



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
4-H Youth Development 

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# 4-H Clover Connection

February, 2002

## *Working With Youth as Partners*

*The main focus of the Oklahoma 4-H program is youth development. In order to achieve this goal, the program depends on adult volunteers working with club members and sharing their time, talents and skills in a variety of areas.*

*Developing a solid partnership between adults and youth takes a lot of work from both parties, said Karla Knoepfli, volunteer and leadership development specialist with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development.*

*“Adult volunteers play a key role in fostering life skills development among 4-H’ers,” Knoepfli said. “However, working with youth is different than a working relationship between adults.*

*“Treat each young person on an individual basis. Don’t generalize and think one youth represents all youths,” she said. “Young people put enough pressure on themselves. When they are working with you on a project they can pick up on feelings that an adult may have regarding a negative image of young people. Assure the young person that you are interested in their individual opinions and don’t expect them to embody an entire population.”*

*In order for a youth-adult partnership to truly be successful, young people must feel that they are valued and respected by adults. Be careful about interrupting their ideas because this can discourage them and make them refrain from contributing to the project. Create an environment that fosters equal participation.*

*Adults who are willing to share their expertise and work with youth need to keep in mind that the*



*project may be a new experience, so it is important not to move too fast without explaining the reasons for various actions being taken. Rushing through meetings can be a sign that adults are still trying to control the actions of the group.*

*“Another important aspect of working with a group of young people is that your role in the partnership is not to parent,” Knoepfli said. “While being a parent is important role, the purpose for a youth-adult partnership is to give young people mature and responsible opportunities to cooperate and work with adults.”*

*Written by Trisha Gedon, Communications Specialist,  
Agricultural Communications Services, OSU*

# WE ARE ROLE MODELS (W.A.R.M.)



*Character Critters News for Parents*

*By: Todd Branson*

Over the past month the OSU Extension Center has implemented the Character Critters program within the Carnegie School System. Extension Educator, Todd Branson, and the Caddo County Program Assistant, Tara Taylor, have been teaching the kindergartners of Carnegie the **6 Pillars of Character Education**. This newsletter will focus on the "Caring" aspect of character education.



Over the month of February, we will begin to teach the program, **Exercising Character**, to a group of volunteer teenagers in the Anadarko School System. Once these individuals are trained in the character education program, they will be allowed to visit with their kindergartner classes and head start programs. In the upcoming months, we will be teaching this character education program to our 4-H Teen Leaders. These 4-H leaders will then have the opportunity to distribute the program in the schools throughout the county. If you would like to learn more about the character education program, please contact the OSU Extension Center and get involved with your community, school systems, and local 4-H clubs.

## **Caring**

Truly care about each and every customer, employee and vendor with whom you relate both internal and external to our organization. Be committed to building lasting relationships to our mutual benefit. Be concerned about those we serve.

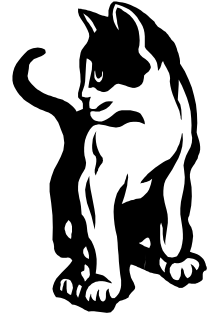
There are things we can do every day to encourage children to develop into caring individuals.

You can...

Give hugs, smiles, and handshakes.  
Listen.  
Tell children you like what they are doing.  
Take moments with your children individually.

Play games with friends.  
Read a story.  
Let children help with tasks.  
Blow a kiss.

To emphasize the importance of Caring, Carrie the Caring Cat was introduced. Carrie the cat wanted her grandmother to know how much she cared about her, so she brought her a tree. Carrie helped her grandmother care for the tree, and over the years, the grandmother always had the tree to remember her granddaughter Carrie. Carrie showed her grandmother she cared by:



- ☆ Being kind.
- ☆ Showing her family that she cared.
- ☆ Saying please and thank you.
- ☆ Helping.

Stories such as the one that was summarized above are followed by a series of activities and discussions that give the children a chance to reflect upon the story and to add their own experiences. The list below shows some of the “*Discussion Starters*” that were used to get the children involved with the story and it gave them the opportunity to show how they are just like Carrie.

- ♥ Once I helped a friend by...
- ♥ When someone is sick, I can...
- ♥ Once someone showed they cared about me by...
- ♥ Once upon a time, there was a very kind boy/girl who...
- ♥ Talk to the children about people who are caring in the community and have them think about caring professionals they know.
- ♥ Who are people we care about? Who are people who care about us?
- ♥ Let's name things we can do to care about people who are...sad, sick, etc.

*Your kind and caring actions cannot only  
help others and make them feel better,  
but will make you feel proud of your good deeds.  
Compassion is a character trait that can benefit everyone!*

# Letter from the Educator:

<http://countyext.okstate.edu/caddo/youth>

Dear Caddo Co. 4-H Family,

We have survived another food and gift filled holiday season and now it is time to start thinking about the upcoming 4-H year. In December, we held our county speech contests and I am proud to say that we had 226 competitors over the 2-day event. Congratulations to everyone who attended and don't forget now we have the illustration/demonstration contests to prepare for!

There have been many people commenting on the county website and as we have mentioned before, we will do anything and everything to make this website easier for you to browse through, full of useful information, and powered with tools for you to use at your leisure. The newest additions to the website are what we feel to be very useful tools. The first thing is the age verification system. We designed this tool to hopefully clear up some of the state report form age restriction confusions. Unfortunately, we have only been able to design this to work with Internet Explorer computers but we are working hard at getting a Netscape version online soon. You can find this tool on the homepage by clicking on "**State Report Form Eligibility**" at the top of the page.

We also added a database to the website that describes each project area that Oklahoma 4-H offers. This tool can easily be used to compare project areas, help younger 4-H members find something they are interested in, and it can also be used to find the objectives of each project area. Additional information can be found off the Oklahoma State 4-H website. You can find this tool on the homepage by clicking on "**Listing and explanation of every project offered in Oklahoma 4-H**" at the top of the page.

We are also working hard to add information for certified volunteer leaders everyday. If you are a certified volunteer, look for a letter in the mail explaining the password and the tools you will find within by logging into the Caddo County 4-H Website. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the office via email or phone at any time.

Sincerely,  
Todd Branson

**A heartfelt welcome to some new 4-H Volunteer Leaders:**

Carnegie:  
Crystal Schneberger  
Lori Horton

Boone-Apache  
Michael & Janie Bain  
Albert & Angela Christensen  
Gary & Julie Hrbacek

## Todd Branson

Extension Educator, 4-H & Youth  
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## February – March 2002

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 12	Candy Sales End	--
February 13	Teen Leader meeting	4:30 pm
February 15	All Candy Sales "Stuff" to be returned	by 4:30 pm
February 17	Cowgirl Basketball 4-H Day	10 am
February 18	Mane Tamers' Meeting	6:30 pm Caddo Electric
February 20	Volunteer Leaders Meeting	4:30 pm Gracemont
February 21-23	SW District Livestock Show	Chickasha
February 25	CWF Application FINAL Deadline	4 pm
February 28 – Mar 2	Spring Show – No Sale	Anadarko
March 6	Teen leader meeting	TBA
March 8	Discover Unlimited Applications Due	4 pm
March 26	Dress Revue	Anadarko – Old Gym

Other events may arise and scheduling may alter. For the most accurate information, please refer to: <http://countyext.okstate.edu/caddo/youth>