

The Joys of Being in 4-H

KENDAL HENSON – 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPEMENT AGENT

As National 4-H Week and 48 hours of 4-H Service come to an end, let's talk about the joys of 4-H.

4-H is more than just a club—it's a community that helps young people grow, learn, and thrive. Whether the youth is raising animals, experimenting with baking cakes, or practicing public speaking, being part of 4-H opens the door to experiences that build both skills and friendships.

One of the greatest joys of 4-H is the opportunity to learn by doing. Members don't just sit in a classroom; they actively take part in hands-on projects. From gardening to robotics, from sewing to livestock care, 4-H encourages creativity and problem-solving in ways that feel both fun and rewarding.

Another joy is the friendships made along the way. 4-H brings together kids and teens from different schools, towns, and backgrounds, but all share passion for learning and growing. The teamwork and encouragement found at club meetings, fairs, and competitions often lead to lifelong bonds.

4-H also teaches responsibility and leadership. Caring for an animal, planning a presentation, or helping organize an event gives members a chance to step up and take ownership. These experiences not only build confidence but also prepare youth for future success in school, careers, and their communities.

Perhaps one of the most lasting joys of 4-H is the pride that comes from accomplishment. Whether it's showing a project at the county fair, completing a record book, or simply learning a new skill, 4-H members get to see their hard work pay off. That sense of achievement is something they carry with them for years to come.

In the end, 4-H is about more than projects and ribbons—it's about growing into capable, caring, and confident individuals. The joy of being in 4-H comes not only from the activities but also from the sense of belonging, the skills gained, and the memories made along the way.

Join us in Chanute on October 25th or in Yates Center on November 1st from 9 AM to 12 PM for the first Project Palooza, showcasing the talents of 4-H'ers in Neosho and Woodson counties. The 4-H'ers will be present with their projects, eager to share the joys they experienced while creating them. Additionally, those involved in the Food and Nutrition project will be baking cakes, cookies, and breads they prepared for their county fairs this past summer. Sample these delicious treats as you explore all the hard work the kids have put into their projects.

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