

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Grand Challenges

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Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: County 4-H Camp

Why is this issue important?

4-H Camp might be confused with a week of fun in the sun with friends. It is those things but it is also important Positive Youth Development lessons. Those lessons include teamwork, resilience, respect, independence and leadership. 4-H Youth 9-12 can attend camp as a camper and older youth 14-18 can serve as camp counselors. It is one of the most intensive times of youth development and programming we do for youth.

How did Extension address this issue?

Shawnee county camps with seven other counties at Rock Springs 4-H Center for four days and three nights in June. The youth lived in groups of six campers and two counselors while they traveled all over camp for wildlife studies, horseback riding, archery, canoes, etc. Every night the entire camp came together for night activities including a live drumming group performance, night swim and games, camp scavenger hunt and a camp fire.

Counselors arrived at Rock Springs one day before campers to get training in leading other youth to make sure they stay safe, involved and have fun!

What was the impact?

At half capacity for 2021 Shawnee County had 16 campers and 10 camp counselors. They met youth from other counties and improved on their independence and teamwork skills.

After having virtual summer camp in 2020 everyone was joyous to be together again for 2021 4-H camp. Our camp group brought 148 campers and 50 counselors together for an opportunity to live and learn together.



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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