



# *Investing in the future of Kansas 4-H:* A guide to the 4-H Program Fee



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



# Investing in the future of Kansas 4-H



Dear 4-H members and families,

For more than 100 years, Kansas 4-H has been committed to providing positive youth development educational experiences to young people across Kansas. We are committed to teaching life skills so all youth can reach their full potential. While we continue to celebrate – and appreciate – the dollars that are entrusted to Kansas 4-H, declining state funding for K-State Research and Extension and 4-H makes it difficult to create and sustain high quality and relevant 4-H youth development programs.

As an organization, we have sought input on how to stabilize funding and grow the 4-H program. We hosted discussions as well as conducted a survey to gain feedback on program impact within K-State Research and Extension. A task force of eight extension agents was formed to review all information and develop recommendations on how to move forward. They worked diligently to investigate a viable means to ensure a steady funding stream to sustain, enhance and grow the K-State Research and Extension 4-H program.

As a result of the work and subsequent recommendations from this task force, an annual K-State Research and Extension 4-H program fee of \$15 per member is being implemented beginning October 2, 2017. Our commitment is to provide the best 4-H program and operational support to local extension units. Funds generated will strengthen our program priorities of volunteer development, project support and program enhancement.

The annual program fee is one part of a broader solution to grow program excellence and fulfill priorities. Key partners are helping to lay a strong foundation for the future of 4-H by providing additional support. Dr. John Floros, Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Dr. Daryl Buchholz, Associate Director of Extension and Applied Research, advocate across K-State for university resources to be leveraged to benefit the 4-H program. The Kansas 4-H Foundation is investing in areas of volunteer development, marketing, growth initiatives, and program-fee waivers to ensure that any young person in Kansas can have access to high-quality 4-H programming.

We appreciate all who completed surveys, provided feedback and sent suggestions. We are grateful for the work of our dedicated task force members, as well: Candis Meerpohl from Shawnee County, Monica Thayer from the River Valley District, Michelle Beran from Midway District, Melinda Daily from the Sunflower District, Allen Baker from Wichita County, Nancy Honig from Stevens County, Jodi Besthorn from Sedgwick County and Brian Swisher from the Wildcat District.

I am committed to leading Kansas 4-H to engage youth, empower volunteers, equip 4-H professionals, and expand partnerships to add value to local, district, and state 4-H experiences. As we look to the future, together we will grow a strong and vibrant 4-H youth development program through K-State Research and Extension.

Sincerely,

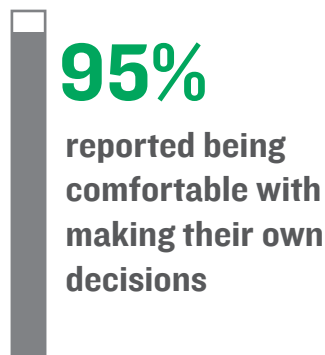
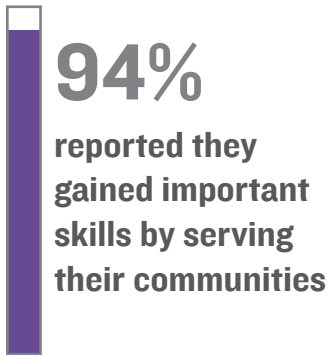
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wade M. Weber".

Wade M. Weber

State 4-H Program Leader

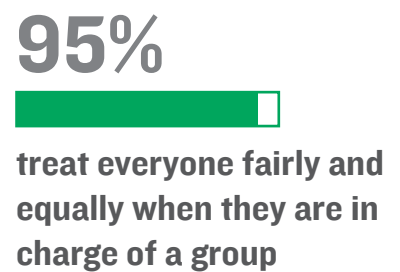
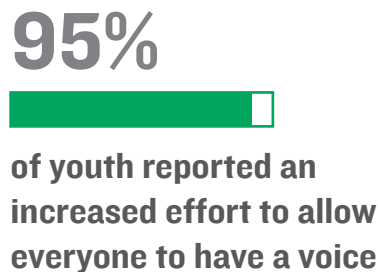


## Is the Kansas 4-H Program worth your investment? YES!



4-H learning experiences enhance young people’s abilities to grow into tomorrow’s leaders and communicators. The positive learning environment combined with the encouragement of adult mentors allows 4-H programming to play a vital role in helping our youth achieve future success.

Recently, 2,600-plus Kansas youth ages 8 to 18 years old — from both rural areas and cities — participated in a study to determine 4-H’s effectiveness in fostering positive connections, encouraging responsible decisions, and developing communication and citizenship skills.



Strong leadership skills allow youth to analyze their own strengths and weaknesses while maintaining the confidence, motivation and skills to achieve their goals. In 4-H, youth grow as leaders through identifying and carrying out projects that benefit themselves, their families and communities. Youth lead various committees, projects and events to share their knowledge.



## A bright and vibrant future for Kansas 4-H

Kansas 4-H is committed to providing the premier youth development experience to all young people of Kansas. A 4-H program fee will allow us to enhance these specific areas and more:

- Enhanced project experiences for maximum learning and skill mastery;
- Staff and volunteer training pertaining to project-based learning;
- Program evaluation efforts and impact studies;
- Additional support for technology and web development to better serve our members, volunteers and staff;
- 4-H department at the Kansas State Fair;
- Consistent marketing and increased social media presence;
- Stronger partnerships on campus, in local communities and with larger corporations; and
- Maximize efficiency with prioritized project areas



## A collaborative investment in the young people of Kansas

**Investment partners**

"K-State Research and Extension believes in the power of positive youth development, as delivered through the Kansas 4-H program, to develop young people with leadership skills to last a lifetime. A nominal investment in our young people means a brighter future for all Kansans."

– Dr. Daryl Buchholz –  
K-State Research and Extension, Associate Director of Extension and Applied Research

"Investing in 4-H is an opportunity to be proactive in charting the course for the next 100 years of 4-H in Kansas. I am proud to be part of Kansas 4-H's strong legacy to provide positive youth development in my community"

– Jodi Besthorn  
Sedgwick County 4-H agent

"Without a doubt, 4-H was **THE** experience that provided the groundwork for any accomplishments I've had in business, my community and my life. I'm a proud Kansas 4-H alum."

– Jake Worcester  
Kansas 4-H Foundation, President/CEO

"Kansas 4-H will continue to build upon the knowledge of the past as we ready future generations of leaders: engaging youth, empowering volunteers, equipping 4-H professionals, and expanding partnerships. Together we will build excellence!"

– Wade M. Weber  
State 4-H Program Leader

"It's been truly a gift to see my sons grow and develop into fine young men through the 4-H program. 4-H teaches life skills through hands-on learning experiences, allowing youth to experience both challenges and successes and prepare them for leadership roles throughout the rest of their lives."

– Holly Martin  
4-H alumni and mom



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why is a 4-H Program fee needed?**

While we appreciate the dollars that are allotted to Kansas 4-H, declining state funding for K-State Research and Extension and 4-H makes it difficult to continue to offer high quality and relevant 4-H youth development programs.

### **Who has to pay a program fee?**

4-H community club members, project club members and independent members will pay a \$15 program fee.

### **Do other state 4-H programs collect an annual program fee?**

Yes, a survey of state 4-H programs in 2016 indicated that 25 of the 38 states that responded have some type of program fee in place.

### **How does the Kansas 4-H program fee of \$15 compare to other state 4-H program fees?**

The range of collection fees from the states that have implemented an annual participated fee is \$3-\$50 annually. Some states also charge by the number of projects in which youth participate.

### **Will SPIN club members pay a program fee?**

SPIN clubs are often entry-level 4-H programs and members will not pay a fee for participation in 2017. This is under review for 2018.

### **Will Cloverbuds be subject to a program fee?**

No, Cloverbuds will not have to pay a program fee. They do not participate in the same program experiences that older 4-H members do, so they will not be charged a program fee.

### **How will the Program fee be collected?**

Payment of program fees will be required during the 4-H enrollment process via 4HOnline, beginning October 1 of each year (starting October 2 in 2017).

### **What methods of payment are acceptable?**

The program fee may be paid online with a debit or credit card, or families may print an invoice and mail a check to the State 4-H Office.

### **Can a club or sponsor pay the fees for a 4-H member?**

Yes they can, however fees cannot be paid with appropriated funds, i.e. tax dollars, from county or state sources. The details of invoicing and payment process of such sponsored fees will be finalized in the near future.

### **When will the fee be collected?**

Enrollment will open each year on October 1 (October 2 for 2017). The program fee will be collected at the time of enrollment.

### **Will there be any refunds to the fee?**

No refunds will be given.

### **What criteria will be used to determine whether a program fee waiver is granted?**

The waiver process is still under review and will be finalized before October 1, 2017. If you have an immediate questions, please contact the Kansas State 4-H office.

### **Will there be a discount or cap for families with multiple 4-H members?**

No, there is no discounted rate or cap for families with multiple children.

### **What does the Kansas Extension Law say about program fees?**

Kansas State University's 4-H Youth Development Department can collect a program fee at the state level. County extension councils and local governing bodies may not collect membership dues (or any fee resembling that).

**Please contact the Kansas State 4-H office  
with additional questions:**

**785-532-5800**

**[kansas4h@ksu.edu](mailto:kansas4h@ksu.edu)**