April 13, 2020

Dear 4-H Volunteer,

Thank you for your ongoing service to 4-H Youth Development work in Kansas. I appreciate the sacrifices you make every day for the sake of youth across our state.

Last week, K-State Research and Extension extended its suspension of all face-to-face extension programs, meetings and events through July 4, 2020. Many might be asking, what does this mean for me?

The announcement stated: all in-person 4-H events, contests and activities at the state, regional, district, county and local levels are to be postponed, canceled or converted to non-face-to-face experiences. This applies to scheduled events, contests and activities that are led by local 4-H volunteers as well.

We did not take this decision lightly. We are doing this because the health and well-being of our participants, employees and volunteers must be our top priority.

We want normalcy as soon as possible, but this is a fluid situation, and we are trying to prepare for a number of contingencies. At this point, no one can accurately predict the timeline for when state and federal restrictions will be lifted or relaxed.

Many of the state level events are being revamped to provide an alternative, online option for learning. Information and invitations to those repurposed events will be coming soon.

If stay-at-home orders end then our in-person suspension could be lifted. Extensive planning and organization is required for major K-State Research and Extension events. Due to the planning timeline, many events could still take place through alternate methods.

“We while our methods are changing, our 4-H mission remains the same.”

As a volunteer what can I do?

1. Reach out to and communicate frequently with your local Extension professionals and the youth you serve.

2. Connect with local Extension staff to plan for current engagement and how to build capacity for future programming.

3. Use what you already know to keep engaging 4-H Families (i.e. phone, letters, email, etc), while learning new strategies.
4. Ask for assistance in utilizing online communication tools to conduct engagement with 4-H families.

5. If there are any club or county based events/activities that you need to repurpose or develop a contingency plan for, contact and work with your local agent.

Respectfully,

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