



## Talking Points for Oklahoma 4-H -- March 2008

- The 4-H program's mission is to empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.
- 4-H has 3 primary program areas: 1) science, technology, engineering, and math; 2) healthy living; and 3) citizenship.
- 4-H is one of the largest youth development programs in America with more than 6.5 million young people ages 5 through 19.
- 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances from university research.
- Youth learn leadership, citizenship and life skills through hundreds of projects with topics as varied as rocketry, GPS mapping, public speaking, nutrition, animal science, biotechnology, and environmental science.
- The programs are offered through community clubs; school-based, after-school camp settings; and U.S. military installations worldwide.
- The Oklahoma 4-H program celebrates a centennial of service in 2009.
- Over 158,734 Oklahoma youth benefited from 4-H in 2007.
- 4-H has a presence in every county in Oklahoma. 56% of 4-H'ers live in rural areas; 31% live in suburban areas; and 13% live in urban areas.
- Over 50% of Oklahoma 4-H alumni earn college degrees, compared to 20% of the general populace.
- 88% of 4-H alumni continue to live, raise families, and spend money in Oklahoma.
- In 2007, 4-H'ers conducted 27,000 community service activities in Oklahoma. They contributed over 300,000 hours of service to their communities at a value of just under \$2 million.
- The Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, Inc., provides a private, non-profit source of support to the mission and goals of 4-H youth development at all levels in Oklahoma.