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# 4-H News

## River Valley District

### November & December 2017

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### Get Enrolled NOW!

If you haven't completed your 4-H Online enrollment, please do so quickly! Head to

<http://kansas.4HOnline.com>.



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## District 4-H Club Day

Will you be doing a demonstration, gavel games, a dance, a reading or skit, playing an instrument, or singing? Start planning what you will be doing for District 4-H Club Day NOW!!

District 4-H Club Day will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at Cloud County Community College in Concordia. Judging contests will also be available for youth to participate in.

Entry forms and rule books have been given to Club Leaders. The District 4-H Club Day rule book is posted on the River Valley District web page and can be found under 4-H Youth Development, Forms & Resources, Club Day. You may also stop by any River Valley District extension office to receive a hard copy of the rule book. Additional information on presentations and tips can also be found on the Club Day webpage.

Entries for District 4-H Club Day are completed through your 4-H Club Leader so contact them today! Club leaders must have completed registrations forms to their local River Valley District Extension Office by Monday, December 4, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding District 4-H Club Day, please contact the 4-H Program Manager in your local River Valley District office or 4-H Agent, Monica Thayer in the Belleville office.

## Welcome, Susan!

The River Valley District is excited to welcome Susan Mattila to our 4-H Staff!

Susan will be starting on Wednesday, November 1st as the 4-H Program Manager in the RVD-Washington office. She is joining us from Toivola, Michigan and brings 4-H experience as a member, leader, and volunteer! Susan will share more with our families in our next newsletter!

If you see Susan at a 4-H event, make sure to introduce yourself and welcome her!

## Events & Date Book

Each year, the River Valley District staff works hard to look ahead and plan for future 4-H events and activities.

The 2017-18 4-H Events and Date Book is available on our website at [www.rivervalley.k-state.edu](http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu) under the Join 4-H/Re-Enrollment tab or at any of the River Valley District extension offices for all families.

The Events & Date Book can be helpful when creating clubs program books. Make sure to get important dates on your calendar before it fills up. There are also a "To Do" list each month to help club leaders and families.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

## ***Northeast Leadership Event (NELE) to be held in Clay Center***

The River Valley District is excited to be the host site for the 2018 Northeast Leadership Event (NELE).

4-H members ages 12 to 18 are invited to attend NELE on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Clay Center Community High School.

NELE is a one day State 4-H event that helps Jr. Leader age 4-H members develop and strengthen skills to be a better leader in their club, project areas, and more!

Youth attending NELE sign up for multiple classes and workshops throughout the day with many options that will interest everyone!

Don't miss this opportunity to meet

new people, learn new leadership activities, and listen to keynote speaker, Wade Weber, State 4-H Program Leader.

NELE is organized and led by the Northeast Area Youth Council representatives.

“Attending NELE will help you broaden your circle of friends in your area while helping you get ideas for the 4-H year ahead!” said Grace Zongker, 4-H member.

Watch for registration to open mid November. Scholarships and transportation are available! Contact your local River Valley District extension office for more information.

## **Regional 4-H Club Day**

Regional 4-H Club Day will be on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the Clay Center Community High School in Clay Center. If you receive a Top Purple at District 4-H Club Day, you may be eligible to compete at Regional 4-H Club Day.

If you are eligible to compete, you will be contacted by your local RVED office following District 4-H Club Day. Entries will be due to our local offices by February 26th, 2018.

## **Tis The Season**

The holiday season is a great opportunity for our 4-H members to help others and acknowledge the HANDS portion of 4-H.

*“My HANDS to larger service”*

It is important for 4-H members to understand the importance of community service.

Here are a few ideas!

- Caroling for your neighbors or at a nursing home.
- Donating canned goods to a local food bank
- Rake leaves or shovel snow for a neighbor or senior citizen.

Whatever you do, be creative and help others!

## ***Become a 4-H Ambassador***

River Valley District 4-H Ambassadors are 4-H members that work together under the supervision of an adult advisor to promote 4-H through a variety of events and activities.

We are looking for 4-H members that are enthusiastic for 4-H, want to help promote the River Valley District 4-H program, and have the ability to communicate with youth and adults! The Ambassador teams work together to plan, schedule, and deliver activities, presentations, and programs to youth and adults in our communities.

To become an ambassador, you must complete the Ambassador application and return it to your local River Valley District extension office by December 1st. If you are a high school freshman through 4-H

age 18, you will be receiving a letter and application in the mail. The application is also available on our website at [www.rivervalley.ksu.edu/4-h/ambassadors-jr-leaders.html](http://www.rivervalley.ksu.edu/4-h/ambassadors-jr-leaders.html) or in any of the River Valley District extension offices.

Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be held. 4-H members selected for interviews will be contacted.

If you want more information on the Ambassador program, please feel free to contact one of the River Valley District 4-H Ambassador Advisors—Kaylee Mosher (CD), Judy Stitt (CY), Stacia Piroutek (RP), Monica Thayer (River Valley District 4-H agent) or the 4-H Program Manager in your local River Valley District extension office.

## Achievement Celebrations

We are so proud of each and every one of our 4-H members, Leaders, and Volunteers, so let's celebrate their accomplishments from the 2016-2017 4-H Year.

All 4-H families (new, returning, and previous) are welcome to join us. Please plan to attend your county's Achievement Celebration. Check with your 4-H Club Leader on more details, including if an RSVP is needed!

	Date	Time	Location
Clay County	Saturday, Nov. 4	6 p.m.	UMC—Family Life Center
Cloud County	Sunday, Oct. 29	5 p.m.	Commercial Building at Fairgrounds
Republic County	Sunday, Nov. 5	2 p.m.	4-H Building
Washington County	Saturday, Nov. 18	6:30 p.m.	Washington County High School

## State 4-H Scholarships

It is not too early to start filling out scholarships! All current 4-H members that are seniors that will be attending college and those past 4-H members that are attending college are encouraged to complete the scholarship application.

The 2018 Kansas 4-H Scholarship Application is now available on our River Valley website [www.rivervalley.ksu.edu](http://www.rivervalley.ksu.edu) under Forms & Resources and Scholarships or may be picked up at your local River Valley District extension office.

There are 8 steps to complete the Kansas 4-H Scholarship application. Please follow the steps carefully and assemble it in the correct order.

You will need the following:

- 1) Completed Kansas 4-H Scholarship Application
- 2) Transcript
- 3) Letter of recommendation—high school or college personnel
- 4) Letter of recommendation—4-H leader or extension staff

- 5) One page list of 4-H leadership, community service, participation, and recognition
- 6) One page essay on how “4-H has Impacted Me”
- 7) One page list of non-4-H leadership, community service, participation, and recognition in school and community
- 8) Short paragraph about educational and long-term career goals

Take the advice of others, when they say, “Don’t wait until the last minute”. Ask for letters of recommendation early as people might have busy schedules!

A lot of the information will be on your permanent record **IF** you kept it up to date correctly, including your participation, leadership, citizenship and recognition.

Good Luck to all River Valley District 4-H members! Completed applications and all supporting materials are due back to your local River Valley District extension office by Wednesday, January 24th, 2018.

## Thank You!

National 4-H Week is always an exciting time for 4-H members across the River Valley District, Kansas, and the United States. We have the opportunity to showcase our 4-H program to our friends, families, neighbors, and community members!

Thank you to all of our 4-H members, leaders, and volunteers that assisted with promoting 4-H through window displays, classroom visits, parades, 48 Hours of 4-H, social media, and more!

While National 4-H Week is over, continue to share your 4-H and encourage others to get involved!

## ***Shooting Sports Starting Soon!***

The time is here to start Shooting Sports! We offer BB Gun, Air Rifle, Archery, Small Bore (22) Rifle, and Shot Gun. All Shoots and Meetings will be held at the Cloud County Fairgrounds.

4-H members between the 4-H age of **8 to 18** (as of January 1, 2018) are eligible to participate in Shooting Sports. Youth must be enrolled in the project though 4-H Online.

Two safety meetings are held each year and all 4-H members **MUST** attend one of these two safety meetings before they can participate in Shooting Sports. Parents **MUST** attend the safety meeting with their child. Plan to arrive about 15 minutes early for the Safety Meeting so you can complete your paperwork.

Shooting Sports dates have been set! No shoots are held in December or May.

Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> – Safety Meeting at 1 p.m. – Practice Shoot follows

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – FINAL Safety Meeting at 1 p.m. – Practice Shoot follows

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Practice Shoot at 2 p.m.

Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Practice Shoot at 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Practice Shoot at 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Practice Shoot at 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – Practice Shoot at 2 p.m. (May complete Fair Shoot if requirements have been met!)

Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fair Shoot at 2 p.m.

In order to qualify to participate in a Fair Shoot, each 4-H member must complete four practice shoots prior to the Fair Shoot. 4-H members that meet this requirement may designate to complete their Fair Shoot on either April 29<sup>th</sup> or June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To be eligible for county champion, 4-H members are required to participate in the following at the Fair Shoot. If a 4-H member chooses to do all disciplines at the Fair Shoot, only their top three or four scores will be used, per their age division. The lowest discipline score(s) will be dropped.

Seniors must do four out of five disciplines.

Juniors must do three out of five disciplines.

If a shoot is cancelled for any reason, we will put an announcement on area radio stations, send an e-mail to all Shooting Sports 4-H families, and post it on the River Valley 4-H Facebook page.

There is an annual fee for participating in Shooting Sports. The price varies, depending on which disciplines the 4-H member is participating in. All fees must be paid prior to participating in the first shoot.

\$10 for Archery, BB, and Air Rifle

\$25 for Shotgun

\$10 for Small Bore Rifle

To see the entire information sheet for Shooting Sports, go to the Project Information page on the River Valley District website at [www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/project\\_information.html](http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/project_information.html).

If you have any questions, you may contact Monica Thayer at 785-527-5084 or Denise Swenson at 785-243-8185.

## 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus

Experience a road trip of a lifetime! You will know what it means to be an American as you travel across the United States, stopping to visit Philadelphia, Gettysburg, the Liberty Bell and much more! Past 4-H members from our District that have gone on this trip have described it as the BEST!

It's a chance to meet and interact with 4-H members from other states. Visit Capitol Hill, government departments, historic sites, and memorials. Walk among places that have made history and places that are in the news today. Attend educational workshops to help you grow as leaders who can communicate and be a better person in your community.

The dates for next summer's trip will be June 14-25, 2018. Delegates must be responsible and mature young people ages 15-18 by January 1, 2018, who have personal qualities of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. They must also be interested in returning home to apply citizenship concepts to their own lives and committed to sharing what they learn with others.

Approximately **ONLY** 50 youth are allowed to attend! Registration is currently open and applications will be accepted until January 15, 2018 or until all 50 spaces are filled.

Applications and cover letters must be submitted online at

[www.kansas4-h.org/events/index.html](http://www.kansas4-h.org/events/index.html). After the application has been submitted and reviewed, local Extension Units will approve applications. Applicants not selected may be put on a waiting list as alternates. Applicants will be notified of their selection and will be required to confirm their intent to participate.

A \$100 nonrefundable deposit will complete your application (due by January 15, 2018) and to guarantee your spot. Total cost of the trip is \$1,850 and final payment is due April 15.

Check with the 4-H Program Manager at your local River Valley District extension office for possible scholarships available.

## Livestock Weigh-In Dates

Spring will be here soon! Mark these livestock weigh-in dates on your calendar now!

No tagging will be allowed to be completed at home for any species, for any reason. All tagging must be completed at one of the following dates and times! More information will be in future newsletters!

### **2018 Beef Weigh-In**

- |                        |                |                        |             |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| • Sunday, March 4th    | 2— 4 p.m.      | 81 Livestock Sale Barn | Belleville  |
| • Sunday, March 4th    | 5:30—6:30 p.m. | Fairgrounds            | Concordia   |
| • Saturday, March 10th | 9—10:30 a.m.   | Animal Health Center   | Washington  |
| • Saturday, March 10th | 9—10 a.m.      | Salava Vet Clinic      | Clay Center |

### **2018 Sheep, Goat, and Swine Weigh-in/Tagging**

- |                        |                |             |             |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| • Monday, April 23rd   | 4:30—6:30 p.m. | Fairgrounds | Washington  |
| • Thursday, April 26th | 4:30—6:30 p.m. | Fairgrounds | Concordia   |
| • Wednesday, May 2nd   | 4:30—6:30 p.m. | Fairgrounds | Clay Center |
| • Saturday, May 5th    | 4:30—6:30 p.m. | Fairgrounds | Belleville  |



## ***Scholarships to Attend Events and Camps Available***

There are organizations in the River Valley District that offer scholarships to 4-H members to attend events and camps! Here is a list of scholarship opportunities available by each county:

- **Clay County**
  - **4-H Council**—4-H members may apply for scholarships for the following events:
    - Citizenship Washington Focus—2 youth—\$1650 scholarship each
    - Kansas Youth Leadership Forum—10 youth—75% fee covered
    - Northeast Leadership Event—10 youth—50% fee covered (class costs not covered)
    - Citizenship in Action—10 youth—75% fee covered
    - Discovery Days—10 youth—50% fee covered (class costs not covered)
  - **Development Fund**—4-H/Specialty Camps Only—4-H members may apply for scholarships. A committee distributes scholarships based on funds available.
- **Cloud County**
  - **4-H Council**—Each 4-H member, after completing one year of 4-H enrollment, may apply for an annual \$30 scholarship to attend an event and/or camp, such as Citizenship in Action, Discovery Days, 4-H Camp, etc.
  - **Youth Fund**—4-H members, after completing one year of 4-H enrollment, may apply for scholarships. An executive board distributes scholarships based on funds available.
- **Republic County**
  - **4-H Council**—Each 4-H member may apply for an annual \$100 scholarship to attend an event and/or camp, such as Citizenship in Action, Discovery Days, 4-H Camp, etc. Each 4-H member may apply for an additional \$10 scholarship to attend Northeast Leadership Event.
- **Washington County**
  - **4-H Council**—Each 4-H member may apply for an annual \$100 scholarship to attend an event and/or camp, such as Citizenship in Action, Discovery Days, 4-H Camp, etc. Each 4-H member may apply for an additional \$15 scholarship to attend the Northeast Leadership Event.
  - **4-H Booster Club**—Each 4-H member may apply for an annual \$50 scholarship to attend an event and/or camp, such as Citizenship in Action, Discovery Days, 4-H Camp, etc.

Contact the 4-H Program Manager in your local River Valley District extension office to find out how to apply!

## ***Set Goals & Plan NOW!***

Goal setting and planning should be a part of everyone's 4-H experience. If it isn't, NOW is a great time to start! As we have just started the 2017-2018 4-H Year, now is the time to set goals and plan how to achieve those goals.

***“Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success.” ~ Pablo Picasso***

Set yourself up for a successful 4-H year by planning

events you want to attend, projects you want to complete, activities you want to lead or participate in, and what awards you want to receive next year!

By setting these goals and occasionally reflecting on them throughout the next year, you will hopefully find it easier than looking back at the 4-H Year and hoping that you are eligible for awards, the fair auction, etc.

Start setting goals for your pin applications, Key Award, Kansas 4-H Award Portfolio, and livestock premium sale/project auction requirements!

## ***Be a 4-H Volunteer***

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*“Volunteers don’t get paid. Not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”  
~Sherry Anderson~*

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It’s true, especially in 4-H. The impact that a 4-H volunteer has is truly priceless. While the River Valley District has been fortunate to have wonderful 4-H volunteers over the past, there is a constant need for more adults to volunteer with our 4-H youth!

Take a moment to think about what skills and passion that you possess that you could share with 4-H youth! Maybe you have a neighbor, family member, teacher, etc., that would be a great volunteer with 4-H! Help us recruit them to assist with our youth development program!

The next step is to take the time to become a screened volunteer and start sharing your talents! All of the steps for the Volunteer Screening Process can be found online at [www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/volunteers.html](http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/volunteers.html) or at one of the River Valley District extension offices.

1. **Complete the volunteer screening application.** A paper or electronic version is available.
2. **Create a profile on 4-H Online.** Head to <http://kansas.4Honline.com> and create an adult profile.
3. **Complete the Orientation.** Once you have created your 4-H Online profile, you may choose to complete the orientation training videos and quizzes online or set up a time with Monica Thayer at 785-527-5084 to do an in person orientation.
4. **Complete the interview with extension staff.** Contact the 4-H Program Manager in your local River Valley District extension office to set up a time for the interview.
5. **Complete background checks.** The Child Abuse and Neglect Form (DCF) is a paper application that must be completed and returned to your local River Valley District extension office. The Criminal Background Check is an online application that must be completed and submitted. Results will be communicated to our office.

Following the completion of the above five steps, your file will be reviewed and the River Valley Extension District Board will advise on appointment. You will receive a letter regarding volunteer placement following the monthly extension board meeting.

After being appointed as a volunteer, an annual renewal application must be filled out. Every three years, the two background checks must be completed.

The volunteer screening process helps us to create a safe environment for our 4-H members. Please consider becoming a 4-H Volunteer with the River Valley District today! Contact Monica Thayer at 785-527-5084 to discuss volunteer options! The possibilities are truly endless!

### **Officer Trainings**

Thank you to everyone that made our River Valley District 4-H Officer Trainings so successful!

Club leaders will be receiving the officer packets for youth that were unable to attend. Additional packets or materials may be found online at [www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/officers-training.html](http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/officers-training.html) or are available at your local River Valley District extension office.



**River Valley Extension District**  
**Washington Office**  
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Address Service Requested

## Graphic Design Policy

A new State 4-H policy went into effect on October 1st, which requires the co-wordmark on ALL 4-H marketing and publishing materials, including print, merchandise, digital, and apparel. The co-wordmark includes the K-State Research & Extension logo and the 4-H Emblem. It can be found on the front and back page of this newsletter.

To ensure the co-wordmark and 4-H Clover are being used properly,

the River Valley District has a new Graphic Design Policy. Any 4-H group or club must have their graphic design for shirts, banners, signs, etc. approved through their local River Valley District extension office.

First, we do not expect all of our 4-H Clubs to go out immediately and replace items. We understand that financial resources may be tight. However, as you are replacing items, you must follow this policy.

Secondly, we encourage our 4-H Clubs and Groups to use local vendors for all of our graphic needs. Many local businesses support 4-H so let's give back to our communities and support local vendors!

All forms and resources on the Graphic Design Policy, the Co-Wordmark Policy, and 4-H Emblem Usage may be found online at [www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/leaders.html](http://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/leaders.html) or at your local River Valley District Office.

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**Clay Center Office** • 322 Grant Avenue • Clay Center, KS 67432-2804 • 785-632-5335

**Concordia Office** • 811 Washington, Suite E • Concordia, KS 66901-3415 • 785-243-8185

**Washington Office** • 214 C. Street • Courthouse • Washington, KS 66968-1928 • 785-325-2121

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