

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 life long 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 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 reenroll from ages 5 to 18.

How did Extension address this issue?

Kansas 4-H created Special Interest (SPIN) clubs for youth who can not 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. That way 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 5 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.