

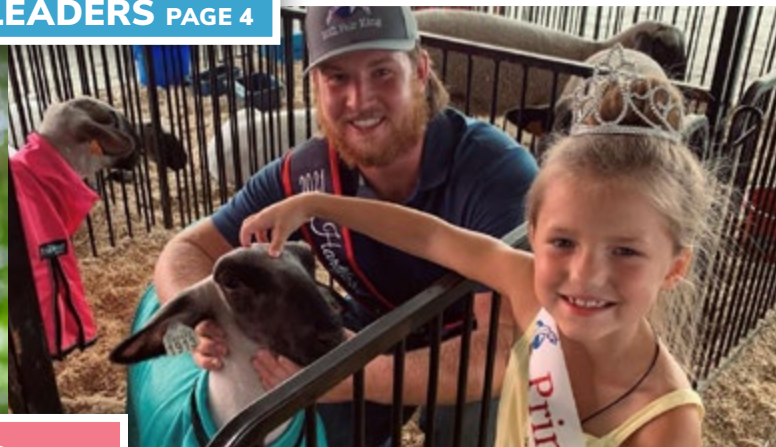


OHIO 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

CFAES

2022 IMPACT REPORT

CREATING TRUE LEADERS PAGE 4



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THIS IS 4-H.



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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION
at The Ohio State University

COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

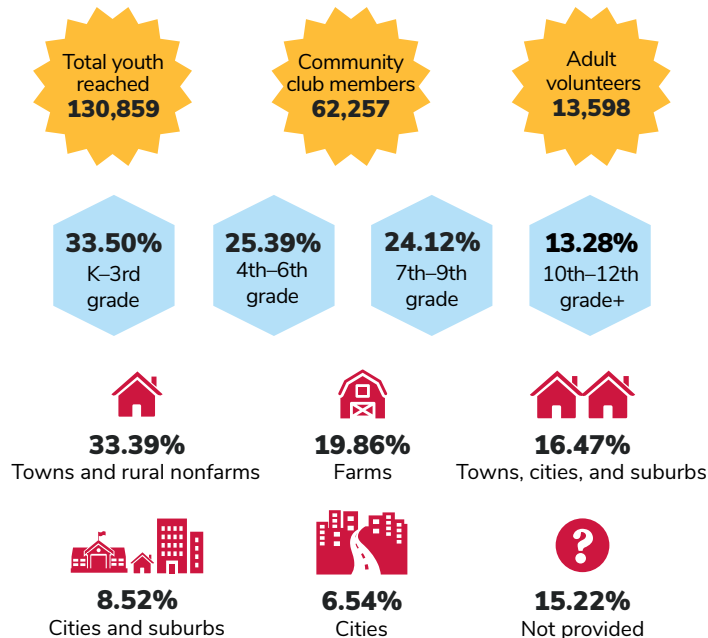
OHIO 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REACH

OHIO 4-H BY THE NUMBERS

Project enrollment



Youth and volunteer involvement



CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF 4-H

On Jan. 15, 1902, A.B. Graham organized the first meeting of the Boys and Girls Agricultural Club in Springfield, Ohio. Graham prioritized learning by doing and emphasized the importance of hard work to achieve success as he laid the foundation for today's 4-H program.

2022 marked 120 years of positive youth development in Ohio. This is possible thanks to the support and generosity of our sponsors, donors, professionals,



volunteers, and families, all of whom help provide youth with the tools they need to build lifelong skills, inspire curiosity, fuel a sense of adventure, and grow into true leaders.

A.B. Graham was inducted into the Dayton Region Walk of Fame this year. Barbara Sydnor, Graham's granddaughter, and her son, Jared, attended the ceremony and accepted the honor.



Do you want to share why you give to Ohio 4-H? Complete our survey and we might feature you on The Ohio 4-H Foundation's Facebook page!

Thanks to our partners for your generous support!

We are incredibly grateful for all the community partnerships that made youth development programming successful this year.

- Nationwide
- Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Foundation
- Farm Credit Mid-America
- Apple
- Kroger
- Google
- Bob Evans Farms
- Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Heartland Bank



Families and friends,

As we bring the 2022 Ohio 4-H youth development program year to a close, I continue to be incredibly impressed with all the ways we work together to inspire curiosity, fuel adventure, teach lifelong skills, and foster a strong work ethic among the youth we reach.

This year, we celebrated the 120th birthday of Ohio 4-H. In 1902 in Clark County, our founder, A.B. Graham, started what would come to be known far and wide as 4-H. It is fitting that in 2022, A.B. Graham was inducted into the Dayton Region Walk of Fame, an honor bestowed on Ohioans who've made a significant positive impact in the world. His legacy continues to be the strong foundation of engaging youth in hands-on learning, led by 4-H professionals, supported by community volunteers, and grounded in research from the nation's land-grant universities.

Through project-based learning, in-person events, and camps, Ohio 4-H members form new friendships, become better leaders, and give back to their community. Along with our Ohio 4-H volunteers and alumni, we are helping to ensure that Ohio 4-H is welcoming to people of all backgrounds and giving youth a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.

Together, we don't just go through the motions of saying the 4-H pledge, we bring it to life. And in the process, we deliver on the promise of the 4-H motto—to make the best better.

Sincerely,

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



Dear Ohio 4-H families and friends,

Winston S. Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." Scientific studies show that generosity increases feel-good hormones and decreases stress hormones, and people who give generously tend to live longer. If that is the case, The Ohio 4-H Foundation is certainly blessed with a bunch of friends who are living long, happy, stress-free lives!

This year, The Ohio 4-H Foundation spent time asking 4-H volunteers and supporters from across the state to share why they give to Ohio 4-H. If you follow the foundation on Facebook **@Ohio State – 4-H Foundation**, you may have seen some of the posts featuring their responses. In case you missed it, let me share what we found out.

Ohio 4-H supporters tend to give of their time and treasure because they enjoy giving back, mentoring young people, meeting new friends, and watching youth succeed. Some want to help teach life skills and prepare young people for the future. Others give because they find joy in seeing 4-H members excited about their projects and club work, or as a way of saying thank you for the profound effect 4-H had on their own lives. Some give because they feel responsible for ensuring the next generation has the same benefits and opportunities that they had, and they see supporting 4-H as a long-term investment that will have compounding returns in the future.

Thank you for helping make the best better every day! Supporters like you make it possible for Ohio 4-H to continue to grow and meet young people where they are today. We sincerely appreciate you and the investment you are making for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Lisa Peterson
President
The Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees

OUR FOCUS



Creating true leaders

In Ohio 4-H, true leaders aren't born; they're grown. Youth grow these skills through 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 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

4-H TEENS TAKE THE LEAP INTO CAREER READINESS



TLC members Adriana Meyer of Henry County and Avalon Havan of Pickaway County (front row at right) co-chaired the event.

Ohio 4-H is proud to help create the next generation of leaders and provide them with the skills needed to be successful long after they complete their 4-H experience. The Teen Leadership Council (TLC) took the lead in this effort by taking a leap into career preparation!

2022 marked the third year of Take the Leap Day and was hosted by TLC at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Thirty teens from Ohio participated in breakout sessions with guest presenters. They learned about goal-setting, written communication, teen opportunities, how to prepare for an interview, and entrepreneurship. They each also completed a leadership assessment and received a professional headshot. Through the generosity of The Ohio 4-H Foundation's grant program, each participant went home with a padfolio, a journal, and a pen.

4-H LEADS TO A ROYAL ROLE MODEL

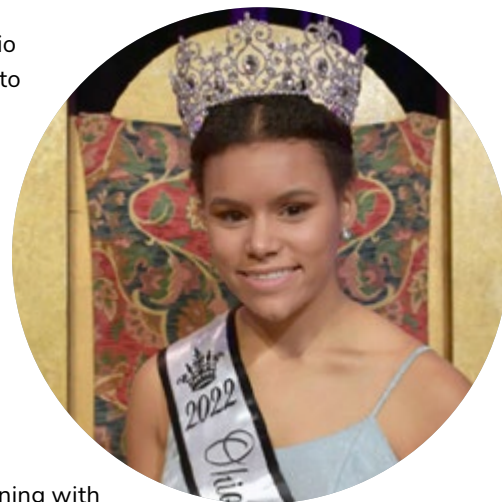
In January, Maya Kidd was crowned the 2022 Ohio Fairs' Queen, an achievement that served as a fitting conclusion to 11 years of 4-H experiences.

Kidd began her 4-H career as a Cloverbud before moving on to sewing and cooking projects and showing livestock. "We lived in the suburbs, so my mom didn't know what we were getting into," said Kidd, who got her start showing livestock by borrowing animals from her 4-H advisor and family friends.

During her time as Ohio Fairs' Queen, she strove to be a role model for the next generation of 4-H members. "I wanted to be an ambassador for fairs and let them know there is something for everyone. I was able to encourage others and share the importance of 4-H."

Service to others is important to Kidd, beginning with her family's efforts, throughout her 4-H career, and now looking to her future. She is currently studying speech-language pathology in college, and after graduation, she wants to use her degree to promote access to communication for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In June, The Ohio 4-H Foundation recognized Kidd as the recipient of the CARTEENS Achievement Award, giving her the opportunity to attend National 4-H Congress in Atlanta.



A CAPITOL EXPERIENCE

The National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C., dates to 1927 and is the pinnacle experience in civic engagement for 4-H members. It gives delegates the opportunity to discuss timely topics that affect them—climate change, student health, college affordability, and more. They examine issues and explore solutions, leading to important conversations with federal officials.

Travis Allen, Kalleigh Fry, Melina Matrics, Sara Newsome, and Tessa Wood attended the conference in person and spent the week participating in roundtable discussions, presenting to federal partner agencies, and engaging with senators and representatives. “My time as an Ohio delegate at the National 4-H Conference was unlike anything I had experienced before, and it truly had an impact on me as a 4-H member and as a citizen,” said Fry.

Allen agreed, “The conference went above and beyond my expectations, and I was proud to be part of the Ohio delegation. I learned a great deal through my roundtable that I can apply to my life, such as how to create a professional group presentation on a short timeline.”



“National 4-H Conference will always stand out as one of the biggest highlights of my 4-H career. I plan to double major in political science and community leadership, and with the experience I gained, I now have a better understanding of how federal agencies work and how to prepare and give briefs to government agencies.”

—**Madi Lawson**, virtual delegate

IF IT'S SUMMER, IT'S TIME FOR CAMP!

SEA CAMP

Sea Camp was a highlight for 48 youth who arrived at Kelleys Island for a long weekend of aquatic-based programming. Campers were introduced to the Great Lakes through hands-on activities where they learned about aquatic science, kayaking, power boating, stand-up paddleboarding, jet skiing, and fishing. Sea Camp was made possible through funding from The Ohio 4-H Foundation and partnerships with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Cleveland Metroparks Youth Outdoors, Ohio Sea Grant, and The Ohio State University Stone Laboratory.



LEADERSHIP CAMP

The next generation of leaders had the opportunity to participate in a five-day leadership development experience at Ohio 4-H Leadership Camp. Campers attended sessions focused on building trust, finding motivation, developing strong communication skills, and more. With these newly acquired skills, teens left camp prepared with the tools necessary to make an immediate impact in their 4-H clubs, counties, communities, and schools.



ENDOWING FUTURE 4-H SUCCESS

Each year, The Ohio 4-H Foundation awards state and local county 4-H professionals funds through a grant process. These funds provide new opportunities for innovative 4-H programming, which benefits youth and volunteers around the state. These grants come from endowment funds provided by generous donors to the Ohio 4-H youth development program. Fundraisers such as the Celebration of Youth help support this endowment.

25 YEARS OF SUPPORT FOR OHIO 4-H



State Rep. Mark Johnson (center left) and State Sen. Bob Peterson (center right) recognized the exceptional work done by Ohio 4-H over the years with a proclamation signed by Sen. Andrew Brenner, Sen. Matt Huffman, and Sen. Peterson.

Over the past 25 years, the Celebration of Youth has raised more than \$1.3 million in support of Ohio 4-H youth development programs. In October, The Ohio 4-H Foundation recognized the 25th anniversary of this annual event at Leeds Farm in Ostrander, and the generosity continued as more than 300 guests helped raise over \$130,000.

More than \$9,000 in pledges were received to support youth interested in attending life-changing leadership experiences such as National 4-H Conference, Healthy Living Summit, True Leaders in Equity Summit, Citizenship Washington Focus, and National AgriScience Summit.



Proceeds from the Celebration of Youth support innovative programs throughout Ohio. A special thanks to this year's sponsors for their support and dedication. Find a list of all of our Celebration of Youth sponsors at go.osu.edu/COY.



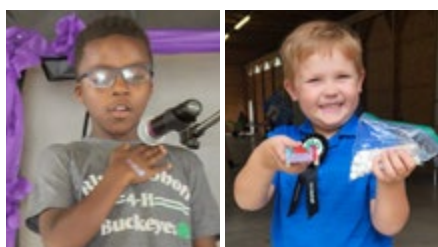
INTERESTED IN HELPING TO SUPPORT OHIO 4-H?

Please consider a gift online (ohio4h.org/give-now) or use the attached envelope.



CLOVERBUD OPPORTUNITIES IN SENECA COUNTY

To help Cloverbuds ease into the idea of completing 4-H projects and participating in judging when they get older, Katie Cole, Extension educator for 4-H in Seneca County, was excited to use money from an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant to implement a Cloverbud Share Fair.



This program encouraged Cloverbuds to bring a craft they created in their club to one of Seneca County's prefair judging days. Cloverbuds presented their crafts to a junior leader or Junior Fair Board member and received a participation rosette for their hard work. "For many Cloverbuds, this was their first time receiving a ribbon, so it was gratifying to watch their faces light up with pure joy after being awarded one," said Cole.

After the Share Fair, Cloverbuds were also invited to participate in a public speaking demonstration where they recited the 4-H pledge for a small audience. "They were so nervous at first," said Cole, "but after they were done, it was a whole different story. The smiles on their faces were priceless!"

COME DISCOVER 4-H

When the Ohio 4-H *Family Guide* listing all projects is published each year, it is exciting for 4-H members to read through it and decide what they will focus on in the coming months. But selecting a 4-H project can be a challenge for some, especially for new 4-H members. To ease the stress of this process, Tracy Winters, 4-H professional in Gallia County, sought the assistance of an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant to create a program that would encourage youth to "Come Discover 4-H."

Seventeen youth in second through fourth grades participated in hands-on information sessions where they learned about 4-H projects in five different interest areas. These categories included food and nutrition, creative arts, STEM, animal sciences, and natural resources and shooting sports, and they completed activities that helped them learn about the project work in each category.

Winters said, "Making specific connections to project books helped participants see how to apply their interests to 4-H and use project work to explore their passions." Each participant received a voucher for a free project book of their choice, basic supplies to help complete a 4-H project display, and access to additional materials in Gallia County's Project Pantry.

SCHOLARSHIPS FUND YOUTH EDUCATION

This year, Ohio 4-H celebrated a milestone birthday. In honor of 120 years of youth development, The Ohio 4-H Foundation set a goal of \$120,000 for scholarships. With the support and generosity of 275 donors, more than \$100,000 was raised, which will support a scholarship endowment for Ohio 4-H youth to attend Ohio State.

This year, five deserving 4-H alumni were awarded scholarships, including Bailey Ward, Bethany Starlin, Reagan Feldner, Maddie Allman, and Elizabeth Ohl, shown here with CFAES Dean Cathann A. Kress.

"Ohio 4-H had a monumental impact on my life. It instilled a passion for animal health and infectious diseases, and has inspired me to attend veterinary school. The scholarships I've received at Ohio State have been essential in helping me grow."

—Elizabeth Ohl, fourth-year animal sciences major and Licking County 4-H alumna



Join us in celebrating the generosity of these donors and their commitment to supporting the education of our youth through scholarships for Ohio 4-H members!

- Luanne Schmidt Code and Brian E. Code Family Scholarship Fund
- Daryl and Joyce Deering Family Legacy Scholarship Fund
- The Robert and Mary Fund for Morrow County (funded through Lee Ann Leohnard)
- Paul A. Mahle Scholarship Fund (funded through Dennis and Deborah Mahle)
- ABC 4-H Leadership/Scholarship Fund (funded through Tom and Donnette Calhoon)



INTERESTED IN CREATING OR SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OHIO 4-H?

Please contact The Ohio 4-H Foundation at ohio4hfoundation@osu.edu.



GROWING 4-H ACROSS OHIO

4-H EXPANDS ACCESS TO COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Thanks to a grant from Google, 1,500 more Ohio youth will have increased access in 2023 to computer science education offered by Ohio 4-H. The funds are part of a \$5 million grant to National 4-H Council to help expand access to computer science, and Ohio will serve as the lead state in this initiative.

The grant was announced in October during a youth coding event at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Ohio 4-H youth learned how to create code for animation during the event and shared their work with Jon Husted, Lt. Gov. of Ohio.

The grant allows 4-H to expand its Clovers CODE (Creating Opportunities Designed for Everyone) statewide programming that introduces



problem-solving, computer literacy, and coding through hands-on activities.

The programming is offered in 50 counties across the state. Additional

programming is also offered in areas where computer science resources are limited through the 4-H Mobile Design Lab, a 35-foot bus equipped with technology tools.

“Our goal is to move youth from content consumers of technology to content creators with technology,”

said Mark Light, leader, Ohio 4-H STEM and digital engagement specialist, who also leads the Clovers CODE initiative.



READING MAKES THE BEST BETTER

During Guernsey County 4-H Week, 4-H professionals and volunteers brought “Reading Makes the Best Better” and “Reading and Still Making the Best Better” to 21 kindergarten and third-grade classrooms. They visited six elementary schools and spoke to more than 400 students about literacy awareness and opportunities available through Cloverbud and 4-H programs.

In kindergarten classes, volunteers read stories and spoke about the importance of learning to read. Students received their own book to take home, along with a Cloverbud recruitment brochure.

After having conversations about why they should continue reading as they get older, third graders received their own copy of *Charlotte’s Web*. Ohio 4-H professionals and volunteers also presented information about how to get involved in a local 4-H club and provided a list of 4-H projects.

Guernsey County 4-H began their outreach work in kindergarten classrooms through the Reading Makes the Best Better program in 1999 with the help of a grant from The Ohio 4-H Foundation. Three years ago, Michelle Fehr, Extension educator for 4-H in Guernsey County, expanded this program to include third graders by introducing Reading and Still Making the Best Better.



CAMPERS BECOME CONSERVATIONISTS

Every year, Ohio 4-H partners with organizations around the state to introduce youth to new career pathways, a primary goal of this year’s Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp. In April, 50 youth, ages 12–18 arrived at Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp and spent a weekend learning about careers in natural resources.

Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp was funded in part by an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant and was also made possible through a partnership between OSU Extension, Hocking College, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

ENCOURAGING WELLNESS THROUGH ART

A growing body of research points to the increased need for mental, social, and emotional wellness support for youth, particularly as they adjust to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this year’s Summer Day Camp at Adventure Central in Dayton, Ashlynn Favors, group leader, met kids right where they were on their wellness journeys, complete with her big heart and million-dollar smile!



“Ms. Ashlynn,” as she is known to Adventure Central campers, put her knowledge, research, and creativity to work as she single-handedly revamped the summer arts and crafts program. She implemented 28 lessons in 28 days, where campers created positive affirmation boards, made heart-love reflection crafts, and responded to journal prompts about positive emotional self-exploration and mindful expression.

Ms. Ashlynn’s program was a key stepping stone for wellness at Adventure Central, introducing new ways for kids to learn about their own self-esteem, self-worth, and emotional regulatory skills. She helped youth develop tools that let them explore their thoughts and feelings, so they can express these emotions in ways that help them grow and show who they are.

This program was made possible through support from The Ohio 4-H Foundation and the JoAnn mini-grants program.



ENSURING CAREER AND WORKFORCE READINESS



4-H TEENS FIND THEIR SPARK

The Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus was the site of the first Spark EXPO (Exploring Pathway Opportunities) last summer. For three days, 29 youth explored a variety of careers through educational sessions led by faculty and staff from Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

One of the most popular activities was offered by the CFAES School of Environment and Natural Resources, where youth were able to explore the Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens wetlands through the perspective of a wildlife conservationist. They used dip nets to discover what types of insects and other wildlife they could find and identify.



BUTLER COUNTY CREATES AGFEST

Recent reports indicating Ohio continues to lose farmland annually galvanized Emily Masters, Extension educator for 4-H in Butler County, to create an opportunity for youth to learn more about agriculture-based careers. With the help of OSU Extension-Butler County staff and an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant, the inaugural "AgFest" event took place in September.

More than 500 students in grades 5-7 attended and learned about

careers in floriculture, livestock production, landscaping and design, food science, conservation and urban forestry, veterinary medicine, engineering, and more.

Margo Long, state 4-H program manager for workforce development, also gave students the "Pick Your Path" survey. It assessed students' strengths and weaknesses in specified subjects and helped them discover potential careers and pathways for their future.

4-H IGNITES PASSION FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE

For many 4-H members, project work serves as a way to explore new topics or expand current skills, and for some, these experiences evolve into a lifelong passion that determines their future career. For Megan Johnson, a 13-year member of Country Circus 4-H Club in Scioto County, it was 4-H and her experiences showing sheep at the county fair that inspired her to become a veterinarian.



In 2022, Johnson began her junior year at Morehead State University in Kentucky, where she is a preveterinary medicine major, but her love of animals began at an early age.

Raising and caring for livestock not only taught her practical skills she now uses in her university classes, but it also helped her become comfortable around large animals—a lesson not easily learned in the classroom setting. “Some of my classmates are a little skittish around bigger animals. My firsthand experience handling them made me more confident when interacting with large animals,” she said.

Without 4-H, Johnson would not have discovered her chosen career so early in life. “Given my love for animals, I would have pursued a career where I got to work with them, but 4-H helped me discover my passion for veterinary medicine,” she said. “The time I spent working with animals and raising sheep with my dad helped me learn I want to specialize in veterinary medicine for livestock.”



ROCKING A CAREER

Molly E. Hunt works as a geologist and paleontologist at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Geological Survey, but she got her start in the Darke County 4-H program.

Hunt traces her interest in geology to her 5-year-old self, who spent days searching for rocks for her collection. Over the next five years this interest grew, and during her second year of 4-H, she took her rock collection to county judging for the *Collectibles* project. “The judge was impressed with my passion for geology at such a young age and encouraged me to write a geology project book one day.”

During her final year in 4-H, Hunt did just that. With the help of Bob Horton, retired 4-H STEM specialist, and Jane Wright, 4-H curriculum manager and director of Extension Publishing, Hunt wrote *Geology: Can You Dig It?*, a project book that helps 4-H youth explore geosciences. A few years later, Hunt went on to co-write a second project book, *Exploring Polar Science*, with Jason Cervenec of Ohio State’s Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center.

She continues to give back to Ohio 4-H members by providing programs about Ohio’s geology, sponsoring clock trophies at the Ohio State Fair, and sharing her 4-H story at events across Ohio and the United States.

Thanks to the Ohio 4-H Spark EXPO...

- 67% of participants strongly agree they can start to connect their 4-H experience to career aspirations.
- 63% of participants strongly agree they had hands-on experiences in the career pathway in which they are interested.
- 67% of participants strongly agree they can identify various careers in the agricultural industry connected to their interests.

THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION
at The Ohio State University

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Save
the
date!

4-H CELEBRATION OF YOUTH

at Leeds Farm

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14, 2023

The 4-H Celebration of Youth gathers our community of supporters together to help advance the mission of Ohio 4-H. It is an evening of food, fellowship, and fun, brought to you by The Ohio 4-H Foundation.

We hope you will join us!

