge of past years. 4-H members, volunteers, and alumni are welcome to email our team with information to be included in a feature. Throughout September, October, and November, we will spotlight each participating 4-H member. Email features to postrock4h@ksu.edu or text them to Tonia Underwood at 785-282-8131.

- Include 1-5 photos of your 4-H experience - past or present.
- Share "I love 4-H because...", "My favorite experience in 4-H is...", "My spark in 4-H is...", "In 4-H I like learning...", "My best 4-H memory is...", or another great summary of 4-H through your eyes!
- You can also share a favorite quote that motivates you as a 4-H member.

CREATE A 4-H PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Calling 4-H members to create a JOIN 4-H VIDEO! Creating engaging videos to encourage others to join 4-H can be a fun and impactful way to spread the word! Post Rock District would like to use these videos during the month of October as we kick off the new year and the priority enrollment period. Videos can be created individually, as a family, with a few friends, or as a club project. Please keep videos under 2 minutes long. Email videos to postrock4h@ksu.edu or text them to Tonia Underwood at 785-282-8131. You can also bring them to your local Extension Office to be downloaded.

OFFICER AND MEMBER LEADERSHIP TRAINING SET FOR NOVEMBER 8 IN BELOIT

The annual Post Rock District Officer and Member Leadership Training is set for November 8 in Beloit. This is one week later than usual due to Halloween being on a Friday, and we didn't want to make you all travel early in the morning after a night of trick-or-treating! The training helps members learn about the important roles of officers and committees. You'll build leadership skills to grow as an engaged 4-H member. All ages and levels of experience are invited. If you want to help plan or present, let Nora Rhoades know at nrhoades@ksu.edu.

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ACHIEVEMENT PINS AND RECORD BOOKS ARE DUE OCTOBER 1!



4-H Member Achievement Pins: Achievement pins are designed to recognize 4-H members as they reach milestones throughout their 4-H journey. The pins are awarded in a series. As a member's 4-H journey progresses, the achievement pin requirements expand to challenge individuals to explore and engage in more opportunities to develop life skills. Contact your local Extension Office if you are not sure what pin to apply for!

- Download Achievement Pin applications at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/>.

Permanent Record: Every 4-H member should complete the 4-H permanent record. This is an ongoing record of your involvement and it is required to be eligible for many awards. It can be a really helpful tool when applying for scholarships and a great summary of your 4-H and non-4-H journey!

- Download the Permanent Record at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/LocalRecordKeeping.html>.



Project Record: It is recommended that each 4-H member complete a Project Record Report for one (1) project you focused on during 2023-2024 4-H program year. You can complete more project records if you'd like, yet focusing on at least one gives you the opportunity to build important life skills related to records and reporting.

- Download the Project Record for your age division at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/LocalRecordKeeping.html>.

ZBooks: Zbooks is an online record keeping software. Record keeping and project reporting are valuable skills taught to members of the Kansas 4-H program. Using Zbooks, you'll be able to summarize project experiences on the Kansas 4-H Project Report Form and in your Permanent Record.

- ZBook resources are available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/ZBooks.html>.



Personal Page: The personal page is a document that accompanies your record books each year. It is a quick reference for review committees as they consider your record books and other applications for recognition.

- Download the Personal Page at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/LocalRecordKeeping.html>.



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CLUB DECISIONS TO TRANSITION 4-H YEARS

As your 4-H Club wraps up the current program year and prepares for the 2025-26 year to begin in October, there are some important business decisions that need club motions. Please make sure these decisions are clearly articulated in meeting minutes in the coming months.

- Club Leaders (2 registered and screened adult volunteers needed)
- Club Officers
- Club Financial Signatories (Signatories cannot be from the same immediate family. You need at least two registered and screened adult volunteers on the account. Youth signatories are also allowed.)
- Club Financial Review Committee (After your club receives your September financial statements, you can conduct your 2024-2025 financial review. More information will be in the next newsletter. You can decide now who will be on the review committee. The committee should be 3 adults OR 2 adults/2 youth, and no one can be immediate family to a signatory.)

FUNDRAISERS FOR 4-H CLUBS

NEED TO NOTIFY THE EXTENSION OFFICE IN ADVANCE

Communicate with your local Extension Office in the early planning stages of your fundraiser to make sure you meet all Kansas 4-H policies and best practices relating to raising money in the name of 4-H. We have a form that helps share the necessary information. Complete the form and submit it to your local Extension Office or email to postrock4h@ksu.edu BEFORE beginning your fundraiser. Do not promote or implement your fundraiser until you receive approval from Post Rock District. Allow at least 10 business days for the fundraiser to be reviewed. If the fundraiser needs to be revised, the individual listed on the form is the one who will be contacted. Find the form at www.postrock.k-state.edu/4-h/club-and-council-support/finances-and-fundraising/.



4-H BRANDING REQUIRED ON CLOTHING, AWARDS, AND SWAG

The use of the K-State Research and Extension/Kansas 4-H co-wordmark is required on all 4-H print, digital, apparel, and merchandise. This requirement applies to all designs created at the local, county, district, area, and state levels BEFORE ordering any items to ensure your club, council, fair board, etc. are using licensed vendors and that all designs include the required co-wordmark. We have a form to help with approval. Submit the form & design artwork (in full color) to your local Extension Office or by email to postrock4h@ksu.edu. Allow at least 10 business days for the design to be reviewed. If edits need to be made, the individual listed on the form is the one who will be contacted. Find the form at www.postrock.k-state.edu/4-h/club-and-council-support/branding-and-marketing/.



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact four weeks prior to the start of the event. Post Rock District staff and office contact information is available at www.postrock.ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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