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Grand Challenge: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Title: Central Kansas District 4-H Council Executive Team

Why is this issue important? As communities seek to improve the opportunities for young people to develop life skills, reduce risk factors, and build assets, they are turning to quality programs designed to extend in-school learning to out-of-school opportunities for youth, and resources for adults who support children and youth. These programs take place both in schools and in the community. They provide children and youth with an opportunity to develop skills and interests in a wide range of domains by offering high interest activities designed to extend the learning day for participants and provide opportunities to apply in-school learning to real life situations.

As the premier Positive Youth Development organization in Kansas, K-State 4-H is uniquely positioned to build the skills and behaviors needed to succeed in the 21st century workplace and post-secondary education systems. K-State 4-H is committed to building outstanding leaders with marketable skills to succeed in today's global society and workplace. 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

How did Extension address this issue? 4-H Members, ages 12 and older, have the opportunity to run for a Central Kansas District 4-H Council Officer Position. Positions include: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Historical. For the 2021-22 4-H year, we have nine (9) Executive Team Members. These members participated in an officer retreat to kick-off their term in December, 2021.

What was the impact? As a result of participating in the officer retreat:

- Each Executive Team Member better understood their role and what they need to do to be successful.
- The Executive Team discovered the influence they have on the District 4-H Program, including their attitudes, the level of their individual involvement, their words / actions, and how they carry themselves in different situations.
- The word of the year selected was "ON." Their focus for the year is to be ON point, ON focus, stay ON task, and ON time.
- After discussing characteristics of leaders the members of the Executive Team look up to, they are going to strive to be humble, a better listener, a relatable individual, have a willingness to help others, and give forth their best effort.