Flourishing Summer for Youth Development

The River Valley 4-H staff’s busiest time of the year is summer. They spend most of their time attending and preparing for fair events. During these busy months, very few additional educational opportunities are typically available for our youth due to the lack of time and manpower.

River Valley 4-H was fortunate to have not just one, but four outstanding summer Educational Leaders to help provide educational workshops to youth within our district. The past 12 weeks seemed to pass by in a flash but were full of smiling youth across Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington counties.

Kansas 4-H Youth Development collaborated with the Kansas Department of Education to provide hands-on summer learning opportunities that were lost because of COVID-19. The collaboration was carried out in over 60 counties across the state of Kansas.

Our River Valley summer Engagement Leaders carried out that mission during their time with us this summer. They provided over 70 programs in 10 local communities across the district. The summer activities were developed from a research-based curriculum in areas of Food and Nutrition, Plant Science, Agriculture, Citizenship, Leadership, Clothing and Textiles, S.T.E.M., and much more. River Valley offered summer programs to youth participating in their school program or to youth in local and surrounding areas ages 5 to 18. These in-person summer engagements reached over 2,300 youth – simply incredible.

As the summer ends, it’s time to say farewell to our summer Engagement Leaders, Faith Beikman, Mandy Simmons, Natalee Bray, and Corley Becker. These ladies were fun, energetic, and hardworking. They brought many laughs and accomplished tremendous growth in bringing new opportunities to our district. As they close this chapter for the summer, and head to college, they leave behind an enormous impact. The River Valley staff and our local communities thank you.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding River Valley 4-H youth development, please contact Macy Hynek at 785-527-5084 or at mhynek@ksu.edu