

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Grand Challenges

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- Water
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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## Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: 4-H Doesn't Stop Because of COVID-19



### Why is this issue important?

We are in an unprecedented time of social distancing to slow the spread of a virus. Each person is asked to take up the cause of "Stay Home and Stay Safe." This has caused many hardships for our youth including no more school, cancelled dances, games, plays and graduations. We are stopping young people's world in the name of public health. 4-H sees an opportunity to continue our programs and enhance our youths' experiences.

### How did Extension address this issue?

Candis Meerpohl, 4-H Agent, scheduled a Zoom meeting with 4-H club leaders to ask "What do you need?" The leaders asked for engage-

ment of the youth without putting additional work on their plates. Our club leaders are all volunteers, and in a time of disruption, they have other priorities to tend to.

4-H staff are using the Shawnee County 4-H Facebook page to engage youth with 4-H learning. Youth can do as much or as little as they wish. Youth are recording 4-H demonstrations and project talks for us to share with the entire county. Youth are also participating in a daily photography challenge. (The photo collage above was created from the photo challenge submissions.) We are also engaging the youth through virtual meetings.

### What was the impact?

- ◆ In two weeks our photo challenge has had 21 people submitting photos, almost every day. Additionally, youth and adults are sharing, commenting on and liking the photos submitted.
- ◆ Fourteen youth joined the Jr. Leader virtual meeting and talked about how to engage with their club members and possible service projects they could be doing. Our average meeting attendance is 10 so the Zoom meeting reached as many youth as our face to face meetings for this group.

Our intended impact of this effort is helping youth see how they can pivot during a crisis and a time of uncertainty. We know this will not be the last challenge our young people will face. 4-H can help give them the skills to keep problem solving through their challenges.