

Cottonwood Extension District: Barton County 4-H Newsletter **August 2026**

Please join us in welcoming JoAnn Gaunt as our new 4-H & Youth Development Agent in the Barton County office! Her first day will be August 17th, and we invite you to stop by that day, or anytime during her first week, to introduce yourself and help give her a warm Extension welcome. We're excited to have JoAnn join our team and look forward to the knowledge, enthusiasm, and excellent service she will bring to our communities!

I encourage everyone to be thinking about their project record books. It's time to be finalizing those for the year. We are looking forward to seeing all the hard work each of you has been putting in this past 4-H year.

Also, I encourage you to look over this newsletter closely, as we have some exciting opportunities coming up in our area!

If you ever need anything. That's what I'm here for.

Every day is an opportunity for a new adventure!

Benjamin T. Sims

Follow us on Facebook: [Cottonwood Extension District](#) and [Barton County 4-H Members](#)

Website: www.cottonwood.ksu.edu

Office Number: 620-793-1910

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Upcoming Events



August 7	KSF entries (not exhibits) due to the Extension Office by 5 pm
August 15	Northwest 4-H Teen Leadership Day - page 10
August 17	Jr. Leaders at 6 pm followed by 4-H Council at 7 pm - 4-H Ed Buildings
Sept. 4	KSF exhibits due to the Extension office (except foods and horticulture)
Sept. 10	KSF foods and horticulture exhibits due to Extension office by 8 am
Sept. 25	Project Record Books and Achievement Pin Apps due to Ext. Office by 5 pm
Oct. 1	4-H Water Ambassador Applications due
Oct. 1	Barton County 4-H Ambassador Applications due
Oct. 3	Pathfinders Program with Barton Community College - page 9
Oct. 19	Updated Officer/Leader Sheets due
Oct. 19	Club Summary due (club seal application) along with Financial Review due



County Fair Awards



For those who have not picked up their county fair awards yet, those are available at the Extension office. Please pick those up at your earliest convenience. A thank you note to the Barton County Fair Board must be written before those awards can be picked up. There are thank you cards in the office, or you may bring your own.



4-H Holding Board Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who helped with the fundraiser! There was great attendance by the community, and wonderful opportunities for memory-making provided by our 4-H youth and volunteers!



Pathfinders Program



The Extension office is partnering with Barton Community College to host our inaugural Pathfinders Program on October 3rd on the college's main campus. This hands on educational program is for youth in grades 6-8 that are interested in exploring career opportunities and participate in team building exercises. The program will include two morning sessions where youth will experience what it is like to work in an ambulance with Emergency Medical Services and do some welding, plumbing, and construction to make an item they get to take home. Please save the date and we hope to see you there! A flier can be found on page 9.

Barton County 4-H Shooting Sports

4-H Small Bore Rifle Practice began Tuesday, June 23 at 6:45 PM in the south rifle pit at Kiowa Gun Club. This is open to 4-H'ers 12-18 years old who completed the 4-H air rifle program in the fall of 2025/spring of 2026. Any questions, contact John Reh or Scott Smith.

4-H Shooting Sports is a great tool for teaching discipline, firearm safety, and accountability. For more information, reach out to John Reh at 620-786-0052 for rifle questions and Dustin Wyant at 620-617-6212 for Archery questions.



4-H Youth Leadership Council



There are two ways young people become members of the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council.

Those who are selected as National Conference Delegates will serve a two-year term on the council. Applicants must be 15-18 before January 1, 2027. See information here: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/national-4-h-conference/>

Youth may also run for a one-year term as a council representative. Youth Council Applicants must be 14-18 before January 1, 2027. See more information here: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/teen-leadership-opportunities/youth-leadership-council/>

On the above-linked pages, there is a helpful memo outlining the process. The Process includes:

- Online Application submitted by 11:59 PM CST, Thursday, October 1, 2026.
- **College and Career Tip** – *There is an application template on the web that shows applicants the application questions in order. It should be used to formulate the application answers. Applicants know what is being asked; can plan ahead and be ready to just cut and paste edited and spell-checked essay answers from a word processing program into the application.*
- Online Reference from an Extension Staff or Volunteer. Should be completed by 11:59 PM CST on Thursday, October 1, 2026.
- *Signature Page: applicants scan and email to Kansas4H@ksu.edu before 11:59 PM CST, Thursday, October 1, 2026. An Extension Staff must be on this page.

This is a wonderful opportunity that I would be happy to chat with any interested 4-H'er about.



Water Ambassadors



We are currently accepting applications to be a 4-H Water Ambassador. Applications are due on October 1st. Please reach out to Ben for an application.



Kansas State Fair



State Fair information can be found in the [KSF 4-H Handbook](#).

Reminder - If you received a purple in the following categories at 4-H Club Day, you are eligible to present at the Kansas State Fair. We'll include more information closer to the State fair entry time. Division and class information can be found in the KSF 4-H Handbook.

Project Talks, Junior and Senior Demo/Illustrated Talks, Readings, Public Speaking

A list of all KSF eligible entries can be found on pages 6-8.

Please contact the Extension office with the exhibits you wish to enter. Those entries are due by August 7th at 5:00 pm.



Youth Leadership Corner



Junior Leaders	August 17 th	6 pm
4-H Council	August 17 th	7:30 pm

Council committees meet before the meeting at 7 pm on meeting nights, or may schedule meetings at other times. At the April meeting, the Council voted to run the County Fair concession stand and hire a person to manage it, help the Dog project purchase agility equipment, and for each club to make two baskets for the Business Breakfast on Thursday morning.

Jr. Leaders will host a day camp on August 7th (tentative), and voted to do their peach fundraiser again. They have also released their scholarship application, which is due June 1st to the Extension office. Jr. Leaders will reimburse any Jr. Leader member who participates in Discovery Days their registration fee.

Please feel free to reach out to your club's representatives or Council officers with questions.

President: <i>Kassie Linsner</i>	Vice President: <i>Samantha Negaard</i>
Secretary: <i>Callie Loesch</i>	Treasurer: <i>Kaisha Woydziak</i>
Reporters: <i>Kiera Wyant & Jillian Axman</i>	Parliamentarian: <i>Adessa Prosser</i>

Meetings are held in person at the 4-H Educational Building (Hwy 281) or via Zoom Conference Call. August's meeting will be held in person.



Leader's Corner



Kansas State Fair - Please encourage any youth that you know received a purple ribbon at our local Club Days in either Project Talk, Demo/Illustrated Talk, Reading, or Public Speaking that they can compete at the Kansas State Fair if over the 4-H Age of 9. They can contact the Extension office to let us know which exhibits they would like to enter. Those entries are due by August 7th.

Project Records - This is a great time for families to be working on Project Records. Please encourage them to do so. Families with questions can be directed to Ben.

Project Scholarships - *NEW* - We are working on finalizing the forms, but this year we are offering two \$250 4-H project scholarships which will be selected by random drawing. 4-H'ers who have completed 4/6 tasks on the forms in the 2025/2026 4-H year will be eligible for the random drawing.



First Name	Last Name	Project	Exhibit
Jillian	Axman	Visual Arts	earrings and bracelet
Jillian	Axman	Visual Arts	quilled flowers
Jillian	Axman	Photography	one photo
Peyton	Brabb	Dog	Int. Showmanship
Willow	Braddy	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Willow	Braddy	Photography	Color photo
Melody	Braddy	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Melody	Braddy	Photography	Color photo
Melody	Braddy	Photography	Black and White photo
Michelle	Broeder	Photography	Color photo
Addie	Broeder	Photography	One photo
Nora	Burns	Photography	Color photo
George	Debes	Geology	Display of 15
George	Debes	Geology	Educational Exhibit
George	Debes	Lapidary	Before and After
George	Debes	Building Block Engineering	Diorama
Emaline	Debes	Notebook/poster/display	If KSF class available
Emaline	Debes	Photography	Color photo
Emaline	Debes	Wildlife	Educational Exhibit
Jackson	DeVorss	Visual Arts	Cactus Bundle
Brantley	Edgerton	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Brantley	Edgerton	Fashion Revue	Boy Int. SnS
Brantley	Edgerton	Photography	Color photo
Brogan	Edgerton	Notebook/poster/display	If KSF class available
Brogan	Edgerton	Photography	One photo
Hudson	Gatton	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Hudson	Gatton	Ag Mechanics Welding	Fabrication
Owen	Guerra	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Raquel	Guerra	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Teegan	Guerra	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Brady	Karlin	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Brady	Karlin	Forestry	Leaf Exhibit
Maggie	Kern	Sewing & Textile Design	Constructed item
Maggie	Kern	Entomology	Educational Exhibit
Maggie	Kern	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Maggie	Kern	Food Preservation	Pickle and relish
Maggie	Kern	Forestry	Leaf Exhibit
Maggie	Kern	Horticulture	Other Vegetable
Maggie	Kern	Notebook/poster/display	If KSF class available
Maggie	Kern	Photography	Color photo
Maggie	Kern	Wildlife	educational display
Maggie	Kern	Woodworking	Lawn or house furn.
Russell	Kern	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Russell	Kern	Food Preservation	Pickles and relish
Russell	Kern	Food Preservation	Meats
Russell	Kern	Photography	One photo

Jonas	Kern	Visual Arts	Pinch Pot
Jonas	Kern	Fiber Arts	Crochet
Jonas	Kern	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Jonas	Kern	Photography	Color photo
Jonas	Kern	Photography	black and white photo
Lilly	Linsner	Fiber Arts	Crochet
Callie	Loesch	Photography	One photo
Slade	Lopez	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Elizabeth	Martin	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Elizabeth	Martin	Photography	One entry
Levi	McCormick	Photography	One photo
Levi	McCormick	Ag Mechanics Welding	Fabrication
Levi	McCormick	Woodworking	Other woodworking
Kylee	Miessler	Photography	Color photo
Kylee	Miessler	Photography	black and white photo
Everett	Negaard	Energy Management	DC electric project
Everett	Negaard	Fiber Arts	Knitting
Everett	Negaard	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Everett	Negaard	Photography	Color photo
Samantha	Negaard	Fashion Revue	Girl's SnS Sr. Chammp
Samantha	Negaard	Photography	One photo
Amber	Ochs	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Callie	Ochs	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Callie	Ochs	Photography	One photo
Jordan	Ochs	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Analeah	Ochs	Horticulture	Garden Display
Adessa	Prosser	Photography	Color photo
Adessa	Prosser	Photography	Black and White photo
Eden	Ringwald	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Eden	Ringwald	Fashion Revue	Int. Girl's SnS
Grey	Ringwald	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Aliza	Straub	Visual Arts	Fine Art - Astronaut
Aliza	Straub	Sewing & Textile Design	Constructed garment
Aliza	Straub	Fiber Arts	Knitting
Aliza	Straub	Fashion Revue	Senior Sew and Text.
Aliza	Straub	Horticulture	Tree Fruits
Aliza	Straub	Horticulture	Fresh Culinary Herbs
Aliza	Straub	Horticulture	Fresh Culinary Herbs
Aliza	Straub	Horticulture	Annual Flower
Aliza	Straub	Horticulture	Annual Flower
Aliza	Straub	Horticulture	Perennial Flower
Aliza	Straub	Horticulture	Perennial Flower
Aliza	Straub	Photography	black and white photo
Hunter	Trower	Photography	one photo
Ensley	Vaupel	Sewing & Textile Design	Constructed garment
Ensley	Vaupel	Photography	Black and white

Chloe	Vaupel	Sewing & Textile Design	Constructed Garment
Chloe	Vaupel	Fashion Revue	Senior Sew and Text.
Chloe	Vaupel	Photography	Color Photo
Kaisha	Woydziak	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
Kiera	Wyant	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
DJ	Wyant	Foods & Nutrition	Non-Perishable
DJ	Wyant	Rocketry	Kit Scale Rocket
DJ	Wyant	Woodworking	Other woodworking



Pathfinders Program!

October 3rd, 2026

**Barton Community College
Technical Building (East)
By the Water Tower
245 NE 30 Rd, Great Bend,
KS 67530**

***\$20 registration fee
w/ Lunch Provided***

Register at:

<https://bit.ly/4wY11LY>

***or by QR Code
found below***

***More info at
cottonwood.k-state.edu***

SCAN ME!



BARTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Cottonwood District



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Open to all youth in grades 6-8. Space is limited, so register soon! Registration begins at 8 am.

Youth Morning Sessions:

8:30 AM-10:00 AM

10:15 AM-11:45 AM

Youth Afternoon Sessions:

12:30 PM-1:30 PM

1:30 PM-2:30 PM

- Hands-on career exploration
- EMS careers
- Skilled trades: welding, plumbing, construction
- Youth get to take home an item they make
- Youth will complete both career sessions
- Afternoon will be team-building activities

Adult Session:

10:30AM-11:30AM

- Barton Community College opportunities
- What is K-State Extension?

Long pants and close-toed shoes are required.

Register at - <https://bit.ly/4wY11LY>

Northwest Kansas 4-H Presents...

BEYOND READY:

LEADING

Beyond Limits



AUG. 15



10 AM-4PM



GODDARD PLACE

2834 170TH AVE
PENOKEE, KS 67659



13-18 YEAR OLDS



DAY CAMP HIGHLIGHTS:



Build Yourself

Explore your strengths, set goals, and grow your confidence.



Build Your Team

Strengthen communication, solve challenges, and work together.



Lead Beyond Limits

Discover your leadership style and take action to make a difference.



? Questions

PHONE: 785-346-2521

EMAIL: jenileem@ksu.edu



REGISTER BY WED 8.12.26

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42XU75rdgbQYjVc

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Register at - [NW 4-H Teen Leaders Day](#)