

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

K-State Research and Extension develops and delivers practical, research-based solutions to challenges faced by all Kansans, which includes the grand challenges:

- Global Food Systems
- Water
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: 4-H Special Interest Clubs

Why is this issue important?

4-H is a research based youth development program. 4-H has shown to positively impact lifelong pathways of development. 4-H teaches youth how to belong to a group, learn mastery of a subject and how to be a leader.

The 4-H program is a large time commitment for youth and their parents or guardians. The traditional community club program requires attendance at monthly meetings, separate project lessons and county events. 4-H clubs also meet for an entire year and youth can re-enroll annually from ages 5 to 18.

How did Extension address this issue?

Kansas 4-H created Special Interest (SPIN) clubs for youth who cannot commit to the community club model of 4-H. SPIN clubs focus on one 4-H project for five to six sessions and are delivered in after school or summer programs. In this program model, 4-H comes to youth instead of youth having to travel to 4-H.

What was the impact?

In 2019 Shawnee County 4-H has hosted five SPIN Clubs in after school and summer programs. Because of that effort, 138 Shawnee County youth were able to have a 4-H experience.

Projects studied were as follows:

Quincy After School Program—
Photography and Art

McCarter Kidquest Program—
Entrepreneurship

Family Service and Guidance Center—
Photography

Christ the King Summer Program—
Photography

Meadows Kidquest Summer Program—
Kitchen Science



Youth learn about density by making a liquid tower in a Kitchen Science lesson.