

WORLD OF WORK

4-H Enrollment is Open

Enrollment is now open for the 2020 4-H program year. Go to <https://ne.4honline.com>.

Please use Google Chrome web browser to enroll in 4-H On-line.

Passwords – If you have forgotten your password, use the “I forgot my password” option or contact the extension office. **DO NOT** set up a new profile.

Clubs and projects will need to be added back into profiles as they were cleared out at the state level.

New/Revised Projects for 2020:

Photography

Photography Basics–Level 1;
Next Level Photography–Level 2;
Mastering Photography–Level 3

Conservation

Outdoor 1; Outdoor 2; Outdoor 3;
4-H Geology; Outdoor Skills

Youth Mentoring

Megan Hanefeldt, Nebraska Extension Educator in Knox County

You might have heard of youth mentoring, but what exactly is it and what is the importance of it? According to the National Mentoring Partnership youth mentoring is ‘a development strategy for a youth’s successful path to adulthood’. In many of our communities youth mentoring takes place in both formal and informal settings.

An informal mentoring setting is a naturally occurring adult/youth relationship. These types of mentoring settings can be found in our communities in the form of church or civic associations. This can also be a trusted adult in a young person’s life. These trusted individuals can make a huge impact on a young person’s life by instilling a positive future for the child.

A formal youth mentoring program is a structured adult/youth relationship where a mentor is matched to a mentee. The TeamMates mentoring program in Nebraska has been providing an avenue for youth mentoring since 1991 when Tom Osborne felt the athletes in his program could make an impact on middle school students in Lincoln. The TeamMates program today has nearly 170 chapters serving over 10,000 matches. The program is based on three fundamental pieces: Hope, Engagement and Wellbeing. Hope allows students to have hope for the future and make the future better than the present. Engagement allows for students to do their best every day by engaging them. Wellbeing allows students to examine how they currently feel

and how they feel their life will be in the future.

We know the different types of mentoring avenues, but why is it important? “Research through the National Mentoring Partnership confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development and social and economic opportunity.”

I would encourage you to seek local youth mentoring programs already in place in your community. Turn an hour here and there into a time to make a positive impact in the life of a young person. 90% of those mentored want to become a mentor for others, so the ripple effect goes on and on.

