Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders
Title: 4-H County Club Day

Why is this issue important?
Youth development research emphasizes the importance of meeting four basic human needs — Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity. When youth needs are met in positive ways they are likely to grow into good citizens who contribute to their community.

One of the ways 4-H meets the youth’s need for independence is by developing the skills of leadership and public speaking.

How did Extension address this issue?
Every year 4-H hosts County Club Day where youth get to practice their public performance skills, receive a rating and get feedback. There are also events as Club Day where youth get a rating on their skills of running a meeting using parliamentary procedure. This year over 200 4-H youth participated in County Club Day on a Saturday at Shawnee Heights Middle School.

What was the impact?
40 youth received superior ratings at County Club Day and qualified to compete at Regional Club Day with eight other counties in Gardner, Kansas.
86% of Shawnee County 4-H’ers Strongly Agree or Agree that they can use technology to help communicate their thoughts.
67% of Shawnee County 4-H’ers Strongly Agree or Agree that they are comfortable to speak in front of others.
94% of Shawnee County 4-H’ers Strongly Agree or Agree that they treat everyone fairly and equally when they are in charge of a group.

Success Story:
We had a new judge this year help us in the Impromptu speaking room. In this event youth only have five minutes to prepare their speech after they draw the topic. He said that he only expected older youth to compete in the event. When an eight-year-old girl walked into the room and delivered a very good speech, he said he was blown away. He admitted there was no way he could have done that when he was eight!

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