



POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

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Kansas 4-H
State Fair Website



4-H/FFA Grand Drive
Website

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



Good luck to all 4-H exhibitors at the Kansas State Fair!
You have worked hard all year, and we are so proud of you.

The Grand Drive is September 4-7. Highlights will be shared throughout the fair on the Facebook page for "The Grand Drive". This is a great way to support the Post Rock District 4-H youth showing their livestock, if you can't be there in person.

Results will be posted on the Kansas 4-H website once available after the judging days have finished. After the fair is over, static exhibits will be transported back to your local office. We will email you once items and ribbons are ready for pick up after fair.

State Fair Photos of members with their projects, competing in a show or contest, or just taking in the fair experiences can be emailed to postrock4h@ksu.edu to be featured by Post Rock District 4-H on social media. You can also text them to Tonia at 785-282-8131.

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 4-H weeks. 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

All are encouraged to create videos to invite others to join 4-H in Post Rock District this fall. Videos can be created individually, as a family, with a few friends, or as a club project. Please keep videos under two minutes long. Email videos to postrock4h@ksu.edu or text them to Tonia Underwood at 785-282-8131.

JEWELL COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

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☎ (785)378-3174

✉ TIUNDERW@KSU.EDU

TONIA UNDERWOOD, 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR



4-H Awards Deadline is October 1



It is now time to wrap up the 2024-2025 4-H year by completing your 4-H Record Book, Project Records and Achievement Pin Applications.

Your 4-H Record Book, Project Records and Pin Applications are due to the Mankato Extension Office on Wednesday, October 1 before the end of the business day at 4:30 p.m.



Award submissions include having all necessary signatures, so plan ahead because your club leaders are busy and they are not required to adjust their schedules due to poor planning. If you are not sure what award to apply for, call the Extension Office and we can help!

October 1 is also the deadline for the King/Queen opportunity, the "I Dare Your Award", and the Club Seal application. An email will be sent out with details.

Kansas State Fair is September 5 - 14!

2025 Kansas State Fair foods and horticulture entries should be delivered to the Mankato Extension Office by 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3. Don't be late, or your project may get left behind!



If you have entered static projects at the Kansas State Fair, you will receive two free entrance tickets to the state fair. Please pick up your tickets!

Share Your 4-H Fun!

We want to hear about your exciting activities. Email pictures and highlights to Tonia to be featured by Post Rock District 4-H! Remember to send articles to the local newspaper regularly.

4-H Achievement Celebration

The Jewell County 4-H Achievement Celebration will take place on Sunday, November 2 at the Jewell Community Center at 4:00 p.m. Please bring a finger food or dessert.

4-H Council News

Next 4-H Council Meeting

The next Jewell County 4-H Council Meeting is Monday, October 27 with place to be announced starting at 7:00 p.m.

2025-2026 Jewell County 4-H Council Officer Team:

- ~ President: Jayce Cady
- ~ Vice President: Haylee Fuller
- ~ Secretary: Ainsley Gunn
- ~ Treasurer: Haylee Bledsoe

Jewell County 4-H 2026 County Fair Grievance

Committee: Nelson Underwood, Haylee Fuller, Jayce Cady, Whitley Frost, Stede Underwood and Hillary Bledsoe.

Save the Date!

The 2026 Jewell County Fair is July 9 - 12!

The 2026 fair theme is
Let the Good Times Grow.

Dates for 4-H Council Meetings

October 27, December 1, February 2,
April 20, and June 22

4-H Enrollment Opens October 1!

4-H Online will be open to process enrollments on Wednesday, October 1. Both new and returning youth and volunteers need to enroll for the new 4-H year.

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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 under Option B 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 2024-2025 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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SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR HELP WITH APPLICATIONS AND RECORD BOOKS

Post Rock District staff are happy to help you understand the numerous award opportunities available through Kansas 4-H. We can help you learn how to complete the applications and record books. Scheduling a working meeting to navigate these applications and record books can often help you be successful. Reach out now if you want to schedule an appointment. Do not hesitate to reach out to your 4-H Club Leader or your local Extension Office with your questions.



4-H ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2025-2026 YEAR BEGINS OCTOBER 1!

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!
- Do NOT try to enroll for the new program year in September as 4-H Online will not accept any enrollments until October 1.
- The Post Rock District's October 4-H Newsletter will share the enrollment steps and any payment details specific to your county.



NATIONAL 4-H WEEK CELEBRATES #4-HBEYONDREADY 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.

#4HBeyondReady celebrates how 4-H helps youth develop into difference makers, community leaders, and engaged family members with the skills and talents needed for today, tomorrow, and beyond!

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!](#)

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KANSAS YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM



Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF) is November 22 - 23 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. KYLF features leadership workshops, the youth council elections, and many opportunities to have fun and make friends from across the state. The experience is for teens (ages 14-18 before January 1, 2026). Registration will open in September and the deadline to sign-up is October 15. If you plan to attend, let your local office know and we'll notify you once registration opens! Post Rock District will provide a chaperone and transportation to-and-from KYLF. Details are on the [Kansas 4-H event website](#).

4-H LEADERSHIP TRAINING SET FOR NOVEMBER 8 IN BELOIT

for officers, committee members, and 4-Hers wanting to learn to be a leader in your club

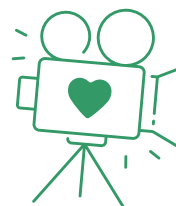
The annual Post Rock District 4-H Leadership Training is set for Saturday, November 8 in Beloit at the Methodist Church fellowship hall. The training will begin at 9:00 a.m. and dismiss by noon. The date is one week later than usual due to Halloween being on a Friday, and we didn't want to make you all travel early in the morning after a night of trick-or-treating! The training helps members learn about the important roles of officers and how to be successful in 4-H. You'll learn strategies to help you 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. Registration for the event will be available in the October newsletter.



VIRTUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE OPENS SEPTEMBER 1

The Kansas Youth Virtual Entrepreneurship Challenge (KYVEC) is a great starting point for young innovators to explore entrepreneurship, build confidence, gain experience pitching ideas— and win prizes. Participation in KYVEC also serves as excellent preparation for the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge many local counties host, as they are separate experiences and learning opportunities!

- Who: Open to elementary, middle, and high school students across Kansas.
- What: A statewide, virtual business pitch competition. Students submit a 3 to 5 minute video pitching their business idea for a chance to win cash prizes.
- Dates: Registration opens September 1, and the deadline to submit entries is October 26.
- Details: Visit <https://www.campdestinationinnovation.com/kyvec>



ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATIONS

Each county will be hosting an Achievement Celebration this fall to kick off the new 4-H year and celebrate the successes of last year. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite new members to start making 4-H friends and memories. Check your county's newsletter page in September and October for dates and details as 4-H Councils plan the celebrations!

PRESIDENTIAL AI CHALLENGE

The current presidential administration is launching a year-long challenge for K-12 students across the country to spark interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI), promote creative thinking using AI tools, and demonstrate how AI technology can be used in beneficial ways. Early training and experience in responsible AI use can demystify the technology and support America's youth in cultivating skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in an AI-driven workforce. Students who join the Presidential Challenge can access training and resources to help them complete a project that can either be a study or the development of an AI method or tool to solve a local community problem. Visit <https://www.ai.gov/> for registration and challenge details.

KANSAS 4-H STATE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP TEAMS *APPLY BY SEPTEMBER 15*

Kansas 4-H Project Partnership Teams (PPT) serve to bring youth, volunteers, and extension professionals together to provide guidance and leadership in the development of a project subject matter or program. Kansas 4-H is seeking individuals to serve with interests in animal science; communication and expressive arts; consumer and family science; Discovery Days; engineering and technology; leadership and personal development; natural resources; and plant and environmental sciences. To learn more about the purpose and opportunity of PPTs, contact your local Extension Office. We can help answer your questions and connect you with adults and teens in Post Rock District who have served terms in previous years. The application deadline is quickly approaching on September 15. Details are online at the [Kansas 4-H Project Partnership Team webpage](#).



STATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL / NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE DELEGATE *APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 1*

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 under Helpful Links and Resources at <https://kansas4h.org/educational-experiences/teen-leadership-opportunities/youth-leadership-council/>.

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4-H DAYS 2026

SAVE THE DATES: FEBRUARY 14 AND MARCH 2

Post Rock District will host two 4-H Day events in 2026 to provide youth with an opportunity to showcase skills in public speaking, music, dance, and other talents. Save the dates of Saturday morning, February 14 and Monday afternoon/evening, March 2. The 4-H Day Guide will be released with the December newsletter, and registration will open in January.

- 4-H Clubs provide opportunities to present about your 4-H project experiences. Get a head start on your 4-H Day entry by presenting to your 4-H Club this fall!
- Did you know 4-H members can give presentations during the Kansas State Fair? While visiting the fair, check out the 4-H presentations in Centennial Hall... you just might gain some inspiration for your 4-H Day entry!

JUDGING EXTRAVAGANZA

Post Rock District will host a district judging experience concurrently with the 2026 4-H Days. The judging contests will be the same at each event. Attending 4-H Day/Judging Extravaganza is a great opportunity to engage in TWO district experiences in one day... great news for those working on achievement pins. We'll share study materials about the 2026 judging contests in the January newsletter. For now, save the dates of February 14 and March 2!

KANSAS 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADER FORUM IS NOVEMBER 22 - 23

Kansas Volunteer Leaders Forum will take place at Rock Springs 4-H Center on November 22 - 23. This event is a great platform for sharing ideas, gaining new skills, and strengthening the network of 4-H volunteers across the state - including but not limited to club leaders, project leaders, and engaged parents/grandparents. It's a wonderful chance to contribute to the development and support of 4-H programs in Kansas. Contact your local Extension Office if you are interested in attending so registration details can be shared!

POST ROCK DISTRICT COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON SEPTEMBER 2

We invite you to a community conversation to support Post Rock Extension District. We'll meet on September 2, 2025 in Beloit at the Methodist Church fellowship hall (801 N Bell St, Beloit, KS 67420). A free meal will be available at 6:00 p.m., and the community conversation will begin at 6:30 p.m. Deborah Kohl, K-State Extension Community Vitality Specialist, will be facilitating the conversation. The objective of the evening is to hear community voices surrounding the perceptions of Extension in north central Kansas as well as understand what community members expect from Extension in order to help individuals, businesses, and communities thrive. Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/PostRockExtensionDistrict925>



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FAIR JUDGES DIRECTORY SIGN-UP DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30

Kansas 4-H has 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! By registering, you agree to be screened according to the Kansas 4-H Code of Conduct and policies. Register by completing the [online form](#). Direct questions to Kelsey Nordyke (klndyke@ksu.edu).

SHOOTING SPORTS VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports will be having a Shooting Sports Instructor Training on October 25-26 at Cimarron. You must be a trained instructor to lead Shooting Sports project meetings in Post Rock District. We have a need for more discipline instructors across the District, so consider becoming trained if you have a passion for positive youth development through shooting sports. New instructors must be screened and registered as a 4-H volunteer, which includes enrolling in 4-H Online, completing a background check, completing an orientation, and being approved by the Post Rock District. Before attending the in-person Instructor Training, you must also complete the National 4-H Shooting Sports online modules. You can be trained in one discipline at the training. While there is a personal cost to become trained, we can help you seek out financial support. You must be certified to be able to instruct youth in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Contact Tonia Underwood at tiunderw@ksu.edu for more information.

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/.



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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. It is important to submit a copy of these minutes to the Extension Office!**

- 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. 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.)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

It is time to complete your 4-H Club's annual financial review. Completed reviews are due to your local Extension Office no later than close of business on November 3, 2025. We will be sending an email to Club Leaders in early September with specific details about this review. If you have any questions about the required review, please reach out to Nora Rhoades at nhoades@ksu.edu or contact your local Extension Office.

Due to your local Extension Office by November 3 (because the first is a weekend):

- Submit the Annual Financial Report as completed by the Financial Review Committee.
- Submit the entire October 2024 and September 2025 bank statements for every account (checking, savings, etc.). If a check image is not included on these statements, also submit at least one statement/per account with a check image.
- Submit a copy of club meeting minutes that state who your club leaders are, officer elections, and signatories are for the year under review AND for the year we'll kickoff soon.
- Confirm a copy of the 4-H Club's current EIN and tax exemption form is on file at the local Extension Office.

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. 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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