

"I pledge my Hands to larger service," the third 'H' in the 4-H Pledge. Imagine a father whose young son asks him for the truth about Santa Claus. He has to warn his boy that the answer will change the way he looks at Christmas forever. "Santa is real," he told the boy, "But not the old man with a red suit and white beard. He's just someone people invented to represent the spirit of Christmas. And that's not about presents either. The truth about Santa is an idea, the spirit of giving just for the sake of giving, without a thought of a reward, even of a word of thanks."

Our 4-H program stresses the importance of helping others for the sake of helping without the thought of thanks or acknowledgement. It's like the spirit of Christmas. It's our goal to instill life skills that kids will carry into adulthood, creating citizens who want to serve their communities. Our 4-H youth enjoy raising money to assist local charities, helping elderly neighbors with yard work and creating cards and acts of kindness to brighten someone's day, just to name a few. This is all part of the 4-H experience.

Our goal is to teach youths life skills that will empower them for a lifetime. We believe that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us. We are America's largest youth development organization, empowering nearly six million young people across the United States and over 74,000 in Kansas with skills to lead and give for a lifetime.

Our vision is that youths in 4-H will grow and develop into healthy, caring adults, prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of a globally connected world.

It's not too late! Contact me, Twin Creeks Extension District 4-H Youth Development Agent Patsy Maddy, for information about getting your kids enrolled in a 4-H program. Find me at pmaddy@ksu.edu or 785-877-5755. Also check out our Facebook pages at Norton County 4-H, Decatur County 4-H, Sheridan County 4-H or Graham County 4-H.

Enrollment is open to youths from 5 and 6 years old by January 1st for the Cloverbud program and those 7 to 18 for regular 4-H membership.

Article Header

“The Truth About Santa and 4-H”

“Chasing Clovers”

By Patsy L. Maddy

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4-H Youth Development Agent