



OHIO 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

CFAES

2020 IMPACT REPORT



RESILIENCE. PERSEVERANCE. INNOVATION. GRATITUDE.

These all describe Ohio 4-H youth development during this unprecedented year. Thank you for making this year possible with all the ways you supported Ohio 4-H.

Resilience. Many programs could not meet in-person this summer and had to quickly adapt. Lorain County 4-H created “STEM in the Summer” activity kits that were distributed to more than 2,000 youth to learn about science, technology, engineering, and math.

Perseverance. Our 4-H camps needed financial support this year. The 4-H community came together with more than 1,400 gifts for a total of \$178,520 for the Buckeye Funder #4HCampNeedsYouNow campaign.

Innovation. While county fairs were scaled back, Cuyahoga County 4-H created a “Fair-in-a-Box,” providing supplies for a car parade, club competitions, and service projects. A special thanks to all of our county agricultural societies for working with Ohio 4-H to make junior fairs possible in many counties.

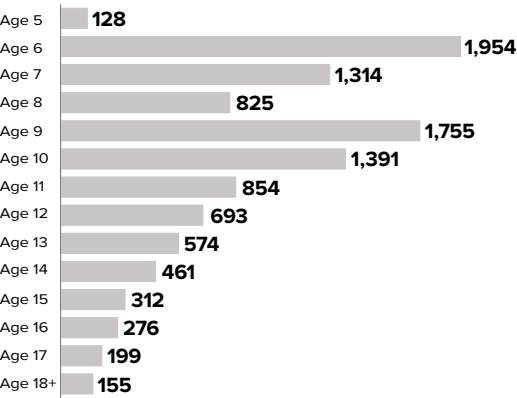
Gratitude. Our deepest appreciation for the thousands of volunteers who pivoted from the usual way of leading activities to ensure Ohio 4-H members still had positive youth development experiences. Auglaize County 4-H advisor, Kixm Bowersock, embraced home-based community service projects and created demonstrations on the club’s Facebook page.



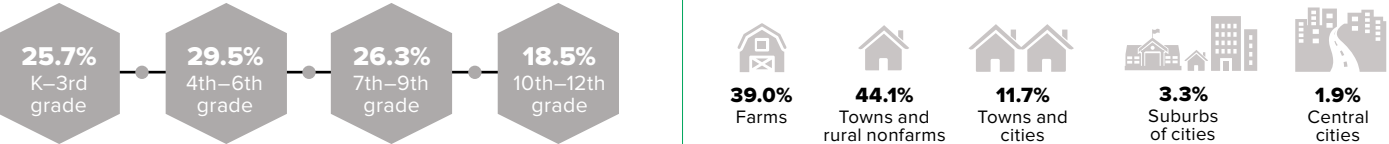
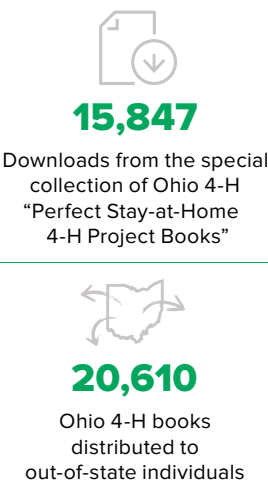
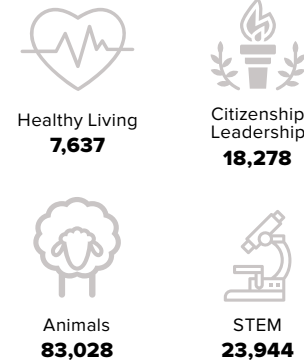
OHIO 4-H BY THE NUMBERS

Our youth join at any age.

In 2020, we had 10,891 first-year members:



Project Enrollment



To Our 4-H Friends and Families,

Despite the countless ways that COVID-19 has caused so much disappointment and heartache, Ohioans remain

#4hstrong. Across the state, Ohio 4-H members, families, volunteers, and Ohio State University Extension professionals rose to the occasion, demonstrating amazing resilience, innovation, and community spirit. From making thousands of face masks, to expressing gratitude for essential workers, to donating food raised to local pantries for those in need, our 4-H family delivered on our pledge to give our hands to larger service.

On these pages you will read more examples of the ways Ohio 4-H members used their heads, hearts, and hands to navigate through a year that was anything but normal. And as the global pandemic continues, our 4-H family will continue to do our part to remain focused on safeguarding the health and well-being of our communities. Thank you for joining with us to continue growing the next generation of true leaders.

Yours in service to 4-H,

Kirk Bloir

Kirk Bloir, PhD
State 4-H Leader
Assistant Director, Ohio State University Extension



Dear Friends of Ohio 4-H,

This year the world has experienced a pandemic that has caused us to do things differently to stay safe and healthy. We are social distancing, working and learning from home, and using online technology to connect virtually. And in true Ohio 4-H fashion, we have found innovative and creative ways to virtually interact, learn, do, and give.

We have seen several examples from our Ohio 4-H youth that demonstrate their resilience and character to make the best better, especially in these uniquely challenging times. Even though overnight camping at the 4-H camps across Ohio was canceled this year, 4-H educators ingeniously created virtual camping programs. The experiences were different but still positive, educational, and most of all, fun.

Ohio 4-H has always played a key role in building character, leadership, and problem-solving skills due to the philosophy of learning by doing. This year we are still learning by doing, using technology in new and different ways. Youth are establishing a strong set of skills that they will be able to expound upon in their future career endeavors.

The Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees sincerely appreciates all of your generosity and gracious support, even more so in these extraordinary times of 2020. The Buckeye Funder #4HCampNeedsYouNow campaign for financial support of Ohio 4-H camps was a success due to your tremendous donations. The campaign was also an opportunity for you to remember and share your own camp experiences. Thank you!

The Ohio 4-H Foundation is proud to work with The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) and Ohio State University Extension to support and promote the goals and objectives of Ohio 4-H. We invite you to review this 2020 report, as well as join us as we invest in Ohio’s future, our leaders of tomorrow, today’s 4-H members.

Thank you for your support,

Elizabeth A. Thomas

Elizabeth A. Thomas, PhD
President,
The Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees

OUR FOCUS



CREATING TRUE LEADERS

At Ohio 4-H, true leaders aren’t born; they’re grown. Youth grow these skills through both project work and experiences.



ENDOWING FUTURE 4-H SUCCESS

Gifts to Ohio 4-H endowments help provide youth with the experiences, support, and encouragement they need to thrive for years to come.



GROWING 4-H ACROSS OHIO

Young people need the kinds of hands-on, youth-led experiences that Ohio 4-H provides. Ohio 4-H is engaging new audiences while continuing to grow traditional programming.



ENSURING CAREER AND WORKFORCE READINESS

The 4-H approach gives young people the guidance, tools, encouragement, and experiences they need in life and in their careers. Through Ohio 4-H, youth make great things happen in their own lives and in their own communities.



CREATING TRUE LEADERS

Ohio 4-H camps were unable to be held in-person this year. Check out the amazing ways Ohio 4-H still made camp happen.

CAMP...ISH

Camp is one of the most treasured memories for many 4-H members. The campfires, songs, outdoor activities, and friendships create an experience remembered for a lifetime. Ohio 4-H professionals are just as passionate about camping, so when they learned in-person events could not be held this summer due to COVID-19, “Camp...ish” was born!

Camp...ish, Ohio’s first-ever 4-H statewide virtual camp, was held this summer and more than 275 campers attended over the three-day period. Each youth joined the fun from a home computer. Co-directors Kayla Oberstadt, 4-H program manager, and Frances Foos, 4-H educator in Madison County, led a team of 25 4-H professionals from around the state to host activities.

While youth used computers to connect, it was not a sedentary

experience. “Does anyone want to see my dog?!” called out one young camper, scampering around in front of her screen during a spontaneous pet show-and-tell session. Campers could see and interact with other youth and their counselors while doing activities interspersed with rest and meal periods.

Campers took to the outdoors to complete nature challenges, create art from natural materials, and set up obstacle courses in their backyards. Some kids climbed trees while others drew on the sidewalk. Parents or caregivers took photos of the youth during each activity, and campers downloaded the pictures to the camp website for sharing with the group.

Parents were enthusiastic about the program. “I was appreciative that 4-H gave kids an opportunity to do some fun activities and have a camplike experience,” said Angie Thomas of Champaign County. “What a positive statement they made by thinking outside the box and creating great activities out of what could have been a negative situation. Thanks for being such great role models for my daughter.”

Camp...ish kicked off the first day with a virtual tour of a Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp. Seeing the recreation field, dining area, bathrooms, and other sites at Canter’s Cave made the experience even more realistic, especially for first-time campers.

Traditional rituals such as reciting the 4-H pledge to open camp each morning was not forgotten. During one session, campers created a tentlike feeling by building forts made from furniture and blankets. Making crafts by repurposing items found around the campers’ homes was another favorite activity. Each day closed with singing camp songs and a reflection.

A parent whose child was homesick at camp in the past—and was planning to wait several years before trying camp again—was grateful for the virtual camp. “We were thrilled when Camp...ish came up, because our daughter could enjoy camp from the comfort of our home.”



MUSKINGUM COUNTY CAMP-AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Remember camping out in the wilds of your backyard when you were a kid? Ohio 4-H camp came home this summer in Muskingum County with their “Camp-at-Home Challenge.”

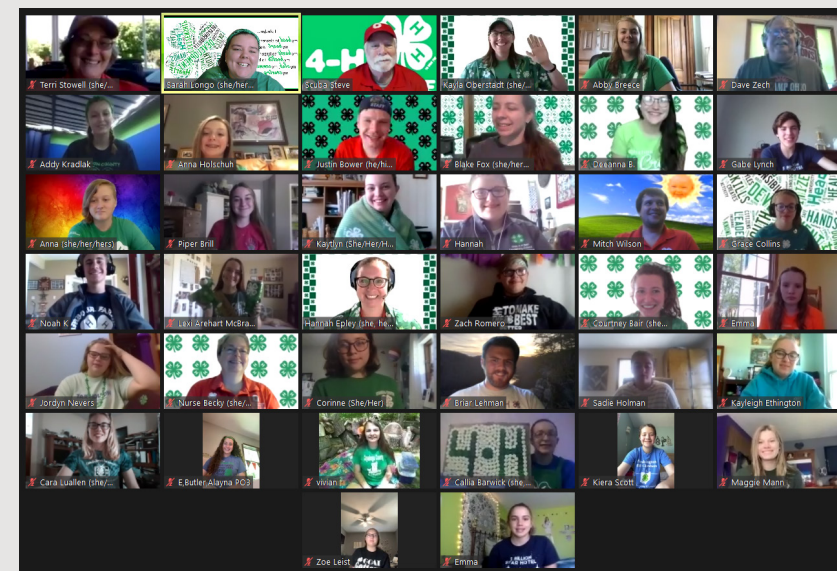
Participants were asked to set up a campsite either outside or in for at least one night between June 1 and June 10. Eight families took the challenge and documented their efforts with photos and a story.

Kylie, Koby, Brianna, and Becca recreated their county camp experience with a five-day camp. Their parents, Karey and Bryan, created a camp schedule, supplied their campers with name tags, and hosted a variety of sessions. Their camp included creeking, hiking, archery, and swimming, with two of the children diving in for an early morning polar bear dip. Each night featured evening programs and campfire activities during which the family presented cheers, skits, and challenges.

At the conclusion of the Camp-at-Home Challenge, participating families’ photos and stories were



displayed on the Muskingum County 4-H Facebook page for a popular vote. Karey and Bryan’s family were the “People’s Choice” winner, with the family receiving camp scholarships for the 2021 county camp.



LEADERSHIP CAMP

The pandemic did not stop one of the 4-H camping program’s premier events: Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp. It was hosted virtually for three

days in June, with 21 participants from 16 counties.

Programming focused on the pillars of leadership: discipline, motivation, planning and initiative, understanding oneself and others, and communication.

“Even though it was virtual, it was still really fun, and all the sessions were good.”
—Abby, 4-H member, Hancock County

And as in previous years, campers assisted in planning some of the activities, including skits, challenges, and reflections.

All participants agreed that the camp taught them important leadership skills. Deeanna, 4-H member from Cuyahoga County said, “I really loved the community that was built, and how kind people were. I also feel like I learned a lot that will apply to my leadership role in my club.”

58 counties represented • 4 out-of-state participants (3 in NY, 1 in MO) • 42 youth who were not already 4-H members
167 females and 95 males • 8–15 age range



ENDOWING FUTURE 4-H SUCCESS

Each year, funds are awarded to county 4-H professionals through The Ohio 4-H Foundation grant process for innovative programming, which benefits youth and volunteers. These grants come from endowment funds provided by generous donors to the Ohio 4-H youth development program. In 2020, The Ohio 4-H Foundation awarded \$166,234.49 for programs. Thank you for endowing the future success of programs such as those shared here.

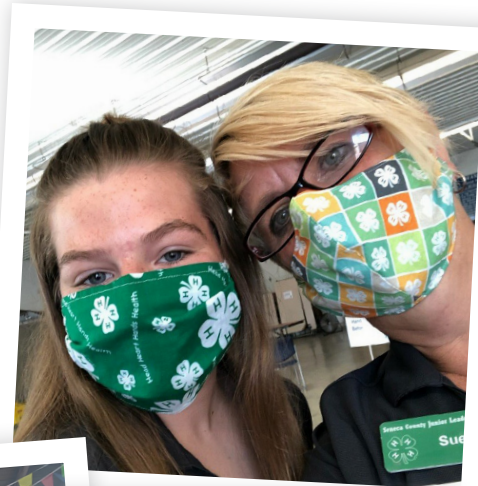
SENECA COUNTY SEWING CLINICS

Thanks to the leadership of eight motivated teens, the Seneca County Food and Fashion Board was formed in 2020. Their plan was to increase interest in project areas by hosting clinics to teach members important skills. When the restrictions on in-person programming altered their plans, they quickly transitioned their efforts to offering virtual clinics. The result was a statewide audience who benefited from their expertise.

The sewing and textiles clinic taught sewing basics: taking measurements, reading a pattern, cutting fabric, stitching tension, and learning the supplies needed for a sewing basket. In the food and nutrition clinic, youth learned about setting tables, writing menus, preparing food safely, analyzing meals for nutrition, using MyPlate, and creating a project portfolio.

The team is ready and waiting for the day when they can offer in-person clinics, thanks to The Ohio 4-H Foundation grant they received to purchase sewing machines and materials.

The Seneca County Food and Fashion Board videos can be viewed under the projects section at ohio4h.org/families/stay-connected.



INTERESTED IN HELPING TO SUPPORT OHIO 4-H? Please consider a gift online: give.osu.edu/4h.



BLAST OFF TO MARS!

The 2020 4-H STEM Challenge took 4-H members on an out-of-this-world mission to Mars with “Mars Base Camp.” Science, technology, engineering, and math kits challenged youth to use their skills to build a rover, explore agriculture and foods that might grow on Mars, build a base camp, and learn coding to share their discoveries.

Thanks to support from The Ohio 4-H Foundation, the Mars Base Camp kit codes were sent to 253 families that included 351 youth. These families were able to purchase kits at a discount and participate in the challenge at home.

The Ohio 4-H STEM Design Team, composed of 4-H professionals focused on creating science experiences for youth, extended the challenge by offering families additional resources.

A Mars Base Camp page on ohio4h.org included videos, links to NASA, and additional space activities.

And Mars exploration will continue throughout the year! Google provided funding for Mars Base Camp educator kits. As a result, Ohio 4-H professionals in several counties will share the STEM challenge virtually with 4-H members and schools.



MARION COUNTY 4-H PARTNERED WITH THEIR LOCAL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICA TO PARTICIPATE IN MARS BASE CAMP ACTIVITIES.

CLOVERBUDS GO VIRTUAL WHILE ON THE MOVE!

Roller skates with big wheels for a smoother ride.
A petting zoo on wheels, complete with animals.
A rescue-bot for nurses to help people.

What do these have in common? Each was a model vehicle designed by an Ohio 4-H Cloverbud for “On the Move!”—the theme of the 2020 Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge.

The challenge, supported by The Ohio 4-H Foundation, is in its ninth year. It typically involves youth meeting face-to-face in teams to problem-solve using STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills. Over several months, teams research a topic based on the year’s theme, build a working model of their solution, and gather at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in the spring to share their project.

Upon learning that guidelines would prevent an in-person event, the program’s co-creators, Beth Boomershine, 4-H educator in Franklin County, and Sally McClaskey, state 4-H program manager, quickly adapted the challenge to an online format—with great success!

Instead of working in teams, Cloverbuds independently created their own project focusing on transportation and the ways in which people and things get to wherever it is they are going. Each Cloverbud built a model out of interlocking bricks, took a photo of the model, and submitted the photo to an online gallery for others to view.

“My boys were a little bit disappointed, but kids are so resilient,” said Kerry Riggs, a Franklin County 4-H club advisor and mother of two Cloverbuds. “They have become used to this because all of their schoolwork is online, and they have learned how to do things like scanning and uploading photos.”

Boomershine discovered an unexpected benefit to the virtual challenge. Ohio 4-H supporters who would not normally have the opportunity to see the Cloverbuds’ construction efforts were able to visit the online photo gallery. “The Cloverbot Challenge is funded by a grant from The Ohio 4-H Foundation, so we were pleased with the opportunity to share the gallery with our generous donors,” she said.

Visit the gallery at go.osu.edu/cloverbot and be sure to click on each photo for a description of the project written by its Cloverbud creator.





GROWING 4-H ACROSS OHIO

PUTTING A POSITIVE SPIN ON 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: OHIO 4-H SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS

Got a strong interest in fashion? Or maybe you're interested in computer science, upcycling, water quality, environmental leadership, outdoor activities, cooking, climate change, money management, electricity, social change, gardening, poultry, or home design. If so, Ohio 4-H has a club designed especially for you!

Called "SPIN Clubs," these Ohio 4-H Special Interest Clubs allow Ohio youth to participate in 4-H programming designed to develop their skills related to leadership, citizenship,

team building, public speaking, service learning, and knowledge acquisition. These clubs also allow youth to participate in the fun, friendships, camp experiences, and other benefits of Ohio 4-H.

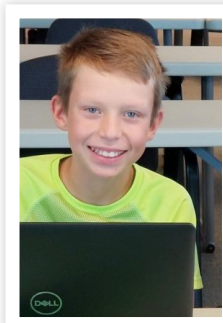
While all 4-H programming offers these benefits to 4-H participants, SPIN Clubs are different because they're short-term and are typically offered at venues where youth

already are, such as at after-school programming. The short-term nature of SPIN Clubs allows youth who might have transportation issues, work commitments, or time

commitments the opportunity to participate in 4-H through short-term programming.

Attendance at each Ohio SPIN Club typically includes five to 75 youth, many of whom have not previously participated in 4-H. Thanks to SPIN Clubs, these youth are now 4-H members with access to other 4-H opportunities.

SPIN Clubs are held year-round, both in-person and virtually, and meet to explore a specific topic. The clubs enhance the 4-H community club model through leadership development, mentoring and teaching opportunities, knowledge acquisition, opportunities to engage with diverse audiences, service



“I liked being able to learn a lot of different things I did not know about before, and being able to talk to professionals in those fields about what they do.”

—Sophia, SPIN Club participant, Franklin County



learning, and the introduction of 4-H to new audiences.

In-person SPIN Clubs are generally held in the county where the youth participants reside, but youth from other counties can attend. The advantage of virtual SPIN Clubs is they have opened the door for youth from across the world to participate in Ohio 4-H, which has included an international participant as well as participants from other states this year.

SPIN Clubs also offer participants access to new partners. One such

partnership with the Byrd Polar Climate Change and Research Center at Ohio State allowed the creation of the Polar SPIN Club, which featured three scientists presenting their work in Alaska, Siberia, and Antarctica. Ohio 4-H youth had the opportunity to engage live with these scientists, while also completing exciting educational activities.



Portage County families were encouraged to participate in outdoor family activities during the Outdoor Explorer SPIN Club.

YOUR THOUGHTS MATTER SPECIAL INTEREST (SPIN) CLUB



Keygan Miller, Ohio 4-H alumnus and youth support services advocate, was one of the speakers for this program.

Amanda Raines knows the importance of understanding teen mental health issues. The 4-H educator in Hardin County helped author the 2018 4-H project book *Your Thoughts Matter: Navigating Mental Health*. And it was the widespread interest in that project that led to the “Your Thoughts Matter SPecial Interest (SPIN) Club.”

The club met online for six weeks to explore mental health topics such as prevalence and statistics, building resiliency, reducing stress and worry, and breaking stigma. More than 65 teens from 58 counties and three states participated, using the project book to guide activities and discussion.

Group activities were adapted for the virtual club format. To learn about misconceptions and stigma, youth

chose one of four mental health movies to watch on their own. During the club meeting, youth used breakout rooms to discuss the way mental health was portrayed in the film.

Youth learned about resilience by voting for household items to hit with a hammer. During this meeting, they voted to smash a bag of chips and were surprised that the bag looked the same before and after being hit with the hammer. The chips inside, however, were reduced to crumbs. Club members discussed how the chip bag represented someone struggling with mental health—things look fine on the outside, but inside the person is not well.

The most popular part of the program was “Mental Health Career Day,” during which professionals joined the club meeting. After introductions, youth went into breakout rooms for interviews with mental health professionals. Evaluations from club participants revealed that this activity introduced most of the youth to new career options.

“This club opened my eyes to the possibilities. I was able to meet so many new friends who are also passionate about mental health! I also think that doing this project as a group was better than if I would have completed it on my own. I really enjoyed this club.”

—16-year-old Your Thoughts Matter SPecial Interest (SPIN) Club participant



ENSURING CAREER AND WORKFORCE READINESS



OHIO 4-H APPRECIATES YOU

It all started last March when Jenny Morlock, 4-H program assistant in Wood County, had the idea to thank essential workers. Wood County 4-H members, volunteers, and alumni were invited to share messages of appreciation via social media. The response was overwhelming and within minutes, messages began pouring in from all over the county. Ohio 4-H members from 32 clubs posted photos and videos sharing their thanks.

The excitement grew and 4-H members around the state got involved thanking essential workers in their communities. The effort was recognized by Gov. Mike DeWine who shared some of the photos during a press briefing. “We thank you, Jennifer, very much, and thanks for all

4-H’ers out there for recognizing our essential workers,” DeWine said.

The challenge also helped participants learn how many workers are considered essential. “It’s not just doctors and nurses, but also people who collect our trash, work at grocery stores, or banks. They and so many others are all at risk,” said Madi Kregel, Wood County 4-H alumna.

Morlock believes this project created a bright spot in the lives of participating 4-H members and the people they acknowledged. “It was an opportunity for 4-H members to understand the challenges faced by workers and be part of a unique service project,” she said. “And it demonstrated that no matter the obstacles, 4-H members make a difference.”



TAKE THE LEAP: CAREER READINESS DAY

It isn’t every year Leap Day happens, so the Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council (TLC) began plans in 2019 for “Take the Leap: Career Readiness Day.” Cecilia Mainzer, TLC vice president of outreach and Medina County 4-H alumna, had the idea as a way for youth to better understand how to prepare for future career opportunities.

Mainzer contacted students from Ohio State, state 4-H groups, and business professionals to offer Ohio 4-H members a day packed with professional development by teens, for teens. Thanks to support from The Ohio 4-H Foundation, the Jim and Marlene Helt Fund, and the hard work of Mainzer, the event was a great success.

Participants not only learned how to use LinkedIn, but they also learned the importance of networking, building a resume, interview skills, and business

etiquette. Entrepreneur Bob Gillingham and the FinMango organization shared financial literacy tips and how to begin investing. Youth even got a head start on their career gear when they received a 4-H padfolio, business cards, and a headshot.

The day was also an opportunity to learn about Ohio 4-H programs. TLC members led a game of Jeopardy, sharing details about older youth activities in 4-H. A State 4-H Fashion Board member talked about statewide clothing projects and membership on the board. Ohio 4-H Health Heroes shared important statistics about health in Ohio, and they discussed their efforts to spread awareness and incite healthy change across the state.

The 69 youth who attended were excited about the new skills they learned and indicated in a post-program survey that they would recommend the event to others.



THIS EVENT HAPPENED IN
FEBRUARY, PRIOR TO THE
PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS.



“After participating in Take the Leap, I feel like I can confidently take on any interview.”

—Alex, 4-H member,
Warren County

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at The Ohio State University

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4-H CELEBRATION OF YOUTH

PRESENTED BY THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION

SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 2021



**save
the
date**

