

## The role of 4-H council

4-H can be very confusing and overwhelming for new 4-H families. The first year of 4-H is a steep learning curve for everyone involved.

For many, the difference between 4-H clubs and the county 4-H council may be hard to understand. Or, new families may not know what role the county council plays in the overall 4-H program. Phillips County has an active 4-H council, made up of a group of individuals committed to the success of Phillips County 4-H members.

While 4-H clubs consist of community youth, ages 5-7 (cloverbud members) and 8-18 (regular 4-H members) and their families, county council members are voted upon by their club to serve as their club's representative on the council. Each club in Phillips County may elect two youth representatives and one alternate to serve on the council.

Any qualified Phillips County 4-H member may run for a county council office. The slate of officers includes: president, vice president, secretary, reporter, treasurer, parliamentarian, historian/photographer, senators and adult leader advisors. The youth who serve on the council have the opportunity of actively learning leadership skills, as they are primarily responsible for running the council and making countywide 4-H program decisions.

The primary objective for the county council is to serve as the coordinating body for all 4-H clubs in Phillips County. The council also assists in the development of 4-H members by encouraging club meetings, club exhibits, tours, demonstrations, judging contests, camps, social meetings and other activities.

In order to meet these objectives, the 4-H council's annual budget includes funding to help send Phillips County 4-H members to various camps, conferences and workshops. In addition to this, 4-H council also provides funding to host camps for the cloverbud 4-H members to learn about 4-H and participate in fun, non-competitive activities.

## **Extension Corner**



Since 4-H's motto is "To Make the Best Better," Phillips County 4-H Council's officers participate in an annual officer training, learning about leadership and their roles and responsibilities as a 4-H council officer. Council officers and club representatives are instrumental in the success of the annual 4-H Achievement Program.

Council members are called upon numerous times throughout the year to help with many different 4-H events and functions.

The Phillips County 4-H Council meets 8-10 times per year to discuss 4-H business and come up with ideas for the promotion of the local 4-H program. Council members and their families give many hours to Phillips County 4-H in order to make the program the best it can be!

If you are interested in learning more about Phillips County 4-H, or if you would like to find out how to help the Phillips County 4-H Council meet their objectives, please call the Phillips County Extension Office at 970-854-3616. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

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