

Ellis County

4-H

Family Guide



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K-STATE
Research and Extension





What You'll Find Inside...



Letter from Ellis Co. 4-H Agent

What is 4-H?

Why do youngsters enjoy 4-H?

What are the 4-H motto, emblem, colors and pledge?

4-H Family Newsletter

What are club meetings like?

Who's Who in 4-H

The 4-H Program

What is a 4-H Club?

What are 4-H projects?

Selecting Projects

4-H Record Keeping & KAP's

4-H Trips, Awards & Scholarships

4-H Opportunities

Ellis County Fair

4-H Council & Standing Committees

Parents - Partners on 4-H Team

4-H Year in Ellis County

Dear 4-H Family,

Welcome to Ellis County 4-H! Here is some information about the 4-H program and what it involves. We believe in giving 4-H'ers every opportunity to experience and explore new interests and master skills that will help them to grow into positive and productive citizens.

4-H is about hands-on learning, leadership, citizenship, decision making, goal setting, career exploration, record keeping and much, much more.

I think you will find that 4-H is very much a family oriented organization. It is very difficult for youngsters to reap the full benefit of 4-H without parental involvement. One of the nice things about 4-H is that you may be as involved as you wish.

If you have any questions about the Ellis County 4-H program, please ask. Contact the Ellis County Extension Office, 601 Main - Suite A, Hays, KS 67601. The phone number is 628-9430. You may also reach me via e-mail at sschlich@ksu.edu. For more information about many of these topics, be sure to check out our website @ www.ellis.ksu.edu.

We are glad to have you join us and hope that you will have a great 4-H experience!

Yours in 4-H,



Susan Schlichting
County Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development

What is 4-H?

- ✿ 4-H is one of the world's largest youth organizations with a membership of around five million youth across the United States.
- ✿ 4-H is for all youth ages 7-19 and their families.
- ✿ A 4-H club is a group of youth organized with officers and one or more leaders. Most clubs hold monthly meetings, normally the same week night each month.
- ✿ There are no dues or initiation fees. The only cost to 4-H members is incurred in purchasing materials needed for individual projects.
- ✿ 4-H philosophy is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral and social development of youth.
- ✿ 4-H intends to supplement, not replace, the three primary educational institutions . . . school, church and home.
- ✿ 4-H develops "life skills" through the use of research based project materials and experiential learning (hands-on experiences).

The *KS 4-H Life Skills* are to develop:

A Positive Self-concept
An Inquiring Mind
A Concern for the Community
Healthy Interpersonal Relationships
Sound Decision Making

Why do youngsters enjoy 4-H?



- ✿ They want to belong.
- ✿ They want to achieve.
- ✿ They want to become independent.
- ✿ They want approval.
- ✿ They want affection.

4-H Motto "To Make the Best Better."

4-H Pledge

I PLEDGE
MY HEAD
to clearer *thinking*
MY HEART to greater loyalty
 **MY HANDS** TO LARGER SERVICE
MY HEALTH
to better living
FOR MY CLUB & MY
MY COMMUNITY WORLD.
MY COUNTRY

4-H Colors

Kelly Green & White – Green symbolizes nature’s most common color and represents life, spring-time and youth. White symbolizes purity.

4-H Emblem



4-H Family Newsletter

The monthly newsletter and calendar of events is posted to our website around the first of each month. You should receive an email notification when the new issue is posted. This newsletter keeps families posted on upcoming events. It includes dates and activities in which 4-H’ers and their families may want to participate. Take time to read it closely each month so that your family doesn’t miss out on some great learning opportunities!

Find us on Facebook



To get updates, see photos from recent 4-H events and keep in touch with all things Ellis Co. 4-H, join our 2 Facebook groups. . . “Ellis County Kansas 4-H” or “Ellis County 4-H – It’s Legit!”



What are 4-H club meetings like?

A meeting includes business, educational program and recreation. 4-H meetings normally last 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Meetings may have:

✿ **Demonstrations** - “Show and Tell” type presentations where the 4-H’ers share some of the things they’ve learned in their projects. Most consist of three parts:

Introduction - explains the purpose of the demonstration

Body - outlines subject step by step

Summary - reviews important points and gives opportunity for questions



✿ **Illustrated Talks** - Differ from demonstrations in that they tell how rather than show how. Charts, models and other visuals are important for illustrated talks.

✿ **Project Talks** - Project talks are given about the member’s projects. The project talk can relate things experienced in the project, or give information relating to the project.

✿ **Business Meeting** - The business portion of the meeting should be short and snappy. It is a small democracy in action. It presents the opportunity for group consensus and parliamentary procedures to be learned and practiced.

✿ **Recreation & Refreshments** - Most likely your recreation leader(s) will have an activity or game planned. Some clubs serve refreshments at meetings. Most often different families are host each month. The learning experience for the members who select, prepare and serve the refreshments is the prime concern.

✿ **Conducting the Meeting** - The officers of the club and 4-H members are the ones responsible for conducting the meeting. Adult leaders of the club serve as advisors when needed by the 4-H’ers.



Who's Who in 4-H

4-H Member

✿ Any child 7-18 years of age as of January 1 of the current year who fills out an enrollment card and meets the club requirements.

4-H Cloverbud Member

✿ A 4-H Cloverbud is a child who is 5 or 6 years of age. The date used to determine age is January 1 of the current 4-H year. Cloverbuds join a club and participate in activities during the regular club meeting time.

Cloverbud activities focus on:

- Fun, age appropriate activities – as a result Cloverbuds don't participate in livestock or small animal projects.
- Cooperation, not competition
- Success-oriented
- Safe environment
- Family & Community Involvement

Community Club Leader Member

✿ An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational part of the club.

Project Leader

✿ A volunteer who helps to teach kids the projects. This person is often a 4-H parent, Jr. Leader, or a person from the community who agrees to help with a project in which they have knowledge.

Jr. Leader

✿ 4-H member who is 13 years old and enrolled in the leadership project. They take an active part in helping the younger members in the club. By doing this, they grow, mature and learn leadership skills.

Parents

✿ The important ingredient to the success a child will have in the 4-H program. Parents are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and project meetings with their child. All county-wide events are open and parents are encouraged to attend.

4-H Council

✿ 4-H Clubs each have two youth representatives and two adult representatives to this group. They meet six times a year. The group plans 4-H activities and events that take place on a county-wide basis. They organize fund-raising to raise money to pay for the county-wide activities.

4-H Ambassadors

✿ Members 14 and older are eligible to serve as Ellis County 4-H Ambassadors. The Ambassadors help promote 4-H throughout the year.

4-H Program Development Committee (PDC)

✿ This group is an elected body of six people. They are responsible for the program direction on a county-wide basis. They implement and help carry out new programs and suggest improvements for 4-H and other Youth programs conducted by the Extension Service.

County Extension Agents

✿ They are the professionals who help carry out the 4-H PDC's objectives. Our county currently has four agents who specialize in a specific area – agriculture, horticulture, family consumer science and 4-H youth development. The Ellis Co. Extension Office is located at 601 Main – Suite A, Hays, KS 67601. The phone # is (785) 628-9430. Check us out on-line @ www.ellis.ksu.edu

4-H Agent

✿ The 4-H youth development agent provides leadership for the 4-H youth activities on a county-wide basis - conducting leader training, planning activities and keeping everything organized. The 4-H agent provides leadership and support for special interest youth programs throughout the county. The 4-H agent is available to answer any questions you might have concerning the 4-H youth program.

Ellis County Fair Board

✿ Board members are appointed by the County Commissioners to carry out and plan the County Fair each year.

Area Extension Office

✿ This office is located in Colby. It contains an Area Director and several subject matter specialists, including a 4-H Youth Development specialist.

Area 4-H Specialists

✿ The Area 4-H Specialist assists County Extension Agents in developing and carrying out 4-H & Youth programs.

State 4-H Specialists

✿ These people have the responsibility for the 4-H program on a state-wide basis. Each specialist is responsible for a specific part of the total 4-H program. They are based at Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Kansas State University

✿ This land grant college has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that mission.



Rock Springs 4-H Center

✿ The KS State 4-H camp, located near Junction City, Kansas. Ellis County camps with the Heart of KS Camping group that attends camp in June each year.



The 4-H Program

What is 4-H?

- ✿ 4-H is a volunteer led, Cooperative Extension supported, educational program that supplements the teaching of home, church and school.
- ✿ 4-H is an informal educational program administered by the Cooperative Extension Service for all boys and girls 5-18 years of age whether they live in town, the country, or on a farm. (A youth may join at any time during the year they turn 5 years of age. They may not have turned 19 before January 1 of the current year.)
- ✿ 4-H is having fun and learning with friends.
- ✿ 4-H is older 4-H'ers sharing experiences and teaching younger members things that they've learned.

What is the Cooperative Extension Service?

The Cooperative Extension Service is a cooperative undertaking by the United States Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges (in our case, Kansas State University), and the County or District Extension Councils.

The Extension Service is in charge of carrying up-to-date information from the classroom and laboratory to the people of the state and bringing back to the university those problems that can be solved only by careful study and research.

The purpose of the County Extension Service is to provide instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture, marketing, home economics, 4-H and youth work and community development to all persons in the county. The County Extension Councils hire college trained agents in agriculture, home economics, horticulture and 4-H Youth Development to plan and conduct the respective programs in the county.

What is the Primary Objective of 4-H?

The basic philosophy in 4-H is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral and social development of boys and girls; therefore, helping develop more desirable citizens and leaders. The main objective is the development of boys and girls through participation in projects, events and various activities.

4-H is intended to supplement, not replace, the three primary educational institutions . . . namely the home, church and school.

What is a 4-H Club?

A 4-H club is a group of boys and girls organized with officers appropriate to the groups and with one or more leaders under the sponsorship of the Cooperative Extension Service.

The club is organized within a neighborhood, a school, a church, a business or social unit. The size of the club should be suitable to the age of the members, meeting place and leadership available. This type of club is called a community 4-H club.

Most clubs hold monthly meetings, normally the same time each month.

Also, youth are 4-H members by taking part in project clubs (one subject), special interest groups, and school enrichment programs.

Community Clubs

Boys and girls enroll in a variety of projects. They have structured monthly meetings; recreation, service projects and work on improving communication skills with talks and demonstrations.

Here is a list of community clubs in Ellis County.

- ✿ Big Creek Astros
- ✿ Bits N Spurs
- ✿ Buckeye Jr. Farmers
- ✿ Ellis Sunflowers
- ✿ Gemini Jrs.
- ✿ Good Hope
- ✿ Victoria Vikings

Project Clubs

Boys and girls enroll in the same project. The members place a great deal of emphasis on their project experience, on the club meeting, and outside activities. The club also has officers, organizational leaders and a project leader.

- ✿ Knitting Club
- ✿ Shooting Sports

Where is 4-H?

4-H is in all states and in many countries around the world. Over 80 countries have 4-H or 4-H type youth programs. It is now estimated that there are over 36 million 4-H Alumni in the United States.

4-H Year

A new 4-H year starts October 1 each year and ends September 30 of the following year.

Age for Membership

Regular 4-H membership in Kansas is open to all boys and girls whenever they turn 7 years of age. 4-H'ers must not have turned 19 years of age prior to January 1 of the current year.

Enrollment Timeframe

Youth may join any time during the 4-H year, however specific dates must be met for participation eligibility in the Ellis Co. Fair and other 4-H events. For most project areas, **enrollment is required by May 1 each year**. Some livestock projects require animal identification at an earlier time. Please check with the local Extension Office for project specific deadlines.

Each year, re-enrollments for continuing members are due in the Extension Office by November 1. If re-enrollment is not completed by that time, the 4-H family is dropped from the 4-H newsletter mailing list.

Residence

Kansas youth typically enroll in 4-H in the county in which they reside. However, individuals living in one county may join 4-H in another county. Although, a 4-H member may choose to participate in another county they can only enroll and exhibit in one county. Decisions regarding 4-H membership in a non-resident county (a county you do not live in), rest with the County Extension Board in the receiving county. Their decisions are final. Visit with Extension Staff concerning the procedure to request an out of county residence participation in Ellis Co. 4-H.

DEADLINES!

Submitting things on time and following the rules is part of the 4-H learning experience. Individuals not complying with these expectations may lose awards and privileges. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied participation privileges as well as premiums or awards for the project. Read your 4-H Newsletter carefully and follow these deadlines. **Deadlines are absolute in Ellis County 4-H!**

What are 4-H projects?

Other than age, the only requirement for 4-H membership is that 4-H'ers enroll in at least one project (learning opportunity). There are many projects to choose from. Projects include hands-on learning experiences that teach many basic skills.

Here are some of the areas you can learn about through 4-H.

Beef	Foods & Nutrition	Poultry
Citizenship	Forestry	Rabbits
Clothing & Textiles (incl. Construction, Buymanship & Fashion)	Geology	Reading
Communications	Health & Wellness (incl. Fitness, bicycle, recreation)	Self-Determined*
Dairy (cattle & goats)	Home Environment	Sheep
Dog Care & Training	Horse	Shooting Sports
Energy Management (Renewable Energy, Alternative Energy, Petroleum Power, Small Engines)	Leadership	Space Tech (incl. Aerospace, Robotics, Astronomy, Computers, Unmanned Aerial Systems)
Entomology	Meat Goats	Swine
Family Studies	Performing Arts	Visual Arts
Fiber Arts	Pets	Wildlife
	Photography	Wood Science
	Plant Science (incl. Gardening, Horticulture, Crops)	

* Self-Determined: Can be anything that interests the 4-H'er, but doesn't quite fit into another category ie: clowning, computers, collecting, any hobby turned into a project.

Selecting Projects



Members enrolling for the first time are encouraged to take only ONE project. As a member gains knowledge and experience, the size of the project may be increased and additional projects selected. This is an individual decision. Members may want to ask the project leader, if there is one, about the project and its requirements.

Early in a member's 4-H career, a member should consider developing a tentative project plan to guide them until they are past the 4-H age. When enrolling in additional projects, a 4-H member should try to include those projects which relate to their other project work. For example, an electric project member may choose to enroll in home improvement, woodworking, safety or automotive projects.

The project is the core of the 4-H member's experience. It is the center of many activities and experiences in which members should be encouraged to participate.



Guide to Project Selection

The Guide lists guidelines and suggested learning experiences for the various projects. If you would like to take a look, the State 4-H Office publishes this to their website annually. www.kansas4-h.org

How Are Projects Conducted?

Project work is conducted through various activities and events such as:

- ✿ Project meetings (in the local club or county-wide)
- ✿ Regular club meetings (demonstrations, project talks, etc.)
- ✿ Tours - to visit projects of members
- ✿ Field trips
- ✿ Family activity at home
- ✿ Exhibiting projects at shows, fairs, etc.
- ✿ Record keeping
- ✿ Working through a project workbook (available through your project leader or the local Extension Office)



Project Workbooks

Project workbooks are a great resource for 4-H'ers to use in learning more in their project work. They are available in many project areas. Most workbook series include 3 levels and are designed for the member to complete the workbook in 3 years. (Members are encouraged to work through seven activities in the workbook each year.) These workbooks make a great addition to the 4-H Notebook exhibit.

Project workbooks are available for check out from the Extension Office. There is a \$5 deposit for each book checked out. It is refunded in full at the time of return.

What Are Project Leaders and What Do They Do?



4-H Project Leaders are people just like you and me. They have an interest in one particular project area. They are willing to share their time, talents and efforts with a small group of 4-H'ers.

YOU could be a Project Leader! It doesn't take an expert in photography to be a photography leader, the same with most all projects. The one most important ingredients for project leaders is that they be sincerely interested in working with boys and girls. If you would consider being a project leader, visit with your club's community leaders or club parent committee members, or club project leader trainer if your club has one. A leader must fill out VIP (Volunteer Information Profile) form at the Extension Office, pass a national background check, complete an interview, an on-line training session and be approved through the VIP Review Committee & Ellis Co. Extension Board before working with the youth.

Training meetings are conducted at the club level and county level for project leaders. Also most projects have leader guide booklets to assist.

Many of the clubs have a policy that unless more than 2 or 3 members are enrolled in a project, no project leader will be obtained. Parents will be expected to help the member with their project or the 4-H'er should choose another project.

Record Keeping in 4-H

Each 4-H member must keep a record of his 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but a part of 4-H work. Few young people (adults are no exception) enjoy record keeping. However, record keeping skills are quite valuable. As adults, we use them every day.

- ✿ Each 4-H'er should keep a record of his 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but are a part of 4-H work.
- ✿ A good 4-H record is a measuring stick. One can measure progress and help stimulate self improvement.
- ✿ A good 4-H record is a mirror. It will reflect accomplishments and, therefore, serve as a basis for trips and awards.
- ✿ Teaches a desirable habit. Developing this habit early in life is a valuable asset.
- ✿ New record sheets are issued each year for the projects in which the member enrolls.
- ✿ 4-H'ers are encouraged to work on records throughout the year as they do their project work. Many project leaders have 4-H'ers work on their records at the project meetings.
- ✿ THE 4-H YEAR RUNS FROM OCTOBER 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR.
- ✿ Younger members can complete their records in pencil. Older 4-H'ers records should be written in ink or typed by the member. Parents may assist with completing records, but should not fill them out for the member.
- ✿ Completed Kansas Award Portfolios (KAP's) are turned in to community leaders in September.
- ✿ If a 4-H member is interested in applying for an award in a specific project area, a Kansas Award Portfolios (KAP) must be completed. After approval by the Community Leader, these applications are ranked and awards determined.



What Different Records are there?

4-H'ers are asked to keep a record of their 4-H work. This will be useful to them as they complete scholarship applications, job applications.

4-H Personal Page It contains space for a photo of the member, listing of projects enrolled in. This is completed annually.

Permanent Record The summary of all projects, exhibits made, offices held, events attended and other participation for the entire year is made on the permanent record. Only one such record sheet is necessary for all the years that a youngster may be a member.

Kansas Award Portfolio KAP This is a form which allows you to keep records while also applying for awards at the end of the 4-H year. Seniors (age 14 – 18) will use the standard KAP form while there is a simplified form for Intermediate and Junior (age 7 – 13) members.

4-H Story This is an accounting of your 4-H activities throughout the year. The story's focus is on one project area. Write about your goals, successes, learning experiences, challenges and results of your project work. Include your leadership and citizenship experiences in that project area.

Cloverbud Scrapbook A Cloverbud & their adult guide will fill out the Cloverbud Personal Page. They can design a cover and add up to 3 additional scrapbook pages. These might include photos, ribbons, clippings. Be creative. These will not be judged, but those completing the process will receive special recognition at the fall 4-H Achievement Banquet

When Should 4-H KAP Be Completed?

4-H members are strongly encouraged to work on records and KAP forms **throughout** the year as they do their project work. Many project leaders will have the 4-H'ers work on their records at the project meetings.

Records should include all activities regarding the 4-H'ers and his/her project(s) that occur during the 4-H year. Older and younger members can complete their records in pencil, either printing or script. Records are for the purpose of self-information and for helping the 4-H'er fill out KAP forms.

Most clubs ask that completed KAP forms (not records) be turned into the community leaders just after the county fair. You should specify to the club leader whether to consider the KAP for county award judging. The completed KAP may be submitted by the club leaders to the County Extension Office for county champion and other awards and recognition consideration.

4-H Trips, Awards & Scholarships

What 4-H Awards Are Available?

Achievement Pins	Membership, Bronze, Clover, Emerald, Silver, Silver Guard, Leadership, Gold and Gold Guard. 4-H'ers need to fill out an Ellis County Pin Application form for these awards. Details about what 4-H'ers must do to qualify for these awards are available from the Extension Office and from your club leader.
Key Award	Given to the top 10% of 4-H'ers 16 years and older. Special attention is given to leadership and achievement in all project areas. 4-H members must have been enrolled in the Leadership Project for at least 4 years to qualify. A special application form is required.
"I Dare You Award"	This award is presented to two members who have completed their junior year of HS and have demonstrated excellence in character and personal development. They demonstrate qualities of constructive leadership as evidenced through challenges in community service, good citizenship and excellence in education. A special application form is required.
Outstanding Junior & Senior Members	Clubs select and submit the name of an Outstanding Junior & Outstanding Senior 4-H member. Names are placed in a box and 2 junior members drawn receive a \$50 scholarship to an educational 4-H event. Two senior members receive a \$100 scholarship to an educational 4-H event.
County Project Awards	Awards given to outstanding 4-H'ers in each project area.
Area Awards	The top Kansas Award Application (KAP) in most of the project areas who are 14 years and older are sent to the area level, where they are judged against the top KAP forms from the other 21 countries in the Northwest Area. No prizes or special awards are presented.
State Awards	The top 2 KAP's from the area judging are sent to the State level, where they are judged against other top KAP's from the other 4 areas in Kansas. The members with the top KAPs will submit a video detailing their project work to assist in identifying the state champion. Champions are recognized at the " Emerald Circle Banquet " in early June each year in Manhattan.

What 4-H Scholarships Are Available?

4-H Scholarship & Development

Scholarships are available for Ellis County 4-H Seniors each spring. Applications are due in the spring.

Rosemary Smith 4-H Scholarship

Scholarships of \$250 are awarded annually to Jr. & Sr. HS students currently enrolled in Higher Ed courses. Applications due the last Friday in September.

State & National Scholarships

Scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$1000 are available to outstanding 4-H members. Applications for these are due in the spring.

What 4-H Trips Are Available?

National 4-H Conference (Washington D.C.)

Four outstanding 4-H'ers from Kansas are selected to represent the state at this conference. Participants must be High school seniors or college freshmen and excel in leadership, achievement and citizenship.

Citizenship in Action This event is held in February in Topeka. Members have a chance to meet with their area representatives and learn first hand how KS government works.

Citizenship Washington Focus

All 4-H'ers 15-18 years of age (by Jan. 1 of the current 4-H year) are eligible to apply for this 11 day citizenship learning experience to Washington, D.C. 4-H'ers from across the state travel together and see awesome sights along the way.

National 4-H Congress

This trip is offered to State project winners. The Congress site rotates throughout the country.

Exchange Trips

Exchange trips with other counties or states are arranged by the 4-H Ambassadors.



4-H Camps

Heart of Kansas Camp is a multi county camp held at Rock Springs Ranch near Junction City, KS each June. Campers must be in 3rd to 8th grade to participate. Counselors must be 15 years by January 1 of the current year.

4-H Campference is held for 12 – 14 year olds who enjoy camp & building leadership skills

4-H Discovery Days

Discovery Days is held at Kansas State University in early June. Members 13 years and older, leaders, and parents are invited to attend. The focus of the event is to help you DISCOVER more about a project area, strengthen what you are learning in the club and share with other 4-H members.

Fairs

The Ellis County Fair is held each July. The guidelines and rules are listed in the County Fairbook. **Members must be enrolled in a project by May 1 to enter at the County Fair. Livestock must be identified by earlier dates.** Check with the Extension Office for the actual identification date for each specie.

The KS State Fair is held in Hutchinson, KS in September. 4-H'ers must be 9 years old by January 1 to participate at the KS State Fair. A member must have received a purple ribbon at county level to participate at the State Fair in most project areas. **Pre-registration is due in early August.**

What the 4-H Ribbons Mean

Judging begins at the red ribbon level.

A **RED RIBBON** means that the project has met all the minimum standards for its class. The exhibit shows that an honest effort has been put forth, and while there are visible signs of needed improvement, the skill level of the 4-H'er is going up.

A **BLUE RIBBON** means that the project has exceeded the minimum standard set for its class. The exhibit has small flaws where improvements can be made.

A **PURPLE RIBBON** means that the exhibit is outstanding on all of the standards set up for the project. There are usually no flaws and if there are one or two very small ones, only the trained eye of a judge would see them.

The **WHITE RIBBON**. In all 4-H competition, it is probably the most misunderstood ribbon placing. A white ribbon means that, for one reason or another, the exhibit did not meet all of the minimum standards. What it **DOES NOT MEAN** is that the exhibit isn't worthwhile! In fact the white ribbon best emphasizes the meaning of 4-H; that the youngster has attempted a learned skill and demonstrated that skill in a public event. The public eye is one of the toughest tests that any 4-H'er can put his/her skills & knowledge up against. When 4-H'ers see a white ribbon, the first question they should be asking themselves is, "What have I learned, and how can I make it better?"

A **GREEN RIBBON** or a **RAINBOW RIBBON** may be awarded to represent participation in an activity that is not evaluated.

Aside from any ribbon placements, what is most important is that the child was participating in an activity that will build his/her character in learning life skills that will be of benefit to them for life. **People remember the child, not the ribbon color.**



4-H Council & Standing Committees

4-H Council meets every other month throughout the year to make decisions concerning 4-H activities in Ellis County. Their primary purposes are:

- ❁ To assist agents in providing and developing an adequate County 4-H Program
- ❁ To coordinate 4-H activities
- ❁ To encourage and develop leadership
- ❁ To provide an exchange of ideas for 4-H club work
- ❁ Put into operation, policy set forth by the County Executive Board, the Fairboard, and the County 4-H Program Development Committee.



Each 4-H club has 2 youth and 2 adult representatives. Only the youth representatives have a vote on decisions made. Here, youth are empowered to make decisions for their own program. The group plans 4-H activities and events that take place on a county-wide basis. They organize fund-raising activities to assist in paying for the county-wide 4-H activities.

4-H Council has 4 standing committees that meet at various times during the year. They are made up of youth & adult representatives from each 4-H club.

- ❁ **Achievement Banquet, 4-H Day, Promotion** – This committee is responsible for coordinating promotion activities between the clubs and for all major 4-H promotion. They are also responsible for the major planning of the Achievement Banquet. The committee is also responsible for the major planning of County 4-H Day.
- ❁ **Ag Livestock** – Determines the direction and development of agriculture and livestock related projects. Specific tasks include the major planning of the Spring Livestock Show & County Fair Ag & Livestock events.
- ❁ **Home Ec, BBQ, Foodstand** – determines the direction and development of Home Ec related projects, both for leaders and project members. Assistance is given in planning of County Fair events and Life Skill judging contests. The 4-H BBQ is a major responsibility of this committee, as is the 4-H Fashion Revue. The committee gives suggestions for food stand improvements and helps in selecting the food stand manager, setting the menu for the food stand at the Ellis County Fair.
- ❁ **Awards & Recognition** – Is responsible for determining KAP policies in Ellis County. They select the procedure to determine county champions of Ellis County or of another county if books are traded. They are responsible for any situation where individuals are selected for special awards.

4-H is a Family Affair

Something the whole family can do!

Parents - - Partners on the 4-H Team

4-H parents are the most important in their 4-H'ers lives. By making 4-H a family affair, you will be able to take an active role in your children's' activities. Few other programs allow children and their parents and other adults to work side by side, play together and watch each other develop skills and talents.

You need to know three things before many of you will be willing to cooperate with 4-H club work. They are:

1. What is expected of your children in 4-H;
2. What is expected of you as parents of 4-H Club members;
3. That you as a parent have an active, not passive, part in the 4-H Club's Leadership Team.

Specific Areas of Parent Responsibility

Enrollment

- ❁ Learn what 4-H is about, its purpose, its objectives.
- ❁ Assist your children in selecting projects they like, that they have the ability to do, and one for which you can furnish needed materials.
- ❁ Show a genuine interest and enthusiasm in 4-H and in your children.

Club Meetings and Activities

- ❁ Encourage your child's participation in 4-H Club activities.
- ❁ See that your child has a way to get to club meetings and that he/she attends regularly.
- ❁ Attend club meetings with your child.
- ❁ Be willing to provide transportation for both your children and others. (Share this responsibility throughout the club year.)
- ❁ Be willing to volunteer for tasks that you can accomplish on the club and county level.

Project Activities

- ❁ Give encouragement and guidance in your children's project work by showing enthusiasm and interest in their work with record keeping, KAP forms, demonstrations, judging, etc. Help them understand what to do - but give them the responsibility for the actual work that is to be done.
- ❁ Show a personal interest in your children. Show an interest in the projects which they select and other events in which they participate.
- ❁ Inspire and encourage your boys and girls to keep up with their 4-H records and complete their work.
- ❁ Familiarize yourself with project materials so you can help when needed.

- ✿ Provide for ownership and growth. Make it possible for your children to own their projects and help them plan for expansion of their project work.
- ✿ Share your talents & skills and become a 4-H Project Leader.

Liaison

- ✿ Keep in close touch with all members of the 4-H Leadership team.
- ✿ Inform and remind your children of communications that they have received.
- ✿ Response to correspondence from the Extension Office, or if the communication was to your children, see that necessary communication takes place.

A 4-H Year in Ellis County



An outline for the main events that take place during the 4-H year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) is given below. The dates may change due to conflicts, but this gives you an idea of what to expect each month. A 4-H calendar is included in the monthly 4-H newsletter. Check the newsletter for dates and times of all events. In addition to these activities, there may be special committee meetings, leader trainings, tours, conferences or judging events planned by a project group or neighboring county in which 4-H'ers can participate.

October

- ✿ 4-H clubs elect new officers
- ✿ National 4-H Week is celebrated
- ✿ 4-H Council elects new officers & selects "Friends of 4-H" at meeting
County 4-H Achievement Banquet is held. (Or possibly in November.)
Each 4-H member and leader is recognized.

November

- ✿ Enrollment Forms/Health Forms are due from each member to the Extension Office
- ✿ Officer Training is held
- ✿ Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLf) - Teen 4-H'ers from across the state gather to learn about their leadership potentials and have fun

December

- ✿ Clubs are encouraged to do a community service project around the holidays
- ✿ KS delegates attend National 4-H Congress
- ✿ 4-H Council meets - budget meeting

January

- ❁ Clubs and individuals should start making plans for County 4-H Day
- ❁ KAP forms are due from county champions

February

- ❁ County 4-H Day is held at a school in Ellis County. 4-H'ers share their talents in music, drama, dance, project talks, demonstrations, public speaking, and model meetings.
- ❁ Judging schools and contests - The first life skills judging contest is held at 4-H Day. This involves making a decision about a stated problem. Three life skill judging contests are held during the year, usually in conjunction with another event. Livestock and horticulture judging contests are held in the spring and summer months.
- ❁ Beef weigh-in. All beef projects have to be weighed in to be eligible to show at the County Fair
- ❁ Citizenship in Action
- ❁ 4-H Ambassador Training at Rock Springs 4-H Center
- ❁ 4-H Council meets

March

- ❁ Regional 4-H Day - Top winners from County 4-H Day compete against 7 other counties in the area
- ❁ Applications to be an International Four-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) host family due
- ❁ 4-H Scholarship Applications due

April

- ❁ Northwest Judging Contests – Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography and Livestock Judging Contests – Held in Hays, annually
- ❁ Registration due for Discovery Days
- ❁ 4-H Council meets

May

IMPORTANT MAY 1 DEADLINES

- ❁ All enrollment cards must be in the Extension Office.
- ❁ Last Day to change any project enrollment
- ❁ 4-H Horse Identification papers due
- ❁ Bucket calf, swine, and sheep weigh-in and ear tag date
- ❁ Ellis County Spring Livestock Show

June

- ✿ Discovery Days - held at K-State campus for 4-H'ers, 13 years and older and adults. This mini-college helps members explore new project areas and learn more about projects they are in.
- ✿ County 4-H Camp Counselor Training - Rock Springs 4-H Center
- ✿ County 4-H Camp - Camp is held at Rock Springs 4-H Center in Junction City, KS. 4-H'ers, 3rd through 8th grade enjoy three days of camping fun.
- ✿ 4-H Campference is held for 12 – 14 year olds who enjoy camp & building leadership skills
- ✿ Clubs hold tours or mini tours for club members to view the completed 4-H projects.
- ✿ 4-H Council meets

July

- ✿ District Horse Show
- ✿ Ellis County Fair - A fair book with guidelines and classes is available in early June. Clubs are assigned shifts in the 4-H Food Stand.
- ✿ Ellis Junior Free Fair in Ellis
- ✿ Judging contests, Fashion Revue, Food Challenge and Animal Management Skill-athon held at the Ellis County Fair
- ✿ Citizenship Washington Focus - Kansas sends teen delegates to the National 4-H Center. Delegates are selected from applications which are due to the State 4-H Office in January.

August

- ✿ Enter your qualified State Fair exhibits with the Extension Office in early August
- ✿ Enrollment Cards/Health Forms are sent out
- ✿ 4-H Council meets

September

- ✿ Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KS - Purple ribbon county fair exhibits are eligible to enter the State Fair if there is a class for that exhibit and if the member is old enough to exhibit.
- ✿ KAP's are due to the Extension Office
- ✿ Pin applications due to the Extension Office
- ✿ Rosemary Smith Scholarship ap due to the Extension Office

4-H is a **community** of **young people**
 **across America** who are learning
leadership, citizenship and
life skills.