

News Column for Use Week of 12/2/19
Jordan Schuette, Extension Agent: 4-H Youth Development
River Valley Extension District
11/27/19

4-H Achievement Celebrations

Though October 1st marked the beginning of the 2019-2020 4-H year, the month of November has been spent celebrating the achievements of the past 4-H year (2018-2019). Each County in the River Valley Extension District planned and hosted an Achievement Celebration. These Achievement Celebrations focus on recognizing the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of 4-H youth, 4-H community clubs, 4-H volunteers, and other community members who have influenced 4-H throughout the past year.

4-H youth are recognized for their involvement or accomplishments in 4-H related events at the local, county/district, state, and national levels. These accomplishments are acknowledged through Member Achievement Plans (Pin Applications), General and Animal Project Records, and the 4-H Key Award. Many, but not all of these accomplishments focus on what the youth learned through these experiences and projects with specific emphasis on leadership and citizenship.

4-H youth have the opportunity to apply for one Pin Application each year with the requirements becoming more difficult to achieve the longer the youth is active in 4-H. Project Records provide 4-H youth the opportunity to share specific projects goals, learning experiences, photos, and more related to a specific project area. 4-H'ers have the opportunity to complete a project record for each project they were enrolled in during the year. Lastly, the 4-H Key Award is one of the highest awards a 4-H'er can achieve. This state level award focuses on the dedication and leadership of the 4-H'er throughout their 4-H career and in their community.

These celebrations recognize both, 4-H volunteers and supportive community members. The time and dedication of our volunteers and community members are vital to the success of 4-H programming and events. Each county has a different way of celebrating these community members at their Achievement Celebrations. For instance, some recognize a "Friend of 4-H," "Outstanding Service to 4-H Award," "4-H Leader Award," and "Distinguished Service Award" just to name a few. Many of these awards are decided by the dedication of services to the local 4-H program. Some are focused on celebrating volunteers within the 4-H program like club or project leaders. While others are focused on community members who contributed time to their local 4-H program.

Congratulations to all those who were recognized at their local Achievement Celebration. If you are interested in learning more about 4-H, how to become a volunteer, or how you can join a 4-H Club close to you, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact Jordan Schuette at 785-527-5084 or jschuette@ksu.edu to learn more about 4-H in the River Valley District.