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Amplifying Life

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Citizenship vs. Leadership

As we move through the month of May, 4-H members are busy working on their projects and preparing for the fair. The county fair is a chance for 4-H members to showcase the results of their hard work throughout the year. The process of the project and journey of learning is different for each member. Ribbons are nice, but the journey along the way is just as important. If you remember back to a previous article, the 4-H motto is "To Make the Best Better." One benefit of the fair is for youth to be able to evaluate their success, with the help of a judge, on the project and their personal learning. This process ends with reflection to help assess how improvement can be made in the future.

The four H's: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health encompass the many aspects of learning and growth that happen with involvement in 4-H. Personal growth through the journey of each project allows youth to learn more about themselves as a person, a leader, and a community member.

There is sometimes some confusion when discussing the two topics of citizenship and leadership. Citizenship is something that is done with the purpose of bettering the community. Citizenship focuses on the unnecessary services that a person provides for his or her community. Citizenship can be a way to help others in need or to give back to the community itself. Some examples of citizenship are: park clean-up day, collecting food for the food pantry, Christmas Caroling, or a trash clean-up day among many others.

Leadership occurs when a person takes initiative at a given time. Leadership can be behind the scenes. Often times, an effective leader is almost invisible. Leadership is organizing, delegating, allowing others to have a part, and taking time to include everyone. Examples of leadership can include: serving as an officer in a club or on a committee, teaching others how to do something, filling the role of mentor to a younger member, serving as a camp counselor, helping to organize an event.

Our 4-H clubs help youth to develop leadership skills and provide opportunities to become responsible citizens. I would like to invite you to the local fairs to see the youth display their efforts for the year in each of the projects. More information can be found on our website www.flinthills.ksu.edu. For more information, please feel free to

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