

News Column for use the week of May 23, 2022
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River Valley Extension District
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Flourishing Summer Ahead in Youth Programming

Kansas 4-H Youth Development is collaborating with the Kansas Department of Education to provide hands-on summer learning opportunities that were lost as a result of COVID-19. This collaboration is impacting local communities in over 60 counties across the state for the next three summers. River Valley District 4-H will be hosting three interns for twelve weeks to carry out this local community enrichment project.

River Valley District 4-H has partnered with local school districts and libraries to provide youth with hands-on project-based learning to develop their skillset further. For rural areas without transportation to summer school, we will be providing day camps. Activities are developed from a research-based curriculum in areas such as STEM, Foods and Nutrition, Animal Science, Landscaping, Photography, and more.

Positive youth development programs are key in engaging our youth in intentional, productive, and constructive ways. By providing summer educational opportunities, we are allowing youth to play and explore while developing their skill sets, knowledge, peer relationships, and their social and emotional development.

Research shows that positive youth development improves youth's social and emotional skills, attitudes, and academic performance while seeing a reduction in internalizing symptoms and risky behavior. Positive youth programming will also allow our older youth the opportunity to be role models to younger members and to develop their leadership and citizenship skills.

River Valley 4-H will be offering summer programming for youth ages 5 to 18. Any youth in local and surrounding areas are welcome to join in on the fun hands-on learning. We are excited to welcome our three interns in May and to engage with youth across the Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington counties this summer.

We will be providing specific dates, times, locations, and educational topics to our mailing list soon. To be added to our mailing list for summer learning or for more information, please contact Macy Hynek at mhynek@ksu.edu or by calling 785-527-5084.

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