

It's time to invest in your child's future! School is well under way and some parents may be looking for an extracurricular activity to keep their child engaged. The 4-H program in Twin Creeks Extension District would like to offer that opportunity!

Youth from the age of 5 to 18 years old are eligible to enroll in the Kansas 4-H program. Our Cloverbud program invites youth 5 and 6 years old by January 1, 2022 to enroll in 4-H to explore the many different project areas to get a taste of involvement in the 4-H program. Cloverbuds will engage in hands-on activities with older 4-H members as well as adult volunteers.

Youth who are 7 years old up to 18 years old by January 1, 2022 are eligible to enroll as a full 4-H member. Enrollment can be with a community club and/or shooting sports project clubs.

Enrolled 4-H members choose projects from foods, clothing, Legos and woodworking to rockets, entomology, shooting sports and livestock. There are over 50 different project areas to choose from and a self-determined project where youth can research their own area of interest if they can't find it in the regular projects.

Throughout the year, youth will work on their projects to gain education either through project meetings, online classes and webinars, project challenges and self-research. Our 4-H program works with volunteers who have been screened and vetted through our state 4-H office to ensure that we are providing a positive and safe, learning environment for our youth.

In addition to learning about their project areas, youth belong to a community club which teaches parliamentary procedure, teamwork, public speaking skills, leadership and citizenship. Most clubs meet monthly to conduct general business and could also involve community service projects, guest speakers and/or field trips.

Our 4-H members also have opportunities to get involved with area and state events and activities. Day camps, 4-H Club Day (an opportunity to showcase public speaking and presentation skills), Officer and Leadership Training, Discovery Days (college life experience on the K-State Campus for older members), CIA (Citizenship in Action at Topeka to learn about our government), Project Days (learning activities for specific project areas), and much more.

Twin Creeks District is currently holding 4-H Tailgate Touchdown Events in each of the four counties (Norton, Decatur, Sheridan and Graham). Look for a purple tent with green and white 4-H pendants and stop in to get more information about our 4-H program. Stop by the booth and have your youth spin the wheel for a free prize. 4-H members who invite a friend to the booth will be eligible for a \$25 Chamber Bucks drawing. Non-4-H parents who stop by the tent with their youth would be eligible for a \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant.

4-H is America's largest youth development organization, empowering nearly six million young people across the U.S. and over 70,000 youth in Kansas with the skills to lead for a lifetime. Youth complete hands-on projects in area like health, science, agriculture and citizenship, in a positive environment.

Our 4-H program focuses on six C's: Connection, Confidence, Competence, Character, Caring and Contribution. According to a longitudinal study by Lerner and Lerner, 4-H members are two times more likely to participate in STEM activities outside of school, two times more likely to make healthier choices, and four times more likely to contribute to their communities.

So, Invest in YOUR Child's Future and get them enrolled in our Twin Creeks District 4-H program. We are excited about the opportunities that our 2021-22 year will offer! Please contact Twin Creeks District 4-H Youth Development Agent, Patsy Maddy, at pmaddy@ksu.edu or 785-877-5755 for interest in joining 4-H in either Norton, Decatur, Sheridan or Graham counties. We will be awaiting your email or phone call!

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Twin Creeks Extension District, Norton office, 785-877-5755.

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“Invest in Your Child’s Future”

“Chasing Clovers”

By Patsy L. Maddy

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