

Central Kansas District Opportunities

4-H Council (District): The District 4-H Council is made up of older 4-H'ers from each 4-H club (4 per club) and adults (2 per club). Council plans districtwide events and has meetings every other month. The council also elects a group of officers each year in September. Applications are due early September.

4-H Council Committees: Each council member serves on a districtwide committee. Any 4-H'er, parent or volunteer can also serve on committees. Members are asked to rank the committees on which they wish to serve, including Celebration of Achievements, Ag Development, Finance & Fundraising, FACS Judging, Photography Judging, 4-H Club Day, Promotion and Recruitment, Social, Tri-Rivers Fair, and Ottawa County Fair.

4-H Ambassador: 4-H'ers are selected to represent and promote the 4-H program in the district. 4-H'ers who are 8th grade or older with two years of 4-H experience are urged to apply. A statewide training in the spring at Rock Springs 4-H Camp is offered for those selected. The Ambassadors serve for two years. Applications are due in the end of September.

4-H Camp: June—4-H camp is held at Rock Springs State 4-H Center near Junction City with 4-H'ers from other counties/districts. Camp lasts four days and three nights and is for 4-H'ers who have completed the 3rd through 7th grade. Rookie camp is for 1st and 2nd graders and lasts 2 days and 1 night. 4-H'ers completing the 8th grade or older have the opportunity to serve as Camp Counselors for a group of 8-9 campers. A great way to put your leadership skills into action! Counselors are required to complete the Volunteer Registration process and Camp Counselor training, complete a written application and interview with the 4-H agent. Applications are usually due mid-April.

Fair Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent: Volunteers are needed to assist the judges during the County Fairs. 4-H'ers can sign up in March to assist with project of their choosing. This is a great way to hear the judges' comments as you help and learn more about your favorite project.

4-H Club Day: February/March – 4-H'ers make public presentations to share what they've learned in 4-H. Presentations include speaking (spontaneous and public speaking; project talks for those 12 and under), demonstrations and illustrated talks, talent and musical numbers (solo or group). 4-H'ers are divided into age divisions for competition. Top presentations in each category earn the opportunity to represent their district at Regional 4-H Day later in March. Member must present a **prepared** Public Presentation (demonstration, project talk, public speaking or sharing) to be eligible for individual talent. **Spontaneous Speaking is not included in the prepared Public Presentation category.** 4-H'ers may participate in group (3 or more) without presenting individual prepared public presentation. (Individual solo entries must also present demonstration, project talk, public speaking or sharing)

Project Leader or Assistant Project Leader: Project leaders plan and conduct meetings for other 4-H members in projects of their choosing. This is a great way to learn more about your favorite project, share your enthusiasm and knowledge, and build your leadership and citizenship skills while serving as a role-model for younger 4-H'ers. Project leaders may be at the club or district level.

Japanese Exchange/LABO – Exchange with Japanese youth, 10-16 years of age. Members host Japanese youth for approximately 3-4 weeks in late July and early August. Some events are planned with other host families but the majority of the time is open to the host family's choice of activities showing American family life. Check 4-H newsletter and email for more details.

Area/Regional and State Opportunities

Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action (CIA): February – for 4-H'ers 13 or older. This two day event (Sun. & Mon.) is held at the State Capitol in Topeka. The purpose is for 4-H'ers to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in 4-H and in their communities. Registration due mid-January.

Judging: Opportunities at the local, regional and state levels in several project areas, including FACs, photography, etc. State level judging is typically held during the State Fair unless otherwise noted.

4-H Discovery Days: After Memorial Day – This is mini-college experience held on the K-State campus. 4-H’ers 12 and older can join teens from all over Kansas to participate in many learning and fun activities for project enrichment and career exploration. The variety of classes offered is tremendous! Registration is available in late February/early March. Class assignments are on a 1st come 1st served basis.

Quiz Bowl: Opportunities at the District, State, and/or National levels for judging in several project areas, including livestock, dairy, FACs, Dogs, Horse, etc.

Action Teams/Task Forces: Statewide committees which meet one or more times a year to plan statewide activities. Applications are available on the state website. Opportunities include: Ambassadors, Dairy, Discovery Days, Dog Care & Training, Geology, Horse, and Space Tech. Application deadlines vary.

Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF): November –for 4-H’ers 14-18. A two-day conference held at Rock Springs 4-H Center and helps build leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers, and more. Registration is due in October.

Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council: Any Kansas 4-H member 14-18 years old may apply to be a state youth council member. The council plans the next Youth Leadership Forum, Campference, Citizenship in Action, and may assist with State 4-H functions, work with 4-H public relations, and speak at local 4-H events. Go to the state website for the application details and deadlines.

Campference: June at Rock Springs. 4 day, 3 night event for 4-H’ers 12-14 years of age. This event offers participants the opportunity to experience the feel of a conference while enjoying the activities of camp, with workshops about 4-H opportunities, becoming a leader, and activities to energize youth, learning healthy living skills and how to better interact with others. Registration is due in March/April.

Emerald Circle Banquet: June – This banquet is held annually during Discovery Days in Manhattan. State award winners receive recognition at this banquet. This is one of the most prestigious banquets that a Kansas 4-H’er can attend.

State Fair Volunteer: September – 4-H’ers may volunteer in July to serve as helpers at the State Fair in the project area in which they are interested for the State Fair in September in Hutchinson. Duties and times vary based on the project area.

National/International Opportunities

National 4-H Conference: March/April – A working conference where youth and adults assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. Delegates must be 15-18 years old. 4-H members who have attended National 4-H Congress are eligible to apply. Held in March/April at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD. Applications are due the end of September/first part of October. Youth selected to be delegates to National 4-H Conference will also serve a two-year term on the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council.

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF): Held in June. Up to 46 Kansas 4-H Youth and 5 adult sponsors get the opportunity to be a part of this extraordinary learning experience on the road to Washington, DC. Any 4-H’er, 15-18 years of age, who is responsible, demonstrates leadership qualities, including self-discipline and sense of group responsibility, interested in returning home to apply citizenship concepts to their own lives and the lives of those around them AND committed to sharing what they have learned should apply. Applications are due in December/January.

National 4-H Congress: November—Annual conference attended by nearly 1,500 4-H members from all states and territories. Delegates are a select group of state winners in certain 4-H project areas. Held in Atlanta, Georgia. This Friday through Tuesday event features tours, banquets, parties, and community service projects. Members need to excel in project work and complete KAP. State winners are chosen through KAPs and videos submitted.

International Foreign Youth Exchange (IFYE): Provides opportunity for young adults 19-30 years of age to live for 6 months to 1 year with families in another country. Young adults from foreign countries also come to the US and live with families. Kansas 4-H families can serve as hosts to IFYE exchanges. Applications are available through the Extension Office.