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Central Kansas District 4-H

December, 2025

January, 2026



4-H Council News

January Meeting

The January 4-H Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Salina. We will meet in the Technology Center, Room 118 on the K-State Salina Campus.

4-H Newsletter Deadlines for 2026

If you have something you would like in the *4-H Newsletter*, be sure to email it to ev13104@ksu.edu. Deadlines are:

- February - January 10
- March - February 10
- April - March 10
- May - April 10



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Kansas4-H.org

Offices Closed

Both the Minneapolis and Salina Extension Offices will be closed:

- December 24—January 1 and will re-open January 2



Central Kansas District 4-H Celebration of Achievements

What an afternoon! What a great opportunity to recognize the 4-H members and volunteer leaders in the District for all of their hard work and accomplishments.

Key Award Recipients: Jaelyn Gates, Cardinal and Lillian Hulse, Pleasant Valley

Outstanding 4-H Member Award: Caroline Stone, Sunny Valley

4-H Family of the Year Award: Michelle Griffin-Coats Family, Willing Workers and Josh Hulse Family, Pleasant Valley

4-H Alumni of the Year Award: Monica Baltazor, Willing Workers and Larry Laas

Friend of 4-H Award: Pihl Repair & Fabrication

Outstanding Volunteer Award: Cheryl Spare, Friendly Valley

Volunteer of the Year Award: Ashley Freeman, Pleasant Valley and Karla Schlatter, Boldly Go

4-H Project Report Forms Going to Regional Contest

Congratulations to those individuals who have 4-H Project Report Forms going to the Regional Contest:

Civic Engagement	Eian Pracht, Smoky View
Electric & Renewable Energy	Eian Pracht, Smoky View
Foods and Nutrition	Kyson Griffin, Willing Workers
Health and Wellness	Caroline Stone, Sunny Valley
Leadership	Jaelyn Gates, Cardinal
Leadership	Eian Pracht, Smoky View
Rabbits	Acacia Pracht, Smoky View
Robotics	Eian Pracht, Smoky View
Sheep	Gauge Fritz, Gypsum Valley
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems	Eian Pracht, Smoky View
Visual Arts	Acacia Pracht, Smoky View
Visual Arts	Eian Pracht, Smoky View

Remember...all 4-H Project Report Forms going to the Regional Contest are due to either Extension Office by **Monday, January 5**.

4-H Scholarships

Local 4-H Scholarship Information

CKD Local 4-H Scholarship information will be posted soon on the CKD 4-H Scholarship website – (<https://www.centrankansas.k-state.edu/4-h/scholarships/index.html>). At the time of newsletter publication, a few details were still being finalized (including amounts of scholarships), and it is anticipated the complete list of scholarships and application will be available no later than December 19, 2025. Check the website frequently for information.

All scholarships will be due ONLINE no later than March 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

If you need a letter of recommendation from Ellie at ev13104@ksu.edu and/or Kate at klittich@ksu.edu please send an email requesting a letter. Be sure to include your most current resume and 4-H permanent record with your email. If possible, we ask for 3-4 weeks to complete the letter of recommendation prior to the due date.

NEW Deadline for Kansas 4-H Scholarships!

Attention, Kansas 4-H members! The deadline for the Kansas 4-H Scholarships is Monday, January 5, 2026.

We know spring is packed with 4-H activities and deadlines, so this change is designed to make your scholarship experience smoother and less stressful. With two separate due dates for project award applications and scholarships, you'll have more time to prepare your best work in both areas!

Plus, selections will be completed early enough for seniors to share scholarship results with their high schools, so you can be recognized for all your accomplishments.

The scholarship application is now live on the Kansas 4-H website — don't wait, start yours today!

<https://kansas4h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

NOTE for Local Scholarships Local scholarships, including Ottawa County 4-H Foundation, Saline County 4-H Development Fund, Tri-Rivers Fair, etc., continue to have a March 1 deadline. This information will be coming out soon on the Central Kansas District website under 4-H Youth Development.

Save the Date: Citizenship in Action (CIA)



Citizenship in Action will be held in Topeka, February 15-16, 2026 for youth 13-18 years old by January 1 of the current year. This two-day event is sponsored by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The purpose of the event is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities. Watch your email for registration information!

Parents and Volunteers Needed: NE Regional Awards Screening

The NE Regional 4-H Project Award Screening is scheduled for **Friday, January 16**. This event will be held in-person in Manhattan, and volunteers are needed to help screen award applications.

The group from Central Kansas District typically carools from Salina, leaving around 8:00 a.m. Return time varies each year, but we usually arrive back in Salina between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, or if you have questions, please email Kate at klittich@ksu.edu by **December 23**. When emailing, include your name and the 4-H project areas you would be interested in judging.



Adult Chaperones Needed

If you are interested in serving as a chaperone for **Citizenship In Action (CIA)** and/or **Discovery Days**, please complete the **Adult Chaperone Application** and return it to either Extension Office by **December 15**. The application will soon be available on the CKD 4-H website. Submitting an application indicates your interest in serving as a chaperone; it does **not** obligate you to serve. If you have any questions, please contact **Kate**.

Master Calendar Updates

There are two updates for the 2025-2026 Master Calendar. Please be sure to mark these changes on your calendar!

- Regional 4-H Club Day - March 28, 2026
- State 4-H Scholarship Deadline - January 5, 2026



Registration Is Open For 4-H Camp In 2026!



Ready, set, register! All 4-H camp sessions are now available for registration online at www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org. This includes half week, full week, Leaders in Training (LIT) and Counselors in Training (CIT) sessions. New for this year are Mini-Camp, which will offer a shorter 3 day/2 night camp experience for 1st-3rd graders and two week-long specialty camps. The specialty camps are Ranch Camp and Shooting Sports Camp. The session dates are on the Rock Springs website, along with more information.

Don't forget about **Counselors in Training (CIT) & Leaders in Training (LIT)** registration is also open! Both programs are free to our current 9th-11th graders thanks to a generous donation to the Kansas 4-H Foundation. Here is the link to our Letter of Interest if you are interested in attending either program bit.ly/CIT-Interest at no cost!

Scholarship funds are available.

2026 Fair Dates

Mark your calendars! Fair dates for 2026 have been announced.

- Ottawa County Fair - July 15-18
- Tri-Rivers Fair - July 30 - August 2

Watch the newsletter and emails for dates for pre-fair judging and other fair activities.

Community Service Opportunity

The Saline County 4-H Development Fund is considering a project, and they need 4-H Club help! They are researching restoration work on the horseshoe picnic area at the Saline County Expo Center and asking 4-H Clubs to help plan and perform work, such as research the history of the original construction, rake/clean grounds, spread new gravel, power wash concrete and stones, and promote usage of the refurbished area. This project would be a collaborative effort between 4-H Clubs, Expo Center and the Development Fund. If your Club is interested in collaborating on this great community service project, reach out to Suzanne Hokett at skhokett@gmail.com with questions or to submit your interest by January 8, 2026.

K-State Junior Producer Days

The 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days have been scheduled. The two junior producer days being hosted in the spring are a junior beef and a sheep producer day at Bilbrey Family Events Center, Manhattan. These are one-day, educational events for families to learn about the selection and management of youth livestock projects.

- K-State Junior Beef Producer Day - Saturday, March 7, 2026 – Registration deadline February 13
- K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day - Saturday, April 11, 2026 – Registration deadline March 20

The cost to attend is \$20 per person by the deadline or \$30 after the deadline.

There will be an optional tour of the KSU Sheep and Meat Goat Center on the Friday night prior to junior sheep producer day, as well as after the program concludes on Saturday.

All attendees, including youth and adults, must register. Only those who register by the appropriate deadline will receive a t-shirt. A new registration system will be used this year for the junior day events. Registration is open at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer/>

4-H Online & Emails

It is important that all 4-H families are receiving emails through 4-H Online. The Central Kansas District strives to limit the number of emails we send; however, there are times when email is the most effective and timely way to share important information.

Please ensure your 4-H Online account is set to receive emails at the address your family checks most frequently.

Important: By default, all members are subscribed to emails in 4-H Online. If you click “unsubscribe” on an email that may not apply to your family, it will remove you from *all* future 4-H Online communications—not just that message.

How to Check Your Email Subscription in 4-H Online

1. Log in to your **4HOnline Account**.
2. Click on **Family** on the left side of the screen.
3. Under the green **Family** tab, locate “**Subscribe to Emails?**”
4. Ensure the **Yes** box is selected and turns blue.
5. Once selected, you should see a confirmation message in a green box in the lower right side of the screen:
“*Opted in to receiving emails.*”

Please note: It may take up to 48 hours for changes to take effect.

Leadership Opportunities

4-H Council Committees

An email will be sent soon with information regarding the 2026 4-H Council Committees. This message will be sent to all committee members with a listed email address, as well as all Organizational Leaders.



A list of committee members (excluding email addresses and phone numbers) will also be posted on our website under 4-H Member Forms & Documents. Printed copies will be available at either Extension Office once edits are finalized after the first of the year.

Save The Date – Districtwide Committee Training

The **2026 Districtwide Committee Training** will take place on **January 11** from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the College Center Conference Room on the K-State Salina Campus. Be sure to mark your calendar!

An email will be sent to all committee members, co-chairs, master volunteers, and advisors. Watch your inbox for updates. This message will include the registration link and additional information.



You do not need to currently serve on a committee to attend. This training will also serve as a leadership workshop, and all who are interested are welcome.

Volunteer Orientation

The next Volunteer Orientation is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10**, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. An online RSVP is required by **December 3**. The location will be determined based on RSVPs.

The registration link is available on our website under **Upcoming Events and Online Registration**:

<http://www.centrankansas.k-state.edu/4-h> If you do not have internet access, please contact either Extension Office for assistance.

If there are not enough participants registered, the session will be cancelled and those who signed up will be notified.

Youth actively involved in leadership roles within the 4-H program are welcome to attend this orientation as a leadership workshop.

4-H Project Curriculum

There are many resources available to support 4-H members and project leaders with their projects. If you are curious about what the curriculum looks like, please contact the Extension Office — we likely have copies you can check out for review. We are also happy to help direct you to sources if you would like to purchase your own copies. If you have questions or need guidance, reach out to your club leader or call the Extension Office.

Gavel Games & Model Meetings

Gavel Games and Model Meetings give club members a fun, hands-on way to learn parliamentary procedure—a valuable life-long skill that many adults find challenging. This is a great opportunity for all members to build confidence and strengthen their leadership abilities.

Gavel Games & Model Meetings Registration

- **Clubs planning to participate must pre-register online by Monday, January 5, at 11:59 p.m.**
- **A registration link will be emailed to the Organizational Leaders Listserv.**

Contest Details

- **Date:** Saturday, January 17
- **Location:** Kansas State University – Salina Campus, Technology Building (Building #6)
- **Parking:** Lot B-1
- Signs will be posted inside to direct participants to the assigned rooms.



Friday Option

- If your club has a conflict on January 17, you may choose to participate on **Friday, January 16**, beginning at **5:00 p.m.**, also in the Technology Building.

Important:

- Clubs choosing the Friday option will **not** be eligible for the Regional contest. However, members may still list their participation on their pin application.

Resources

- Gavel Games and Model Meeting guidelines are available:
 - From your **Organizational Leaders** and
 - On our website under **“Organizational Leaders”**.

Don't miss out on the chance to build leadership and communication skills while having fun with your club!

District 4-H Quiz Bowl Teams

Two's company and three's a quiz bowl team! Put on your thinking caps, grab a couple of 4-H friends, and form a team for the 4-H Quiz Bowl.

Teams will consist of three 4-H members. Age divisions are:

- Junior (ages 7–12)
- Senior (ages 13–18).



The event will take place on **Saturday, February 28**, at the First Christian Church, 2727 E. Crawford in Salina, with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m., and competition will begin at 8:30 a.m. Due to the unique format of Quiz Bowl, substitutes on the day of the contest will not be permitted.

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams, and an overall club award of \$25 will also be given. Questions will relate to all aspects of 4-H, including officer information, parliamentary procedure, project knowledge, history, who's who, and other fun facts about 4-H.

Deadline to register teams is January 30. A link will be sent to the Organizational Leaders Listserv. Gather your teammates and get ready for a fun and challenging 4-H event!

District 4-H Quiz Bowl Volunteers Needed!

Approximately 20 volunteers are needed to help the District 4-H Quiz Bowl run smoothly. Registered adult volunteers are needed to serve as moderators/judges (reading questions), competition room monitors, and waiting room monitors.

Adults and 4-H member volunteers, 7th grade and up who do not want to participate on a team, are needed for scorekeepers, buzzer monitors and time keepers. **A brief orientation for volunteers will be at 8:00 a.m., prior to the competition beginning at 8:30 a.m.** To sign up, please visit <http://www.centrankansas.ksu.edu/4-h> and look under **Upcoming Events and Online Registration** for the link. Select all positions you are willing to help with; assignments will be made based on registrations. The volunteer registration deadline is **January 30**.

Project News

Save the Date

Spring Beef, Sheep, Meat Goat & Swine Weigh-In/Tagging

The 2026 spring beef weigh-in is Saturday, March 14 - Salina at Glen Engelland's and Minneapolis at Schrader Ranch. Sheep, meat goat, and swine weigh-in is Wednesday, April 22 in Salina and Thursday, April 23 in Minneapolis. Watch your email for updates. Be sure and place this date on your calendar.



All animals (excluding registered heifers) are required to be at their respective weigh-ins. Bucket calves do not need to come to weigh-in. Swine will not be weighed but will be left on trailers for tagging. 4-H members or an associated adult will be required to tag all swine.

Save the Date - 4-H Horse Panorama

The 2026 4-H Horse Panorama is scheduled for February 21-22, at Rock Springs. Contests are available to Kansas 4-H members enrolled in the Horse project and contests are open to youth whose 4-H age is 9-18. Contests include quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking, presentations, photography, and educational posters. Registration will open soon and more information is available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/horse/horse-panorama.html>.

Save the Date - K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy

Plans are being made for the 2026 program! KASLA will tentatively be hosted in June, with applications being due in the spring. This program is open to students in grades 9-12. Please watch the KASLA webpage at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/> or Facebook page for additional details.

4-H Shooting Sports Practice Begins Soon

Practices will be held at the Wisbey residence, **1725 Ottawa Road, Salina.**

Before attending practice, members must be enrolled in 4-H and in the appropriate discipline. Please note the enrollment deadlines for returning and new 4-H membership in the October and November 4-H Newsletters.

- **BB Gun** - Practice will begin on **December 7** with three session options at **3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** This practice is open to youth ages 8–16. However, participants must be at least 9 years old to compete.
- **Air Rifle** - Practice will begin on **Wednesday, December 10**, with sessions at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Air Rifle discipline is intended for experienced, older youth.

The Shooting Sports project disciplines communicate through the BAND App. Please enroll soon and watch your inbox for details. If you have questions, contact Jay Wisbey, Shooting Sports Instructor, at 785-309-5850 or 785-587-7987 or jwisbey@ksu.edu.

Build Your 4-H Club Day Presentation Skills

One of the greatest benefits of 4-H is learning to give public presentations. All 4-H members are encouraged to participate in **4-H Club Day this February 14, 2026**. Helpful resources are available on the 4-H website under **4-H Club Day**. These include videos on planning and presenting demonstrations/illustrated talks, project talks, and public speaking. More examples are being added, so check back regularly. These materials supplement the **4-H Club Day Guidelines on pages 10-15**. If you need additional assistance, Master Volunteer **Suzanne Hokett** is available to meet with families or clubs in person, by phone, or via Zoom. She can be reached at **785-643-6511**.

4-H Club Day - February 14, 2026

Participation Ages

- Youth must be **7 years old before January 1, 2026** to participate.
- **Cloverbuds (ages 5–6 before January 1, 2026)** may take part in the Sharing Division only.
- All 4-H members and Cloverbuds are encouraged to participate.

Registration Deadline and Eligibility:

- All entries (in-person or virtual) must be submitted online by **January 20 at 11:59 p.m.**
- To be eligible, 4-H enrollment must be completed online by **December 1, 2025.**
- Don't wait until the last minute to register!

Club Day Policy Reminder

- To enter individual **talent** events (music, drama, dance), members **must** complete a public presentation - demonstration, illustrated talk, project talk, public speaking, or sharing.
- Members may participate in **group talent** (3 or more members) without presenting a public presentation.

Registration Information

- Club Day registration will be available online at the District website under "Upcoming Events & Online Registration".
- An email will be sent to families once the links are posted.
- Individual Events: Each participant, including Cloverbuds, must be registered individually.
- Group Talent Events: Only one member should submit the entry and must list all group participants and their clubs. No substitutions of 4-H members will be allowed.
- Team Presentations: Only one team member should register both participants and their clubs.
- Digital Events: Participants will be able to choose this option for certain presentations and are not eligible for Regional competition.
- Special and scheduling requests can be made during registration. Staff will accommodate when possible.
- Don't forget to hit "**Submit**" at the end of the registration process.
- After submitting registration, families will have the option (and it is encouraged) to print a copy and/or save a pdf of the entry. A confirmation email will also include all registration details.

Important Notes

- **Registration deadline for in-person and digital entries is January 20 at 11:59 p.m. - late entries will not be accepted.**
- Youth **not enrolled** by December 1 will be ineligible. If an ineligible member registers, the Extension Office will contact Organizational Leaders to follow up with the family.
- Please remember that **no live animals or weapons** are permitted at 4-H Club Day.

Questions on Registration Process, Rules and Guidelines

- **Contact Kate at klittich@ksu.edu or call 785-309-5850 during business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).**
- **2026 Guidelines for 4-H Club Day Presentations** (including both in person and digital) can be found on **pages 10-15** of this newsletter.
- **MY 4-H SPARK Contest Guidelines & Information** can be found on **page 16** of this newsletter.

2026 GUIDELINES FOR 4-H CLUB DAY PRESENTATIONS

General Guidelines:

- Juniors are 7-12 and Seniors 13 & older
- Cloverbuds may only participate in the Sharing Division.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Sharing - Non-competitive

- A. Recommended for Cloverbuds and 1st and 2nd year 4-H members 10 years old and under, but not limited.
- B. Time: Recommend 2-3 minutes.
- C. Props or posters may or may not be used.
- D. Topic must be any 4-H related project or item.
- E. Cloverbuds and 4-H members come prepared with short presentation.

Project Talks - Junior

- A. For 4-H members 7 to 12 years old.
- B. Time: Recommend 3 to 4 minutes, 7 minutes maximum.
- C. Visuals encouraged but not required.
- D. Individual presentations only.
- E. Topic may be on 4-H project or aspect of project 4-H member is currently enrolled in.
- F. PowerPoint is allowed for this category and age division. Contestant is responsible for providing a computer and projector. A projector can be checked out from the Extension Office on a first come, first serve basis. No internet access will be provided.
- G. Questions are not asked.

Demonstrations - Illustrated Talks - Junior

- A. A **demonstration** is a show and tell type of presentation. An **illustrated talk** tells how rather than shows how. Needs end product.
- B. For 4-H members 7 to 12 years old.
- C. Time: Recommend 4 to 7 minutes, 10 minutes maximum.
- D. Either individual or team presentations.
- E. All necessary equipment provided by 4-H member, i.e. computer, posters, etc.
- F. Topic may be related to 4-H project currently enrolled.
- G. The endorsement of brand names is discouraged.
- H. PowerPoint is allowed for this category and age division. Contestant is responsible for providing a computer and projector. A projector can be checked out from the Extension Office on a first come, first serve basis. No internet access will be provided.
- I. Questions asked.
- J. Summary is required.

Demonstrations - Illustrated Talks - Senior

- A. A **demonstration** is a show and tell type of presentation. An **illustrated talk** tells how rather than shows how. Needs end product.
- B. For 4-H members 13 years old or older.
- C. Time: Recommend 5 to 10 minutes, 15 minutes maximum.
- D. Either individual or team presentations.
- E. All necessary equipment provided by 4-H member, i.e., computer, posters, etc.
- F. Topic may be related to 4-H project currently enrolled.
- G. The endorsement of brand names is discouraged.
- H. PowerPoint is allowed for this category and age division. Contestant is responsible for providing a computer and projector. A projector can be checked out from the Extension Office on a first come, first serve basis. No internet access will be provided.
- I. Questions asked.
- J. Summary is required.

Public Speaking - Senior

- A. For 4-H members 13 years and older.
- B. Time: Recommend 5 to 7 minutes, 15 minutes maximum.
- C. Visuals are optional. They should enhance the talk - not distract. PowerPoint is allowed for this category and age division. Contestant is responsible for providing a computer and projector. A projector can be checked out from the Extension Office on a first come, first serve basis. No internet access will be provided.
- D. Individual presentations only.
- E. Topic selection is unlimited.
- F. Outline required for judge (Judge will deduct one ribbon if outline not available).

Spontaneous Speaking-Senior

- A. For 4-H members 13 years and older.
- B. Draw for a topic from list, "4-H Promotion", "Current Events", "Personal Interest" (hobby, sports, school, future plans)
- C. 10 minutes allowed to prepare speech. Time: Recommend 3-5 minutes, 5 minutes maximum.
- D. No questions asked.

Recording Guidelines for Digitally Submitted Presentations

In light of several considerations, an option to submit pre-recorded presentations will be available for 4-H Club Day 2026. This option is intended to encourage all 4-H members to participate in preparing and giving a presentation, regardless of health situation or scheduling conflicts. The guidelines are as follows:

- The option to record and submit digitally is available only for: Sharing, Junior Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks, Junior Project Talks, Senior Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks, & Public Speaking.
- If this option is selected, the participant forfeits the in-person opportunities.
- In the registration, there will be an option to state if the 4-H member's presentation will be given in-person or virtually.
- Presentations submitted digitally will be "participation only" and not regional eligible, but participants will still receive comments from the judge.
- Virtual participants will not be eligible for incentive prizes or to participate in the talent portions of 4-H Club Day (Music, Dance, Drama).
- All presentations submitted digitally will be due by 12:00 p.m. (noon) the Friday before 4-H Club Day (February 13). Directions on how to submit will be sent directly to the individuals who have registered for this option.
- A link will be available for digital submissions when the 4-H Club Day schedule is published.
- If a 4-H member has signed up for an in-person presentation and a health situation necessitates switching to a digital submission after the January 20 registration deadline, families will need to communicate with Kate to move to the digital option by calling 785-309-5850 or emailing her at klittich@ksu.edu.
- Video must be continuous with no editing whatsoever. Your presentation must be shot in one continuous take. Please do not use any kind of title screens, credits, special effects, or captioning. The idea is to create a video of your presentation as it would be seen at an in-person 4-H Club Day.
- Presenter/performer must be in front of the camera throughout the presentation. Do not move "off-camera."
- If you need an easel or projector, please contact either Extension Office to make arrangements. Equipment may be checked out on a first come, first serve basis with a 3-day checkout period. Please note the Extension Offices may be closed over the holidays. Projectors may not be checked out during the office closure time.
- Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks for Junior & Senior categories - As questions would normally be asked in an in-person environment, presenters are encouraged to ask for questions and have a family member ask questions from off-camera. Please try to avoid asking known or "scripted" questions as the goal is to have the 4-H member field the question on the spot as they would in an in-person setting.

TALENT

- 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 member may participate in group (3 or more) without presenting individual prepared public presentation. (Individual and Duet entries must also present demonstration, project talk, public speaking, or sharing.)
- A club may have more than 1 ensemble, skit, etc., as long as different members are in it.
- All music entries must have an original of the music for the judge. If original music is not available, judge will deduct one ribbon rating. An original is NOT a photo-copy. Music purchased online must have the license information that states it was purchased for the particular family using it.

Music

A. Chorus

1. Sixteen or more members or 12 or more members if club under 16 (may easily change to ensemble).
2. Two numbers required.
3. Musical originals with measures numbered required for judge. If not available, one ribbon deducted.
4. Singing may or may not have accompaniment. Director and accompanist need not be 4-H members.
5. Selections should be memorized, but not required.

B. Vocal Ensemble

1. Group may be composed of 2 to 15 4-H members, not including accompanist.
2. Each group will sing two numbers of their own choosing.
3. Music originals of selections will be given to judges before performing, with measures numbered. If not available, one ribbon deducted.
4. Accompanist need not be a 4-H member.
5. Selections must be memorized or may influence the rating.

C. Orchestra - Band – *Must be able to provide own instrument(s), with the exception of a piano.*****

1. Groups may be composed of 16 or more 4-H members (may be from different clubs).
2. Each group will play one number of their own choosing.
3. Music original of the conductor's score is to be given to the judge before playing, with measures numbered.
4. Memorization of number is not required.
5. The director is not required to be a 4-H member; an individual may not play with the group unless he or she is a 4-H member.

D. Instrumental Ensemble – *Must be able to provide own instrument(s), with the exception of a piano.*****

1. Group may be composed of 2 to 15 4-H members, (may be from different clubs) not including the accompanist.
2. Each group will play one selection of their own choosing.
3. Music original of selection will be given to judges before performing, with measures numbered.
4. Memorization of numbers is not required.
5. The director is not required to be a 4-H member; an individual may not play with the group unless he or she is a 4-H member.

E. Vocal Solo

1. Participant will sing one number.
2. 4-H member judged on vocal presentation.
3. Music original of selection will be given to judge before performing, with measures numbered. If not available, one ribbon deducted.
4. Accompanist need not be a 4-H member.
5. Memorization of number is required. Ribbon rating deducted if not memorized.

F. Instrumental Solo – ***Must be able to provide own instrument, with the exception of a piano.***

1. Participant will play a composed solo number.
2. Music original of selection will be given to judges before performing, with measures numbered.
3. Accompanist need not be a 4-H member.
4. Memorization is not required.

Dance – (Country dance, folk, choreographed, other) Maximum 5 minutes. – Must provide own equipment to play music (i.e., CD player, speaker).

A. Junior Solo

B. Senior Solo

C. Group (2-15 members)

Drama

A. Plays

1. Limited strictly to one-act plays. One set. No set changes allowed.
2. Minimum 30 minutes, 45 minutes maximum.
3. Clubs responsible for all scenery.
4. No copy of play required.

B. Skits

1. Designed as original plays or skits.
2. No number limitations.
3. Performance set-up 5 minutes. Each group will be responsible for all scenery, property and props.
4. Maximum 15 minutes.
5. No copy of skit required.

C. Reading - Poetry Interp. or Prose Interp.

1. Dramatic or Interpretive, humorous or other type of reading.
2. Individual presentation.
3. No minimum time limit, 10-minute maximum time limit.
4. Members are expected to have an attention getting intro that includes description of performance which should include the title, author and setting, and the name of the participant and 4-H club). The intro also sets the scene for the cutting.
5. No props beyond a folder or book may be used in Readings. Props may be used in Solo Acting.
6. No extra points will be awarded for memorized work. While this may be memorized, it needs to look as though it were a reading.

D. Solo Acting

1. The material is generally something that was published as a script but can be done from a story. The pieces may be single or multiple characters (one person does all the parts).
2. Individual Presentation.
3. No minimum time limit, 10-minute maximum time limit.
4. Members may move around and may even use a chair as a prop.
5. The piece must be memorized.
6. Members are expected to have an attention getting intro that includes title and author. The intro also sets the scene for cutting.

E. Other

1. Miscellaneous grouping: novelty, stunts, pantomime, puppets, marionettes, ventriloquist acts, etc.
2. Individual or group.
3. Maximum 5 minutes.

MY 4-H SPARK Contest Guidelines & Information



Purpose: The purpose of this contest is to prepare our 4-H members, 13 years of age and older, for potential job and career readiness opportunities. Additionally, this will give the 4-H member an opportunity to tell their story as related to a 4-H project. This contest focuses on the current 4-H year work (October – January).

Cover Letter: The cover letter will be composed of three parts: introduction, body, and conclusion.

Introduction

- State what 4-H project you are focusing on and why you are writing the letter.
- Briefly introduce yourself.

Body

- Briefly summarize project goals and work. This includes, but is not limited to, goals, skills developed, and knowledge gained.
- Explain your project leadership and citizenship experiences and how you have grown as a person.
- Describe project experiences and how they relate to your future education and /or career goals.

Conclusion

- Thank the reader for considering your application.
- Summarize why you are an ideal candidate for something related to this project field.

The format for the cover letter should be formatted as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Use business letter format | - Include a signature block and sign your letter |
| - Limited to 1 page | - Letter should be address to: |
| - Must use at least 11-point font size | Central Kansas District Project Review Committee |
| - Single-space | 2218 K-State Road North |
| - Grammatically correct with no spelling errors | Salina, KS 67401 |

Résumé: With the résumé, 4-H members are encouraged to be creative and design their own template, style, etc. Simple and direct language should be used with no spelling errors and correct grammar used. Member should strive for readability; the spacing is up to the 4-H member. The résumé is limited to 2 pages and participants must use at least 11-point font size.

Sections for the resume:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| - Header with name and contact information | - Citizenship / community engagement |
| - Personal objective statement | - Life skills / career readiness |
| - Project mastery | - Recognition |
| - Leadership experience | - Non-4-H project related experience |

Interview: The interview will be scheduled during 4-H Club Day and will last for 10-15 minutes. During this interview, the 4-H member will be asked questions that will allow them to tell their story related to the specific 4-H project on which they completed their cover letter and résumé. The judge will conference with the 4-H member following the interview. Parents/Guardians are allowed to sit in on the interview and conference judging process with the 4-H members consent.



EXTRA

NEWS FOR CENTRAL KANSAS DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

December/January Check-Up

December is here! Have you found yourself starting the never-ending errands of the Holiday Season—shopping, school programs, baking and writing holiday cards? Well, don't panic...just take it one step at-a-time and everything will get done. In the rush, don't forget 4-H! Here's your monthly check-up so you won't get caught in a snow blizzard after the first of the year.

January is a time of setting new goals and starting fresh! The New Year can also be a time to recruit new members and leaders! Set two to five club goals and watch yourselves change!

- _____ **December 1, 11:59 p.m. - ALL Members** - 4-H Online enrollment completed to participate in 4-H Club Day.
- _____ **December 1, 11:59 p.m. - RETURNING members** - 4-H Online enrollment completed to participate in the County Fairs.
- _____ Holiday plans made.
- _____ 4-H Members ask friends to attend a 4-H meeting with them.
- _____ 4-H Parents encourage other parents to get involved.

Review

- _____ *4-H Newsletter* read and important dates marked on calendar.
- _____ Highlight key points from *4-H Newsletter* at club meeting.
- _____ Updated project lists and copies of 4-H participation forms provided to club project leaders.

To-Do

- _____ Parent's Committee working.
- _____ Make sure club project leaders indicate they are a project leader in 4-H Online.
- _____ Encourage leaders to start conducting project meetings.
- _____ Check club mailbox at Extension Office.
- _____ Report from the November 4-H council meeting.
- _____ Start Gavel Game Teams/Model Meeting.
- _____ Encourage Demonstration Trainers to start.
- _____ Encourage 4-H Club Day Planning.
- _____ Check club's progress toward goals.
- _____ Annual Summary up-to-date.
- _____ Have a parents meeting.
- _____ Have new parents complete 4-H Online enrollment to be a volunteer and make arrangements to attend Volunteer Orientation.
- _____ Update 4-H Records, 4-H Project Award Applications and Pin Applications.

Remember

- _____ Next Organizational Leader Update - Wednesday, January 21, 7 p.m., Online (Zoom).
- _____ Next 4-H Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 7:00 p.m., in Technology Center, Room 118 on the K-State Salina Campus.

Promote/Recruit

- _____ Districtwide Project Meetings promoted.
- _____ District 4-H Quiz Bowl promoted and teams forming. **Registration due ONLINE, Friday, January 30, at 11:59 p.m.**
- _____ Gavel Games and Model Meetings promoted and teams forming. **Registration due ONLINE, Monday, January 5, at 11:59 p.m.**
- _____ 4-H Club Day Activities promoted. **Registration due ONLINE, January 20, at 11:59 p.m.**
- _____ 4-H Camp promoted.
- _____ Citizenship In Action promoted.
- _____ Districtwide project meetings promoted.
- _____ Plan and encourage 4-H Club Day participation.
- _____ Encourage state/regional/districtwide trainings.

Organizational Leaders Update

Mark those calendars for the next Organizational Leaders' Update at **7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 21**, online via Zoom. We will discuss timely topics such as 4-H Club Day, follow-up on Gavel Games/Model Meetings, District 4-H Quiz Bowl, and other events and activities that will be coming up. A link will be emailed out to the Organizational Leaders Listserv with any meeting details closer to the meeting date.

Sharing the Load

Have you ever felt the pressure of 4-H overload? Too many meetings, too many forms, too many phone calls, and no time for your own children or hobbies? You might be experiencing 4-H overload. One strategy to help is delegating! You don't have to be Ms. or Mr. Super Organizational Leader. Try sharing the responsibilities with the Parents' Committee - other 4-H parents are usually happy to help if asked. You may need to explain the responsibilities, and then let them do things their way. Be sure to appreciate their efforts, even if you have a different way to do it.





Here are some quick suggestions:

- **New Family Coordinator:**
 - Welcome visitors
 - Explain 4-H to new and visiting families
 - Distribute 4-H informational materials
 - Share the visitor's names and addresses with Kate at the Extension Office.
- **Project Leader Coordinator:**
 - Organize project leaders
 - Explain and train new project leaders
 - Gather needed 4-H materials and distribute to members.
- **Record and Awards Trainer:**
 - Stay informed and up-to-date of Achievement Awards and requirements for awards
 - Train members on how to complete 4-H records and Project Award Applications.
- **Demonstration Trainers:**
 - Instruct members and adults on fundamentals of presenting demonstrations and talks
 - Promote 4-H Club Day
 - Assist families with submitting 4-H Club Day entries online
 - Encourage participation in demonstrations and talks and provide guidance for youth.



December, 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Returning Members 4-H Online Enrollment DUE by 11:59 p.m. to participate in County Fair New & Returning 4-H Members: Online Enrollment DUE by 11:59 p.m. to participate in 4-H Club Day	2	3 Volunteer Screening Orientation DUE Online	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Volunteer Screening Orientation, Location TBD	11	12	13
14	15 Chaperone applications DUE to either Extension Office by 5:00 p.m.	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Regional Award Screening Volunteers DUE	24	25 	26	27
				 Minneapolis & Salina Offices Closed December 24 - January 1		
28	29	30	31	 		

January, 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
UPCOMING DATES: February 14 - 4-H Club Day 15-16 - Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action (CIA), Topeka 21-22 - Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama 28 - CKD Quiz Bowl (morning), First Christian Church, Salina March 1 - Local Scholarships DUE Online 1-31 - Ottawa County 4-H Foundation Fund Drive 14 - Spring Beef Weigh-in 28 - Regional 4-H Club Day, Clay Center						
				1 Minneapolis & Salina Offices Closed 	2	3
4	5 Project Award Applications for Regional Contest DUE State 4-H Scholarships DUE Online Gavel Games / Model Meeting entries DUE Online (by 11:59 p.m.)	6	7	8	9	10 February newsletter articles due to Ellie
11 Districtwide Committee Training, Salina	12	13	14	15	16 Regional Project Award Application Screening, Manhattan Gavel Games / Model Meeting, K-State Salina Campus	17 Gavel Games / Model Meeting, K-State Salina Campus
18	19 Martin Luther King Day Minneapolis & Salina Offices Closed	20 4-H Club Day Entries DUE Online by 11:59 p.m.	21 Organizational Leaders' Update, Online via Zoom - 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26 4-H Council, Salina, 7:00 p.m., Technology Center, Room 118, K-State Salina Campus	27	28	29	30 District 4-H Quiz Bowl Registrations, DUE Online	31



Central Kansas Extension District

Salina Office

Kansas State University Salina
Aerospace and Technology Campus
2218 Scanlan Ave
Salina, KS 67401-8196

Address Service Requested

GOODBYE 2025, HELLO 2026!

Happy Holidays 4-H Families!

Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season! As we wrap up 2025, I hope you're excited for a new year filled with fun, learning, and great 4-H experiences. Be sure to keep an eye on your email, our newsletter, and social media for upcoming deadlines and important updates. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together in 2026!

Ellie

Minneapolis Office • 307 N Concord • Suite 190 • Minneapolis, KS 67467-2140 • 785-392-2147 • Fax 785-392-3605

Salina Office • K-State Salina • 2218 Scanlan Ave • Salina, KS 67401-8196 • 785-309-5850 • Fax 785-309-5851