

The wide world of 4-H



For many residents of small, rural communities, being involved in 4-H means showing a livestock project at county fair. While livestock projects are definitely among the most popular projects in rural counties, 4-H offers so much more.

Children often just have to voice their hobbies and likes to find a 4-H project tailored to help that child learn and grow in that specific area.

While 4-H continues to evolve and change with the times, many of the most participated in project areas are staple projects of 4-H such as clothing construction, cake decorating, and foods and nutrition.

Clothing construction is designed to help youth learn basic sewing techniques such as sewing a shirt and putting a zipper on a pair of jeans. In more advanced units, youth will learn how to take the design of their choice and customize it for the perfect look, color and fit.

Cake decorating is a project for youth who love to create and decorate cakes. They will learn the basic simple borders, decorations and cake molds. In higher level units, youth learn how to do lace/lattice work, tiered cakes, special icings and advanced flowers.

The foods and nutrition project helps youth learn the principles of nutrition as they relate to personal appearance, physical fitness and health and how to become skilled in the planning, purchasing, preparing and serving of nutritious, appealing and satisfying meals and snacks.

For youth who are more interested in science-related projects and more cutting edge technology, there is an array of 4-H projects. Geospatial, shooting sports, computer and the power of wind are examples of these projects.

Extension Corner

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The geospatial project explores geospatial technology, geographic education, GIS or GPS.

Shooting sports has evolved as one of the most popular projects among 4-H members. This project is designed to help youth learn how to care for, and the safety of, shooting sports equipment. Also youth will learn the safe use of firearms through practice, talks, demonstrations and exhibits.

The computer project is designed for youth who are just beginning to learn about computers and moves to higher units for those who are very technology knowledgeable.

The power of wind project is one of the newer science-related projects. It is designed to help young people learn how to use the engineering design process to find solutions to problems related to wind power.

These are all just a sampling of the projects that 4-H has to offer. Any child can take advantage of the great potential to learn and grow in the positive, caring environment that 4-H is known for. The enrollment deadline to join 4-H in Phillips County is Jan. 15.

If you would like more information about the projects 4-H has to offer, please contact the Phillips County Extension Office at 854-3616. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

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