



# 4-H Clover Connection

Extension Educator: Todd Branson  
Program Assistant: Tara Taylor



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## 4-H Camp Offers Creative and Educational Experiences

The Oklahoma 4-H Program has long been known for providing youth with a wide variety of educational experiences.

Attending a 4-H camp is no different. Camping has been proven to be an effective teaching tool for 4-H boys and girls, said Jeff Sallee, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service assistant Extension Specialist, 4-H and Youth Development.

"For many 4-H'ers, attending camp is their first chance to be away from home," Sallee said. "It's like a vacation from home, parents, siblings and everything they are used to. Camp is a fun experience where kids learn new things. Camp can mean growing up and crossing one of those boundaries that is the difference between childhood and a step toward independence. Youth also experience some activities that they'll get to do later on in 4-H."

Every summer counties across Oklahoma offer some sort of 4-H camp. Some counties may team up with one or two other counties. This situation is a great way for 4-H'ers to meet other kids from around their county, as well as neighboring counties.

Charles Cox, state 4-H program leader, said attending camp has many merits.

"There is real merit for a 4-H'er to attend camp outside of his or her own county," Cox said. "Kids want to explore. Loading up on a bus and going away as a group is a healthy thing. It helps kids develop independence. Camp also is a great 'leveler.' All campers are on the same level. It gives 4-H'ers the chance to really be themselves without

the pressure of being who their friends think they should be."

Not only do kids learn about new things and develop new friendships, summer camp provides them with an opportunity to create memories that last a lifetime.

"Every child needs the opportunity to grow, make new friends and stretch the boundaries of their everyday lives," Sallee said. "Camp may not necessarily be a life-changing experience, but it can be one that kids will look back on fondly."

Summer camp is not just for the younger campers. Most 4-H camps around the state use Teen Leaders as camp counselors.

"These counselors are usually at least 14 years old. They befriend the campers and keep everyone on track for their activities," Sallee said. "But the neat thing about the counselors is that they learn what it's like to be a role model. The campers see the counselors as the 'cool' older 4-H'ers, and it's a great opportunity for the counselor to build upon the responsibility of being a role model."

4-H camps also help motivate youth to stay involved in 4-H. Many 4-H'ers look back on their experience as a camper and what a big influence their teen counselor was. These 4-H'ers want the same opportunity to be a positive influence on the younger club members by serving as counselors themselves.

"4-H camp is so much more than going away from home," Sallee said. "Camp truly has value and it's an experience all 4-H'ers should have. It's a chance for simplified living and it's an environment where creative learning can take place in the great outdoors."

# WE ARE ROLE MODELS 2

(W.A.R.M.)

Character Critters News for Parents

CARING



## Character in the Workplace

### Pressures Are Just Temptations In Disguise

According to a survey of American workers, more than half admit they were pressured to do something unethical or illegal in the workplace in the previous year. It's likely that at least as many were pressured to lie, break promises or dodge responsibilities in their personal lives.

Can we really expect people do the right thing when there's so much pressure to do otherwise? Youngsters feeling pressure to get good grades cheat on exams while their parents cut moral corners on the job because of financial pressures. So, if we want more ethical people we have two choices: find a way to eliminate pressure or develop the strength of character to deal with it.

Let's be clear: pressures are just temptations in disguise. We call them pressures to get ourselves off the hook. You see, we all know that a test of our character is whether we resist and overcome temptations. It somehow seems more acceptable to give in to pressure. Can you imagine telling your father, a teacher or a boss that you lied or cheated because you were tempted?

We must resist the temptation to treat "pressures" as a satisfactory justification for ethical shortcuts. Blaming wrongdoings on pressure is simply an excuse. Pressures, temptations – call them what you will -- are part of life. Sure we should reduce temptations where we can, but what we really need is a concerted effort to strengthen our moral willpower to resist pressures, to do the right thing even when it costs more than we want to pay.

### Carrie the Caring Cat

Meet Carrie. She loves to care. Every day she tries to:

- Be kind to people
- Show her family that she cares
- Say please and thank you
- Help people



**No act of kindness, no matter  
how small, is ever wasted.**

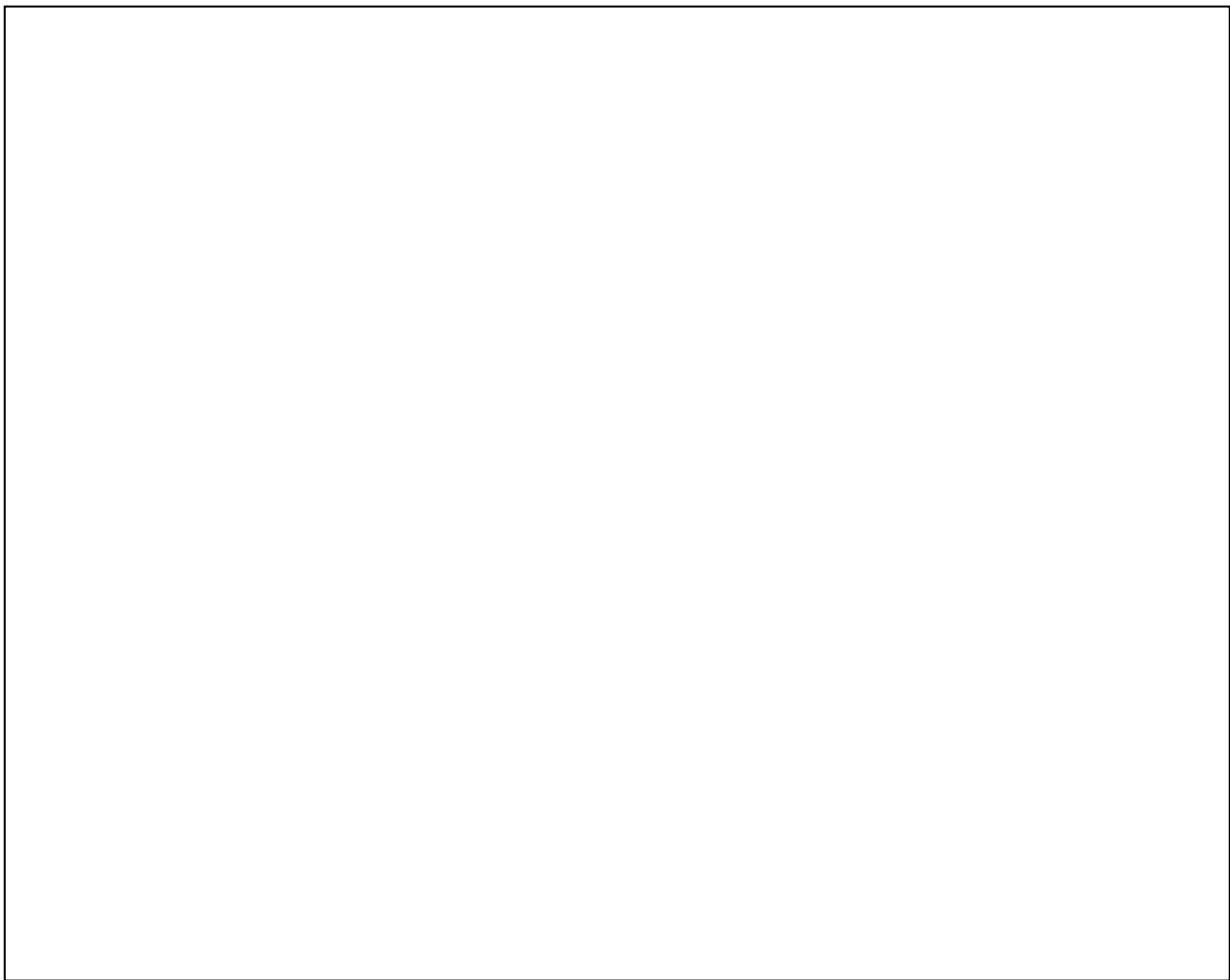
Alsop

## Character Critters 2: Caring collage at home activity

People who are caring have things that they like to look at and share with others. In the story Carrie the Caring Cat Helps Her Neighbor, Carrie helps her neighbor grow flowers to display in the kitchen. Talk to your child about the things that you both care about and those you love (people, flowers, sports, birds, music, trees...). Find pictures of your favorite things in magazines and cut out the pictures. While you are looking for pictures, talk about the things you like and the people you care about. Paste or tape the pictures, photographs, flowers, or drawings on this sheet and return the sheet to your child's teacher when you are finished.

We care about:

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Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Letter from the Educator:

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

Dear Caddo Co. 4-H Family,

June is completely booked with tons of camps! Caddo County 4-H offers three camps for all 4-H'ers and one of these camps are open to all youth! First off, the Caddo County 4-H Day Camp was at the Caddo County Fairgrounds June 4, 2003 The theme this year was "4-H Is Out Of This World!" Each Camper received a T-Shirt with a NASA/4-H design.

The next camp is the next week at the Caddo County Fairgrounds on June 10-12. This will be the first annual Caddo County Mini Society camp called "4-H... Taking Care of Business!" This is a three Day Camp from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. 4-H'ers and youth ages 9-12 highly interested in becoming a 4-H'er will be able to attend this camp held at the Caddo County Fairgrounds. Campers will learn about developing a society including making a City/Country Name, designing money, making a flag, starting a business, and managing business.

Finally on June 17-19 Caddo County has joined with Canadian and Oklahoma Counties to offer a Tri County 4-H Camp. This trip is for 4-H'ers ages 9-12 and there are Camp Counselor positions for Teen Leaders. All spots have been filled for this camp. If you are interested for next year, let us know soon!

The last thing to comment on is the Ski Trip! We will offer this trip again this year for the same weekend in January (MLK) and we are going to ski with a couple of counties in Colorado! This is going to be awesome so check up on the website and let us know soon if you are interested!

Sincerely,



## News & Views

- Welcome to all our new readers. If there is something you would like to see in here, feel free to tell us!
- Preliminary sign-up for the ski trip in January is now available. Call the Extension Office to get your name on the list. Price per person will be around \$350 for the trip.
- Look on the website and in your mailbox for questions and answers regarding a new County 4-H Ambassadors Program!
- Volunteer Leader Meetings will start back in August and will be scheduled monthly on the **second Wednesday** of the month. The reason for more meetings is to keep in constant contact and to hopefully eliminate some postage costs acquired for shipping contest rules.
- Teen Leader Meetings start in August and will go monthly on the **third Wednesday** of the month unless our meeting location changes dates on us.

## June - July 2003

### Todd Branson

Extension Educator, 4-H & Youth Dev.  
bransot@okstate.edu

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Time</u>
June 4	Caddo County Day Camp	8:30am
June 6-8	SW District Horse Show	--
June 10-12	Caddo County Mini Society Camp	--
June 17-19	Tri County 4-H Camp	--
June 30-July 1	State 4-H Robotics Camp	--
July 10	Caddo-Grady Livestock Judging	--
July 18-19	Volunteer Leader Conference	--
August 4-6	Tri County Leadership Conference	--

#### Please Read:

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