



rivervalley.k-state.edu

4-H News

River Valley District

**September &
October
2026**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Achievement Celebrations	6
Achievement Pins	4
Club Seals	4
Fall To Do's	2
Junior Leader Trip	7
KYLF & KVF	6
National 4-H Week & 48 Hours	2
Officer Elections & Duties	5
Project Records	3
Setting 4-H Goals	6
State Fair Judging Teams	3
State Judging Contests	2
Time to Join 4-H	7



K-STATE
Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

Kansas4-H.org

Kaitlyn Peters Joins 4-H Staff

Hello River Valley District, I'm Kaitlyn Peters from Lakin, KS, and a recent graduate of K-State in Agronomy and Equine Science. I'm so excited to be stepping into the Washington County Office as the new 4-H Program Manager. One thing I hope you walk away with from meeting me is that 4-H doesn't stop when you graduate high school. 4-H gives you the tools to carve your path.

I'm an alum member of Alpha of Clovia, which challenges girls to make the best better on the colligate level, an announcer for my home fair's Turtle Race and Horse Show, judge across the state of Kansas in various events such as Regional Club Days and County Fairs, and beginning a job giving back to the organization that taught me so much.

Feel free to swing by for a visit, help, or to share some ideas; shoot me an email at kaitly28@ksu.edu, or you can even call the office. Even though I just started on August 5th, I'm ready to wrap up this 4-H year with a bang so we can jump into a successful new year!



That's a wrap on another GREAT county fair season!

Congratulations to all of our River Valley District 4-H members on a successful fair season! You worked hard, learned a lot, made memories, and hopefully had a little fun along the way!

A HUGE shout-out to our amazing Superintendents and Volunteers! You gave your time, energy, patience, and probably a few extra steps on your Fitbit to help make the fair a success. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Of course, a big THANK YOU to all of our 4-H families for the hard work, practicing, late nights, early mornings, and endless encouragement. You're the behind-the-scenes crew that makes it all happen!

We are so proud of all of our 4-Hers and everything you have accomplished! Great job, everyone! Now it's time to go to the Kansas State Fair and work on the end of the year record books!

Fall To Do's

It's the end of the 4-H year; you know what that means! Please make sure you have the following items turned into your Extension Office by the corresponding deadline:

- October 1st - Project Records, Record Books, Club Seal Report, Achievement Pin Applications, Key Award Applications, Officer Books, and Project Meeting Logs
- November 1st - Financial Reviews, 4-H Club Information Forms, and Project Leader Forms

Time to Join 4-H!

October 1st will be the beginning of a brand new 4-H year, and we are excited to see our 4-H'ers thrive! We love to see our program growing and would love to have more youth, families, and volunteers join the River Valley District Family! Be sure to invite a friend from school or church, or a neighbor from across the street to come and see what 4-H is all about!

4-H is for all youth ages 7-18 years old as of January 1, 2027. We also offer a Cloverbud program for 5- and 6-year-olds. Cloverbuds spend their year exploring 4-H and will start to develop key life skills without the competition aspect. 4-H is a great way to grow as an individual, gain life skills, and serve your community. We are so excited to see what our 4-Hers will learn and accomplish this year!

For more information you can contact your local Extension Office or visit our website at <https://www.rivervalley.kstate.edu/4-h/>. Enrollment can be completed on the 4-H Online website at: <https://v2.4honline.com>. Check with your local Extension Office to see if the enrollment fee for 4-H youth is being covered. They can also answer any other questions you might have about joining 4-H.

National 4-H week & 48 Hours of Volunteering

National 4-H Week will be observed October 4th—10th this is a promotional week for the 4-H organization celebrated across the United States! This can be a great way to teach others about what 4-H can offer our youth and their families, how they can give back to our communities, and try to recruit new 4-H members! Included in National 4-H week is 4-H Sunday.

Since 1929, one Sunday each year has been set aside to emphasize one of the four Hs of 4-H; and that is Heart. 4-H Sunday is normally held on the first Sunday in October and kicks off the start of National 4-H Week. Each club or county determines how they want to observe 4-H Sunday. Some clubs attend a member's church together, have a special role in the church service, or hold a county-wide service led by the 4-Hers at a church or in the park. This is a favorite 4-H Week event for many 4-H'ers and their families. We look forward to seeing how your 4-H Club or County will celebrate 4-H Sunday 2026!

The last weekend of National 4-H Week (Oct. 10th -11th) are dedicated to 48 Hours of 4-H! 48 Hours is meant for volunteering in your community and giving back. The weekend at the end of National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to set up a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers, local service organizations, and past 4-H'ers too to celebrate in making our communities even better!

Other ways you can celebrate National 4-H week:

- * Visit school classrooms and share a project talk or a fun 4-H experience
- * Wear 4-H shirts to school throughout the week
- * Create window displays/decorate a store front at a local business
- * Record a radio spot with your local radio station
- * Put ads in the local newspapers
- * Post on social media
- * Set-up a 4-H information booth at a community event
- * Set up a display at the local library and in the schools.

This is a great opportunity to share with others what 4-H has to offer and encourage them to join River Valley 4-H!

Good Luck at the Kansas State Fair!

Congratulations to all of our River Valley District 4-H members who will be heading to the Kansas State Fair! We are so proud of the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm you have put into your projects this year. We wish each of you the very best of luck as you showcase your projects and represent River Valley District 4-H!

We also want to wish good luck to our State 4-H Judging Contest participants! We are excited to introduce:

Senior Crops Judging Teams - Saturday Sept 12th

CY – Hannah Cott	WS – Gracen Wendland	WS–Gauge Wendland	
RP – Brady Childs	RP – Michael Pachta	RP – Paul Pachta	

Intermediate Crop Judging Teams - Saturday Sept 12th

CD – Will Lehmann	WS – Gaines Wendland	WS – Grainger Wendland	WS – Bennett Meenen
RP – Collin Childs	RP – Jacob Pachta	RP – Ruth Feight	RP – Collin Hug

Senior Photography Judging Teams - Sunday Sept 13th

CY – Callen Burr	CY – Addisyn Stapp	CY – Austin Burr	
CD – Grace Demars	CD – Emily Kelsey	CD – Hayden Sandmann	CD – Verity Elstrom
RP – Brandt Carlgren	RP – Ellie Wurtz	RP – Rebekah Henriksen	RP – Emily Henriksen
WS – Sofia Uffman	WS – Cedric Kyner	WS – Justus Uffman	

Intermediate Photography Judging Teams – Sunday Sept 13th

CY – Keely Knepper	CY – Bethany Pearson	CY – Audra Pearson	
CD – Benjamin Elstrom	CD – Chase Sandmann	WS – Lexie Clark	WS – Trevor Clark
RP – Blakely Carlgren	RP – Nealy Eickman	RP – Kamryn Skucius	RP – Quinton Thayer
WS – Braxton Goodwin	WS – Greyson Sinn	WS – Avery Uffman	

These 4-H members have worked hard preparing for the judging contest, and we are proud to have them represent our district. We know they will do a great job putting their knowledge and decision-making skills to work!

Good luck to everyone heading to the State Fair and Judging Contests! Have fun, make memories, learn lots, and most importantly—enjoy the experience! We are cheering you on!

Project Records

A **Project Record** is a document that helps you keep track of your goals, presentations, learning experiences, exhibits, leadership, community service, finances, inventory, and your growth in one specific project. These help youth work on many different skills and are very beneficial! While it may not be your favorite thing to do, filling out a project record book is an important life skill for 4-Hers of every age.

Record Book

A **4-H Record Book** provides a place to document the events, activities, accomplishments, and experiences you have completed each year. Keeping good records not only helps you see how much you have grown as a 4-H member, but it can also provide valuable information when completing future applications.

What should be in your record book?

1. Personal Page

The Personal Page includes basic information about you, such as your contact information, a photo, and a list of the projects that you are enrolled in for the current 4-H year.

*Continues on next page.

2. 4-H Story

Your 4-H Story is a personal reflection on your experiences throughout the year. This is your opportunity to share what you have learned, accomplished, and enjoyed during your time in 4-H. Consider introducing yourself, highlighting your favorite projects and events, and explaining how your 4-H experiences have helped you grow as a person and become a better citizen. You can also share your goals for future projects or, for older 4-H members, your college and career plans.

3. 4-H Permanent Record

The Permanent Record is a running record of your activities and accomplishments both in and outside of 4-H. Each year, you will add to this section, making it a valuable record of your growth and experiences throughout your entire 4-H career. By keeping it updated each year, you will have a complete list of your accomplishments to refer to when applying for scholarships, jobs, college, and other opportunities.

4. Record Book Check Sheet

The Record Book Check Sheet is a single page placed at the front of your Record Book. It is used to make sure your records are complete and up to date while also documenting your involvement during the past 4-H year. The number of activities you complete helps determine the ribbon placing your Record Book receives for the year.

Kansas 4-H Achievement Pins

Kansas 4-H Achievement Pins recognize members as they reach milestones throughout their 4-H journey. Each pin builds on the previous one, encouraging members to become more involved and develop valuable life skills along the way.

Important Reminders

- Members may earn one Achievement Pin per 4-H year.
- Pins must be completed in sequential order; members can skip ahead but may not go backwards.
- Each application includes required activities along with additional options members can choose from. All activities must be 4-H related.

Starting with Pin #2 Bronze through Pin #9 Gold Guard: Members must have a completed Permanent Record, Personal Page, and at least one Project Record Form for the current year to be considered for an Achievement Pin.

Achievement Pins are a great way to set goals, stay involved, and celebrate your growth throughout your 4-H career!

Club Seals

Did you know that every 4-H club receives a Purple, Blue, Red, or White Club Seal at the end of each 4-H year? These seals recognize the hard work, involvement, and accomplishments of 4-H clubs throughout the year.

Club leaders work hard to provide opportunities for members to stay active, participate in 4-H activities and events, and grow as individuals and as a club. The level of involvement and participation throughout the year helps determine the color of the club's seal.

Each 4-H club has an official charter from Kansas 4-H recognizing it as an organized 4-H club. At the end of each year, the club seal is placed on the club's charter as a symbol of the club's accomplishments and recognition for the year.

There are several basic requirements that every club must complete. In addition, each club must meet a specified number of additional requirements based on its membership size to earn the seal it is working toward. The goal is to encourage clubs to set goals, stay active, and provide meaningful opportunities for all members throughout the 4-H year.

Clubs receive the Club Seal Report at the beginning of the 4-H year, giving club leaders and members plenty of time to set goals, track their progress, and work toward earning the highest seal possible.

River Valley District 4-H clubs will be recognized for the club seal they earned during their county's Achievement Celebration this fall.

Club Seal Reports are due to your local Extension office by October 1, 2026.

Officer Duties and Election Methods

A brand-new year of 4-H is coming fast, and our 4-H Clubs are hopefully thinking about the elections of new Club Officers for the 2026-2027 year. A 4-H Club needs officers who:

- Work well with all members, leaders, families, and guests and is someone who gives everyone a chance to participate
- Shares leadership by giving others an opportunity to accept responsibility and develop their leadership ability
- Are dependable, responsible, and trustworthy
- Can help plan programs, events, and activities for the year that are engaging, interesting and encourage growth and learning in their members
- Work well with other officers, committee members, leaders, and parents
- Try to make the meetings worthwhile and interesting

Here are the basic duties of each position:

Club Leader – to ensure that the club has the necessary leadership to provide positive learning experiences for all youth

President – have open communication with club leaders and other officers, conduct business according to parliamentary procedure, encourage everyone to participate in club activities

Vice President – Serve as the chair to club's programs, be ready to preside at the meeting in the president's absence, and work with the leaders and other officers on committees

Secretary – discuss business with leaders and the president, take accurate attendance and notes. Write and read minutes at each meeting.

Treasurer – Keep track of club's finances, write out checks for expenses, deposit all money into clubs account as soon as possible, keep up treasury record book monthly, and complete the financial review at the end of the year.

Reporter – it's your job to report on the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of your clubs' activities in the local newspaper and radio station. Put together a notebook of what you reported and clip the articles of how it was reported monthly.

Parliamentarian – your job is to make sure the club meetings are using and enforcing basic parliamentary procedure correctly to help the business meeting run smoothly.

Historian – it is your job to make a scrapbook of the club's accomplishments and activities within the 4- H year.

Recreation Leader – make recreation an important part of your meeting; come prepared with a game or activity for each meeting. Encourage everyone to participate in the fun.

Song Leader – be prepared to lead the club in a new song at each meeting. Lead with enthusiasm so everyone will want to join in on the fun.

4-H Council Representative– relay any important information from 4-H Council meetings to the Club and take any information, discussion, or feedback from the Club and present it to 4-H Council

Election of Officers:

There are three ways to hold an election

1. Nominations from the floor
2. Nominations by nominating committee
3. Nominations by written application

Officers should be elected by written ballot; it should be discouraged to elect by a show of the hands. If using a Nominating Committee, the slate of officers should include a write-in candidate option. Voting continues until a majority vote (one more than 50%) has been received for each office. Officers may be elected one at a time or all at one time depending on your by-laws. Electing officers all at one time saves time but prevents opportunities for members to run for other offices. The president announces each office and nominations, with the vote then taken by written ballot. Those not elected could be nominated for a later office, if the by-laws allow this.

Setting Goals for Your 4-H Projects

Calendar pages seem to be flying away towards the start of a new 4-H year and project enrollment, which is one of the most exciting times of the year. Possibilities are endless to explore new interests and develop new skills; however, with so many options at our fingertips, we need to balance expanding our horizons by challenging ourselves with our favorite projects we're more familiar with.

To maintain accountability while rising to the challenge, set some goals to expand knowledge on projects using **S.M.A.R.T.** thinking. Being **specific** (creating a clear checklist for the year), **measurable** (how others can see your success), **attainable** (real ideas that can come to life with a little extra elbow grease), **relevant** (ensuring goals line up with the project), **and timely** (remember, time flies when you're having fun), while brainstorming goals can lead to future Project Records that share success stories.

4-Hers develop skills over time within projects from experience and age. Add more goals to keep encouraging growth. Such as seven to twelve goals for a 4-Her ranging 14 to 18 years old, four to eight goals for ages 11 to 13, and a 7 to 10-year-olds can benefit from three to five goals. If you have any questions, you can always reach out to your Extension Office for advice, ideas, and support. You will only grow as much as you allow yourself to, so don't hold back.

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum/Kansas Volunteer Forum

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF) and Kansas Volunteer Forum (KVF) will be held on November 21st-22nd at Rock Springs Ranch. This event is for 4-H youth ages 14-18 years old, and also for our Adult Volunteers. Sessions will be offered that include speakers, workshops, and the election of the 2027 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council. KYLF offers learning opportunities for building leadership skills, collaborating with fellow 4-H members from across the state of Kansas, making memories and sparking lifelong friendships! You must be registered by Wednesday, October 15th, 2026. The fee is \$215 to attend per person. Keep an eye on your email for more information. We will send out information as soon as the Registration Link is available from the Kansas State 4-H office. Remember to check with your local Extension Office to see if your county offers any scholarship opportunities.

While the 4-H'ers are having a great time with their peers at the KYLF event, there is also an opportunity for 4-H Adult Volunteers to have some fun of their own with their other 4-H leaders and volunteers. The Kansas Volunteer Forum (KVF) is designed to provide volunteers with tools and resources they can take back to their respective 4-H programs. KVF attendees will get to hear the Keynote Speaker with the KYLF attendees. They will also have their own set of workshops. To end the first day there will be a silent auction and other activities in Leadership Lodge. This is always a great time for visiting with other KVF attendees about the day, sharing ideas and networking together. There will be nominations for officers for the 2027 KVF Planning Board. If you have any questions about either event, please contact your local Extension Office.

River Valley Achievement Celebrations

Woohoo! It's time to celebrate! Be sure to mark your calendars for your County's 4-H Achievement Celebration! This is a fun event where we have the opportunity to celebrate the growth, hard work, and many achievements of our 4-H members and volunteers throughout the River Valley District!

Cloud County @ The Cloud County Fairgrounds	Sunday, November 1 st @ 5:30 p.m.
Clay County @ The Clay Co Event Center	Saturday, November 7 th @ 5:30 p.m.
Republic County @ The NCK Fairgrounds	Date & Time TBD
Washington County @ Washington Co High School	Saturday, November 21 st @ 6:30 p.m.

Jr. Leader Trip

Forty-five 4-H members and four chaperones had an incredible opportunity to travel to Fort Worth and Waco, Texas, for an educational adventure filled with learning, new experiences, and plenty of fun!

This trip was planned by Junior Leaders from across the River Valley District who had participated in previous years. The committee wanted to experience some of the best Fort Worth has to offer, including the Fort Worth Stockyards, Stockyards Wrangler Tour, and the famous Cattle Drive.

From Fort Worth, the group headed to Waco, where they explored Magnolia Market, the Dr Pepper Museum, and the Mayborn Museum. The fun continued at Andretti Indoor Karting & Games, where members raced go-karts, played arcade games, and experienced 7D, VR, and laser tag. To wrap up the adventure, the group visited Urban Air Trampoline Park for even more excitement!

While the activities and destinations made for an unforgettable trip, one of the best parts was watching 4-H members from across the River Valley District come together, make new friendships, and create memories while experiencing places many of them had never visited before.

It was an action-packed trip full of learning, laughter, friendship, and unforgettable 4-H memories.



Participants in State Judging Contests

Three of the five state judging contests have already happened prior to the Kansas State Fair in Manhattan. FCS Judging happened in June during the state event, Discovery Days, as well as Livestock Skill-a-thon and Horticulture judging that happened this August. Below are the youth who participated. Please attend you local 4-H Achievement Celebration to see the results of these contests.

FCS Judging

Emma Lund—CY Int	Leah Demars—CD Int	Carter Woodard—RP Int	Chloe Woodard—RP Int
Grace Demars—CD Sr	Caleb Woodard—RP Sr	Trevor Clark—WS Int	Lexie Clark—WS Int

Livestock Skill-a-thon

Kash Baumann—CY	Bo Doll—WS	Gaige Wendland—WS	Gracen Wendland—WS
Clara Girrens—CY	Colton Doll—WS	Grainger Wendland—WS	

Horticulture Judging

Leah Demars—CD	Grace Demars—CD	Katherine Wenzl—CY
----------------	-----------------	--------------------



River Valley Extension District
Washington Office
214 C. Street, Courthouse
Washington, KS 66968-1928

Address Service Requested

Resources Coming Soon

Please watch your email and our Facebook page for resources coming very soon. The 4-H Calendar and Officer Training is set to release on October 1st. Leaders—End of the year packets are being assembled to help you through the end of the year documents due to your local Extension Office.

Please make sure to contact us if you have any questions. We are happy to help!

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT 4-H STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

4-H Agents	Diane Kussman	Melissa Baxter	Brianna Hake	Kaitlyn Peters
Macy Hynek	4-H Program Manager	4-H Program Manager	4-H Program Manager	4-H Program Manager
785-527-5084	RVED – Belleville	RVED-Clay Center	RVED – Concordia	RVED-Washington
Marissa Hurst	785-527-5084	785-632-5335	785-243-8185	785-325-2121
785-243-8185	dkussman@ksu.edu	melissabaxter@ksu.edu	bmhake@ksu.edu	kaitly28@ksu.edu

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Belleville Office • 1815 M Street • Belleville, KS 66935-2242 • 785-527-5084

Clay Center Office • 322 Grant Avenue • Clay Center, KS 67432-2804 • 785-632-5335

Concordia Office • 811 Washington, Suite E • Concordia, KS 66901-3415 • 785-243-8185

Washington Office • 214 C. Street • Courthouse • Washington, KS 66968-1928 • 785-325-2121

RiverValley4H@ksu.edu • Facebook.com/RiverValley4-H