

Volunteers are essential to 4-H

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Extension Agent

Volunteer is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. This year is no different than any other year in 4-H, volunteers are essential to our organization. This year has resulted in last-minute changes and the ability to be flexible. Our volunteers truly are like no others.

Who are our volunteers and what do they do?

4-H Leaders – No, sorry this is a paid position. These people have a passion for 4-H and work to make the best better.

Project Leaders are those individuals who are able to share their knowledge and experience with others within their club or countywide.

Program Development Committee member assists exten-

sion staff in policy formation and structure.

Executive Board is the administrative authority over the over the 4-H staff.

Fair Board makes the Coffey County Fair possible for the 4-H'ers each year. We cannot say "thank you" enough to these groups.

Following are the volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to making the 4-H program that we have today nothing short of amazing. Volunteers are fundamental to the 4-H program and the accomplishment of the Kansas 4-H mission.

Thank you to the 2019-2020 4-H volunteers.

Blue Ribbon: Amanda Durst, Brian Rausch, Curt Ser-

See **Volunteers**, Page 15



2019-2020 Ambassadors, from left, Becky Kropf, Maggie Seaman, Audrey Durst, Sarah Sergeant, Lauren Williams, Michael Lehmann, Colleen Decker and Elliott Burns.



New 2020 Ambassadors Isaac Durst, Kyanna Lankton and Halle Finnerty will join Maggie Seaman, Audrey Durst, Michael Lehmann, Colleen Decker and Elliott Burns.

Ambassadors promote 4-H

Ambassadors play a key role in the success of Coffey County 4-H. Started in 1993, the Coffey County 4-H Ambassadors are a group of committed 4-H members who work closely with County Agents and Advisors to promote 4-H, organize and narrate events, and become positive role models for other members of the community.

The requirements for becoming an ambassador include, but are not limited to:

- Commitment to the Coffey County 4-H Program, including attending at least 10 of your 4-H club's meetings.
- Positive attitude about 4-H and all other 4-H members.
- Willingness to promote 4-H to the public.
- Willingness to participate in Ambassador functions and leadership activities.
- Introduce new families to the 4-H program at a Project Enrollment Fair and be available to answer questions.
- National 4-H Week promotion on the radio, delivering table tents to restaurants, taking posters to businesses and sponsoring the window display contest for the clubs.
- Help organize and/or narrate the Achievement banquet, 4-H Day and awards ceremony at the Fair.
- Organize, plan and conduct a Coffey County 4-H promotional activity.
- Do a community service activity each quarter of the year, including 48 Hours of 4-H in October.
- Serve as an irrefutable representative of the Coffey County 4-H program, especially when attending out-of-county events.
- Presentations to civic groups.
- Help promote 4-H through various media such as radio, school newspaper, web posting, and social networking.
- Attend one of three Kansas 4-H events in their first two

years of service: State Ambassador Training, Kansas Youth Leadership Forum or Discovery Days.

After applying to be an ambassador, they complete and interview for final selection to the Ambassador team. The county is well represented by a great group of 4-Hers.

Elliott Burns is a nine-year member of Stringtown Bombers 4-H Club. He currently serves as the club's treasurer. His favorite project is the beef project, but his favorite 4-H memories include all of the good times at County 4-H Camp. Elliott said, "4-H is the best organization on the planet."

Colleen Decker is a four-year member of Smilin' Thru 4-H Club. She currently serves as club president. Her favorite projects are swine, photograph, and foods. Her favorite 4-H memory is participating in county fair. Colleen said, "I love 4-H because it allows me to try new things and expand my interests in all sorts of different areas."

Audrey Durst is an 11-year member of Blue Ribbon 4-H club. Her favorite project is Western Heritage, and her favorite memory is the whole experience of winning the State Shooting Sports KAP, and attending National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga. This experience gave her the chance to make new friends, and lots of wonderful memories with those friends. Audrey said, "4-H is a wonderful learning experience that not only teaches many life skills such as citizenship, leadership and public speaking, but also gives members a way to make lifelong friends and memories."

Isaac Durst is a nine-year 4-H member. He currently serves as a junior leader, song leader, recreation leader, and 4-H Council representative in Blue Ribbon 4-H Club. His

favorite project is Shooting Sports-Western Heritage, and his favorite memory is winning the top award at the Western Heritage national competition. Isaac said, "I love 4-H because it teaches me life skills and I get to spend time with great people."

Halle Finnerty is starting her ninth year in Liberty 4-H Club. She currently serves as the club secretary. Her favorite project is the meat goat project and her favorite 4-H memory is seeing everyone that she doesn't normally get to throughout the year at the county fair. Halle said, "I love 4-H because it has helped me grow into the person I am now, it has helped me so much with public speaking and responsibility. I truly believe that 4-H has changed my life."

Kyanna Lankton is an 11-year member of Smilin' Thru 4-H club. She currently serves as club secretary and a 4-H Council representative. Her favorite projects are swine, goats and beef, and her favorite memory is placing third overall in beef showmanship at the Kansas State Fair. Kyanna said, "4-H has given me opportunities that no other organization can offer. It has taught me responsibility, character, and how to be the best version of myself."

Michael Lehmann is a 12-year member of Tip Top 4-H club. He currently serves as club president and as a 4-H

Council representative. His favorite project is the Beef project, and his favorite 4-H memories involve all of the fun times that he has had at the county fair with lifelong friends. Michael said, "4-H is an amazing organization that I am super lucky to be a part of."

Maggie Seaman is starting her 11th year in the Tip Top 4-H Club. She currently serves as club secretary. The sheep project is her favorite project, which she has participated in for 10 years, in addition to enjoying a bonus year as a Cloverbud. Her favorite 4-H memory is earning Intermediate Round Robin Champion at the Coffey County Fair. Maggie said, "4-H is an organization for family and friends to come together. It has helped me in many skills including leadership and communication. It brings the 4-H family together and teaches you how to be in something as a team and work together."



Volunteer – Mary Davies and Cindy Linsey would together as Virtual Art Superintendents during 140th Coffey County Fair.

4-H'ers make masks for community

Coffey County 4-H'ers and family stepped up when the call for help came out, with a sudden need for people to wear face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over a dozen 4-H sewing project members participated. This group, with assistance of family members and friends, made more than 1,400 masks.

Masks went to Coffey County Hospital, Newman Regional Hospital, nursing homes, Meals on Wheels staff, Coffey County Health Department, friends and family.

This example of providing service to the community reflects the 4-H pledge: "I PLEDGE my HEAD to clearing thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living, for

my club, my community, my country and my world."



Audrey Durst had her hands full. Audrey donated over 100 masks.

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Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.
- Hellen Keller
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