



Segwick County 4-H UPDATE

October, 2026

**Congratulations to all our State Fair Participants!
(Only a sample of what Sedgwick County
displayed at the State Fair!)**



KANSAS STATE
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Extension
Sedgwick County

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*From the Desk of.....
Stephanie Hays*



A New 4-H Year, A New Opportunity to Grow

October is one of my favorite times of the 4-H year because it represents a new beginning. A new 4-H year means new projects, new goals, new experiences, and another opportunity for our young people to discover just how much they are capable of accomplishing.

As we begin the 2026–2027 4-H year, I want to challenge every Sedgwick County 4-H member to try something new. Choose a project you have never tried before. Take on a leadership role. Volunteer for a community service project. Give a presentation at your club meeting. Attend 4-H Day. Teach a younger member something you have learned. There are so many opportunities in 4-H, but sometimes we have to be willing to step outside our comfort zone to discover what we can do.

Now is also the perfect time to set your goals for the year and start your record book. Don't wait until next summer to try to remember everything you accomplished! Write down what you want to learn, what you want to improve, and what you hope to accomplish. Then, throughout the year, keep track of your activities, leadership, community service, project work, and accomplishments. Your record book should tell the story of your 4-H year, and that story begins now.

What a Year We Had!

Before we get too far into our new year, we need to celebrate what an incredible 2025–2026 4-H year we had in Sedgwick County. Please join us at our Annual Awards Ceremony on November 8th from 2-4 PM. Our youth represented Sedgwick County at the local, regional, state, and even national levels. Our Horticulture Judging Team advanced to national competition, and our Shooting Sports youth brought home a national championship. Throughout the year, Sedgwick County 4-H members earned purple ribbons and outstanding recognition at County 4-H Day, Regional 4-H Day, the Sedgwick County Fair, and the Kansas State Fair.

But the ribbons, awards, and championships are only part of the story.

Behind every purple ribbon was a young person who practiced. Behind every project was a lesson learned. Behind every competition was the courage to stand in front of a judge, give a presentation, show an animal, display something they created, or put their knowledge to the test. Sometimes things went exactly as planned, and sometimes they didn't. Both experiences are what 4-H is all about. Many times learning to fail is a better lesson than success.

I hope every one of our 4-H members can look back at last year and identify something they learned. Maybe you learned how to sew a straighter seam, select a healthier animal, take a better photograph, grow a stronger plant, prepare a new recipe, speak confidently in front of a group, or be a better leader and teammate. Maybe you learned from a project that didn't turn out the way you hoped. Those lessons matter, too.

Now the question is: What will you do with what you learned?

Don't simply repeat last year's project. Challenge yourself to make it better. Don't settle for doing what you already know how to do. Learn something new. Set a goal that makes you work a little harder. Ask an older member, project leader, volunteer, parent, or Extension staff member to help you take the next step.

To our returning members, welcome back. To our new 4-H members and families, we are so glad you are joining us. You don't have to know everything about 4-H on your first day. Ask questions, get involved, try different things, and give yourself permission to learn along the way.

The accomplishments of 2025–2026 set the bar high, but I can't wait to see what our Sedgwick County 4-H youth accomplish in 2026–2027.

New year. New goals. New challenges. New opportunities. Let's make it a great 4-H year!

Stephanie Hays

4-H Youth Development Agent
K-State Research and Extension, Sedgwick County



Beyond Ready



Happy New Year!!!

The new 4-H Year starts October 1. Make sure you take time to enroll in 4-H Online. Choose what you will learn about this year. All returning 4-H members need to be enrolled by **December 1**. There is a project list on the last page of the newsletter.

Leaders, enrollment isn't just for the kids. Please enroll so we have an accurate number of leaders for our records. It will help you stay informed of what is happening in Sedgwick County 4-H. Newsletters are sent to all enrolled in 4-H online! All leaders, including project leaders, should enroll. Leaders enrolled in 4-H online are covered by 4-H insurance. Take time today to enroll. Don't procrastinate!

Read through this newsletter for updates and changes for the new 4-H year! We are excited to watch 4-H grow in Sedgwick County!



2026-2027 Calendar of Events

Oct. 4-10	National 4-H Week
Oct. 10-11	• 48 Hours of 4-H Service Challenge • State 4-H Shotgun Match, Saturday--Ark Valley Gun Club, Sunday--Sportsman's Training Center, Augusta
Oct. 11	4-H Carnival and Grow 4-H Celebration, 5 PM - 7 PM, Extension Education Center
Oct. 15	KYLF and Kansas Volunteer Forum Deadline
Oct. 17-18	State 4-H Dog Conference, Rock Springs
Oct. 25	Sedgwick County 4-H Leader's Retreat. 2-4 PM, Extension Education Center
Nov. 1	Officer Training, 2 PM - 4 PM, Extension Education Center
Nov. 8	County Project Awards Ceremony, 2-4 PM Extension Education Center, 4-H Hall
Nov. 14	Project Fair, Extension Education Center, 9-noon (more information below)
Nov. 21-22	• Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs • Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers Forum, Rock Springs
Dec. 1	Deadline for returning members to enroll for new 4-H year
2027	
Feb. 6	4-H Day
Feb. 7-8	Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action, Topeka (new date this year due to Super Bowl)
Feb. 20	Sedgwick County 4-H Shooting Sports Match, Extension Education Center
Feb. 20-21	Horse Panorama, Manhattan
April 17	Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports Spring Match, Great Bend
April 20-21	State Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC), Manhattan
June 9-11	Discovery Days, Manhattan
June 18-19	Insect Spectacular, Wichita

TEEN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

For more information contact:

Lori Holt

316-660-0111

llholt@ksu.edu

Sedgwick County Extension Office

Sedgwick County
4-H invites you to

.....
**JOIN THE 4-H
TEEN COUNCIL**

*Meeting Times
4th Monday night of every
month
7:00 p.m.
Extension Office*

Open to any Sedgwick County 4-H Youth ages 13 and over.

Sedgwick County 4-H Teen Council provides an opportunity to work within your community with younger 4-H'ers, participate in community service projects, get to know 4-H Teens from other county clubs and participate in leadership conferences and workshops.

October News

Carnival Concession Stand

Please sign up to donate and work the Carnival Concession Stand. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year. Sign up using sign up genius at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FAFA92BA1FECE9-66291795-4hcarnival>

Meeting Change this Month Only

Meeting will be held on October 11 at 7:00 PM after the carnival. New officers will be elected. Email Lori Holt at llholt@ksu.edu if you would like to run for an office.

Food Drive

We will need help after the meeting on October 11th to move the food back to the office area. Please stick around to help!

December Community Service

We will be working with Wreaths Across America to put Wreaths on Veterans' graves. Watch the GroupMe for more details.

Teen Council GroupMe

Parents and youth 13 and older, join the GroupMe to keep informed of all Teen Council events: https://groupme.com/join_group/117906090/wreu17Gr

Teen Council Report from Teen Council Reporter

Grow 4-H!

Don't forget to be collecting donations for Grow 4-H! Money goes to scholarships, awards and support of the 4-H program. Every dollar collected goes directly to Sedgwick County 4-H (and you don't have to sell and deliver anything)!



48 HOURS OF 4-H

When: October 10-11, 2026

Who: 4-H Members, 4-H Clubs, Friends, Adult Volunteers, Parents, 4-H Alumni

What: Join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! The weekend after National 4-H Week, is the perfect opportunity to set up a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers and 4-H Alums too! 48 Hours of 4-H is the perfect compliment to #InspireKidstoDo.

National 4-H Week Next is Now

Celebrate National 4-H Week--Be Proud to be a 4-H Member

Monday, Oct. 5 - Sunday, Oct. 11

Go Green Light up your community with Green lights! Use green porch lights or green Christmas lights in your yard or on your house.

Put up a "green" display at a library or local business. Be sure to let us know at the office so we can go see it.

Monday: Go GREEN and show your 4-H spirit! Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint – anything goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN on Monday, October 5. Share your Go Green moment on social media and tag National 4-H, Kansas 4-H and use #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

Thursday: Thankful Thursday. Help us shine a light on all the good that 4-H does. Share your story or another 4-H'er who is doing something good and making a positive impact by helping their communities and beyond on Thursday, October 8 and use #4HBeyondReady

Saturday and Sunday: 48 Hours of 4-H

Sunday: 4-H Carnival. Invite your families and friends. Bring a friend who isn't in 4-H. Advertise at your school. Contact the Extension Office if you need some copies of the flyer or want a digital version of it to share.



Shooting Sports Sign Up

The Sedgwick County 4-H Shooting Sports program is getting ready to start the winter disciplines of air rifle, air pistol and BB. These three projects are taught at the Sedgwick County Extension Center between the months of November and April. Members have opportunities to learn gun safety as well as participate in matches around the state.

Air pistol and air rifle are open to those 4-H age 12 and older. If younger than 14, we ask that one year of bb is completed before joining one of the advanced disciplines. BB is open to those 4-H age (January 1, 2027) 9-15. All first time participants are required to attend a safety class on Sunday, November 15 from 12:30-5:00 PM. This is required for our project to be compliant with the National 4-H Shooting Sports requirements. Fee for these disciplines is \$25/discipline.

Season schedule is here.

Want to sign up? Fill out this form before November 1. This form must be filled out to get all the information needed. Enrollment in 4Honline after October 1, 2026 is also required.

Sign ups for summer projects will be in January/February.

Want to know more about the Shooting Sports project in Sedgwick County? Visit our website: sites.google.com/view/sedgwickco4-hshootingsports/home

GROW YOUR LEADERSHIP AT KYLF!

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, KYLF, gives 4-H youth the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, meet 4-H members from across Kansas, participate in engaging workshops, and discover new ways to make a difference in their clubs and communities. Youth return home with greater confidence, new friendships, fresh ideas, and skills they can put into action through 4-H, school, and future leadership opportunities. KYLF is especially valuable for youth who are ready to take the next step in 4-H and become stronger leaders within their club, Teen Council, county, and community. Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 15

More information can be found on the KYLF Website.

Advisory Council has scholarships available. Fill out this form.

If interested in showcasing a project at the project fair, please contact Bobbie Kroetch at 316-516-5639.

Invite anyone interested in 4-H!!

Attention: Fiber Arts Project Members and Families

We need your help showcasing the wonderful work of our Sedgwick County 4-H Fiber Arts members!

We are preparing to apply for another generous grant from the Prairie Quilt Guild to help offset the cost of our Go Create Memberships. These memberships provide valuable opportunities and resources for our 4-H members, and the Prairie Quilt Guild's support has helped make them more affordable for our families.

As part of our grant request, we would love for our 4-H members to attend the upcoming Prairie Quilt Guild meeting and bring quilts or quilted items they have created. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Guild members to see firsthand how their support is benefiting our youth and helping them develop their sewing, quilting, and creative skills.

Prairie Quilt Guild Meeting
Tuesday, October 13
7:00 PM
Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
1600 W. 27th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67204

Your participation is important! The more youth projects we can share, the better we can demonstrate the impact of the Guild's investment in Sedgwick County 4-H.

Thank you for helping us showcase our talented 4-H members and for supporting our efforts to continue providing these opportunities to Fiber Arts families!

Grow 4-H Prizes

There are lots of great prizes for you to have a chance to win. For every \$5 you collect, you earn a coupon to try for lots of prizes at the 4-H Carnival on October 11. Use the envelope from your club leader or paste the last page of this newsletter to an envelope and collect your own. Envelopes are also available at the Extension Office. Money is due October 6th at the Extension Office (did we mention you don't have to sell and deliver anything!!!)

Check out everything you could win here:
<https://www.sedgwick.k-state.edu/4-h-youth/documents/2026grow4hprizes.pdf>

Help Needed!

WE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO HELP!

TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

CLUB CHALLENGE

- Collect food and bring to Carnival or the Extension office before Oct. 31
- Club that collects the most (by weight) earns free pizza from Stephanie!



MURFIN DRILLING, INC. HAS INVITED THE 4-H YOUTH TO HELP FILL THE HOLIDAYS WITH A HOLIDAY MEAL FOR THOSE IN NEED AGAIN!

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned vegetables
- Boxed stuffing
- Cornbread mixes
- Canned fruit
- Mac and cheese
- Rice
- Cooking oil & spices
- Murfin will supply the Hams and Turkeys



THIS IS A GREAT COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT WITH ALL CLUBS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

DROP OFF LOCATION:

4-H Carnival, October 11th or the 4-H office any time before Halloween. Donations will be delivered to Murfin Oil sometime after Halloween.

**Don't miss out on the
special club challenge!!!**

Leader's Retreat

Doing something successful with your club? Want to attract more members to your meetings? How do you find volunteers that stick around for multiple meetings? These are the puzzle pieces that make leaders wonder.

Come learn to put the puzzle pieces together and have an outstanding 2026-2027 4-H Year at our first ever Leader's Retreat. We will be meeting on Sunday, October 25th from 2-4 at the Extension Education Center. We will begin in the Meadowlark Room. This is a great way to meet with other leaders in Sedgwick County!

Please RSVP using this link:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/g6w1RvL1r4> so we have plenty of materials for everyone!



Calling All Officers!

You have been elected as an officer in your club. Now what? Come learn how to make the 2026-2027 4-H Year the best yet for your club!

Please join us on Sunday, November 1 from 2-4 at the Extension Education Center, Sunflower Room, to learn how to be the best officer ever! Please let us know you are coming by filling out this form:

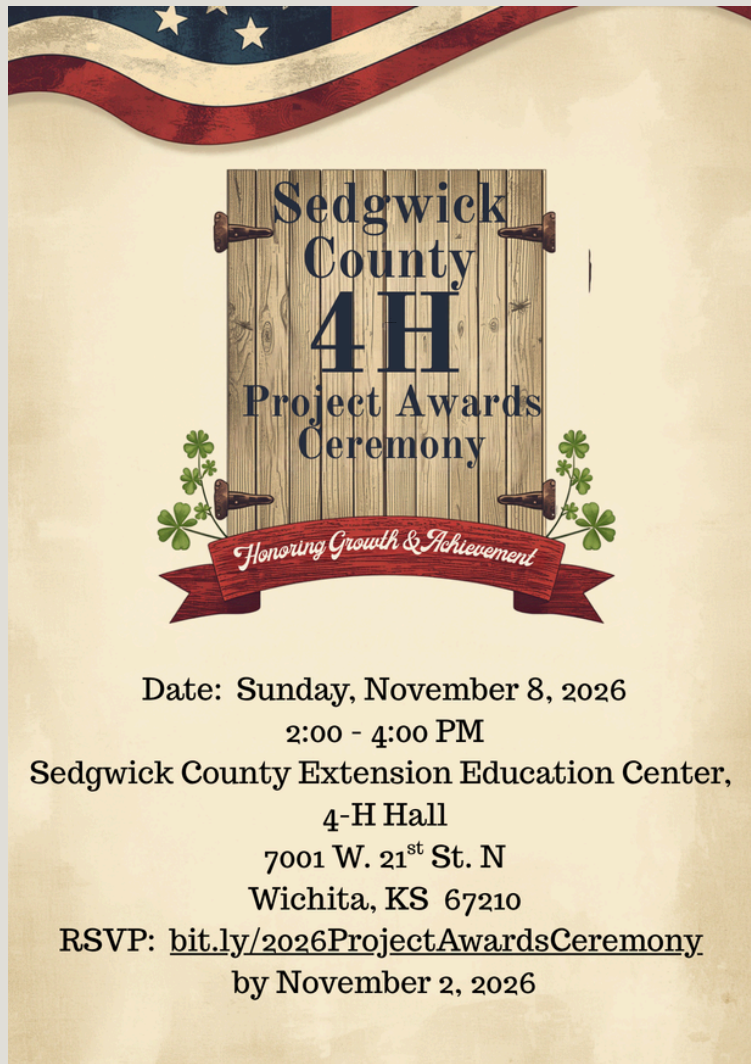
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/KV3FGvxmyE>

Did we mention there will be snacks???



Beyond Ready

You are invited!



Date: Sunday, November 8, 2026

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Sedgwick County Extension Education Center,

4-H Hall

7001 W. 21st St. N

Wichita, KS 67210

RSVP: bit.ly/2026ProjectAwardsCeremony

by November 2, 2026

As we celebrate our year, we would love to have as many youth members in attendance as possible. The club with the highest percentage members present will receive a prize!

New this year: We would like every family to bring a dessert to share!

We have created a version of this for clubs to give to their elected officials. It will be included with this email. Please invite your elected officials to be our special guests (and ask them to RSVP so we can acknowledge them)!

Other Opportunities



My name is Diana Kaufman-phone 386-846-3761. I am the secretary for the Wichita NW Lions Club. Every year, Lions International has a contest for youth ages 11,12,or 13. Youth should submit their artwork depicting the 2026 theme "Harmony in Humanity".by November 15, 2026.

There are rules and parental permission. The winner is awarded a great monetary prize. Diana can provide the information at a local 4-H meeting if you feel there might be a candidate. She will also provide the right size poster material for which they need to draw on. There are deadlines for the artwork to go before the District meeting in November for judging of which the winner will move to the next phase.

Please contact Diana for more information including all requirements.

Wreaths Across America

Volunteer with us as we honor our veterans throughout the year. From laying wreaths locally to leading a sponsorship group or coordinating a ceremony location, there are many ways to get involved!

This would be a great project for a club for community service. [See their website for more information.](#)



NAMI Wichita is excited to invite Sedgwick County teens ages 13–18 to participate in our 2026 Teen Art & Creative Writing Contest: Inside / Outside — Exploring Mental Health Through What We Feel and What We Show.

Through art and creative writing, teens are invited to explore:

What do people see?

What do you carry inside?

What gives you hope?

Participants may enter the Teen Art Contest, Teen Creative Writing Contest, or both, with cash awards of \$100 for 1st place, \$75 for 2nd place, and \$50 for 3rd place in each contest. Entries are due October 23, 2026.

Complete contest information—including the flyers, Participant/Family/Community Partner Guide, entry form, required forms, templates, and judging rubrics—are available here:

[NAMI Wichita 2026 Teen Contest Materials](#)

Horse Project Leaders and Members

On behalf of Ellsworth FFA, we would like to invite you to join us for the 3rd Annual Horse Evaluation contest in Lyons, Kansas, on Wednesday, October 28th, 2026. Registration will be a flat fee of \$25 for each participating school. Entries submitted after the registration deadline will incur a \$100 late entry fee. Please fill out the [Google Form](#) by October 21st to register for the contest. Late registrations will be accepted until the start of the contest.

Registration will be held from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. at the Bar K Bar Celebrations Arena. Participants are expected to arrive on time. The CDE will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. with opening instructions. Following the completion of instructions, participants will be divided into groups, and the contest will begin at 9:00 a.m. We anticipate concluding the contest by 12:00 p.m., with results announced shortly thereafter.

Prizes:

Top Individual in Senior & Greenhand: Belt buckle
Top 5 Individuals in each division: Engraved portfolio
Top 5 Teams: Banner

Possible Classes: Should be noted that class potential is variant on riders and horses availability.

Halter (2-3 Classes)	Western Riding
Western Pleasure	Western Horsemanship
Reining	Ranch Riding
Trail	Ranch Trail
Ranch Rail	



Important Information:

- The contest will use standard placing cards. If there are only 3 in the class, it is to be understood that #4 will be last. Participants should be instructed to make all marks on placing cards clearly and legibly.
- Each class will be assigned a specific placing card color. Participants are responsible for submitting the correct color-coded placing card for each class, including those used for reasons and questions.
- Senior Division: Two sets of oral reasons will be required.
- Greenhand Division: One set of oral reasons will be required.
- Discovery Division: One set of five written questions will be required.
- All participants must bring at least two writing utensils and paper or a steno pad for taking notes. The classes selected for oral reasons will be announced after all placing classes have concluded.
- Participants should dress appropriately for the weather. Although the contest will be conducted in a covered facility, temperatures inside the building may still be cool.

Registration Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqXfcQgQp4KFA_Ll_jEt3oiMJ3ZsNopGLL5ycqiSU6Az-H0w/viewform

Kansas 4-H Projects



Animal Science

Beef
Dairy Cattle
Dairy Goats
Dog
Horse
Meat Goats
Pets
Poultry
Rabbits
Sheep
Swine
Veterinary Science

Communication & Expressive Arts

Communications
Interior Design & Architecture
Performing Arts
Photography
Visual Arts

Engineering & Technology

Aerospace/Rocketry
Ag Mechanics Welding
Astronomy
Building Block Engineering
Computer Science
Electric & Renewable Energy
Robotics
Small Engines
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems
Woodworking

Family & Consumer Sciences

Family Studies
Fiber Arts (includes 9 projects)
Foods & Nutrition
Health & Wellness
Sewing & Textile Design
Shopping in Style

Leadership & Personal Development

Civic Engagement
Entrepreneurship
Leadership
Reading Adventures
Self-Determined

Natural Resources

Environmental Science
Geology
Shooting Sports (includes 10 projects)
Wildlife

Plant Sciences

Agronomy
Entomology
Forestry
Horticulture & Landscape Design



K-STATE
Research and Extension



Beyond
Ready

Happy New Year from your Sedgwick County 4-H Office Staff!!!



Susie Klausmeyer Office Professional

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