

Protected Under 18 U.S.C. 707

4-H Clover Connection

November, 2001

Building Respect and Tolerance is Greatest Community Need

As part of its centennial activities, the 4-H program commissioned a survey to find out what America's youth sees as the greatest community need.

According to the survey, today's youth believe that building respect and tolerance for others is the single greatest community need, said Charles Cox, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension state 4-H program leader.

"When asked what youth would do to improve their communities, increasing respect and tolerance was the most popular response," Cox said. "Inspired by the heroism of rescue workers following the events of September 11, nine out of 10 youth said that they are now more likely to volunteer and get involved in their community."

The survey, which consisted of 1,000 adults age 18 and older, as well as 400 youth between the ages of 12 and 17, used a random digit dialing technology.

Other ways the respondents would try to improve their communities was through mentoring/tutoring children and teens, improving/protecting the environment, helping the physically or mentally challenged, as well as assisting the elderly.

"What was interesting about the survey is that it indicated that a source of motivation for youth to perform community service is the example set by adults," he said. "That whole aspect is such a large part of the 4-H program. Our Extension educators, volunteer leaders and parents help guide club members in the right direction by setting a positive example. Today's youth say they are looking for examples of everyday heroism by looking at their parents, teachers and community leaders."

Celebrities are less influential than parents, teachers and other adults with whom teens come into daily

contact when it comes to influencing youth interest in community service.

This survey also underscores the importance of dialogue between the youth of today and adults. Of those surveyed, 63 percent feel that the need for discussion about community needs has increased. An overwhelming majority of adults and youth believe that the recent terrorist attacks have increased the need for youth and adults to work together to solve community problems.

"Months before the terrorist attacks, the 4-H program on a national level was putting together an action plan for improving communities through volunteerism and youth development programs," Cox said. "As part of the centennial celebration, 4-H is sponsoring a series of Local, State and National Conversations on Youth Development in the 21st Century. These conversations are designed to bring together youth, adults, community leaders and civic leaders in more than 3,000 communities across America to talk about ways of improving communities."

This activity fits right in with the results of the survey in that it will help open up the lines of communication between youth and responsible adults leaders.

A final report detailing the essential findings of the Conversations will be presented to President George W. Bush, members of Congress, the Cabinet and other important leaders in April 2002.

"It's important for everyone to realize that today's youth feel a strong need for greater tolerance on local, state, national and international levels. Young people want to become involved and put more emphasis on ending prejudice and bigotry," said Cox. "These kids are looking in their own backyards for an answer, and Oklahoma's parents, teachers and community leaders are up for the challenge."

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

Hot topic

We would like to welcome the Boone-Apache 4-H club to the Caddo County 4-H program. We are very proud to have another group of dedicated volunteers join the already strong list of volunteers in Caddo County. If there is anything that you can provide for Boone-Apache or any help that you are willing to offer them, do not hesitate to contact your extension educator for more information.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



Todd Branson
4-H Youth Dev
(405) 247-3376
todd.branson@tanet.net

Tara Taylor
4-H Youth Program Asst
(405) 247-3376

On the web:

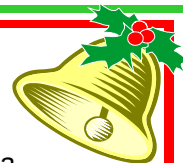
The Caddo County 4-H Website has been and will continue to undergo several cosmetic and data changes. We hope to keep the community, 4-H members, volunteer leaders, school systems, and the general public informed of our accomplishments, award earners, and the difference that we make in our community.

Letter from the Educator:

Dear Caddo Co. 4-H Family,

It gives me great pleasure to write my first newsletter to you. You will receive a newsletter every other month filled with valuable information such as a letter from the County Extension Office, a calendar, and detailed stories from 4-H news around the county. If there is anything that you would like printed in the newsletters, please feel free to contact this office either via email, telephone, or schedule a personal visit. From our family to yours: Have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,
Todd Branson
Extension Educator,
4-H & Youth Development



November – December 2001

Todd Branson
Extension Educator, 4-H & Youth
Development
Todd.Branson@tanet.net

Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Samuel Curl, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Time</u>
November 3	Year End Banquet	6 pm
November 7	Sheep Nominations	8 am – 4 pm
November 7	Share-the-Fun	4:30 pm
November 26	Deadline to enter Christmas Parade	5 pm
November 26	Farmers Union Speech Contest (Hobart High)	4 pm registration 4:30 pm contest
November 30	NRHA Futurity 4-H/FFA Day	All Day Event
December 1	Anadarko Christmas Parade	4 pm
December 4-5	County Speech Contest	10 am
December 7	State 4-H Conversation	8 am – 4 pm
December 8	District Share-the-Fun	9 am

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