

4-H'ers Celebrate National 4-H Week and Make a Difference for Their Hometown

When kids in Gatesville considered whether to handle a petting zoo for the city's Cedar Fest on October 7, they told Chamber of Commerce officials it

was conditional—the exhibit must be free for all festival goers.

Chamber officials agreed, despite the fact that other events have a fee, and the kids—members of Coryell County 4-H—got a feel for what it's like to influence their community for the better.

What a great way to celebrate National 4-H Week

Nationally, 4-H has some 6.6 million young people and 6.3 million adult volunteers participating in community-based projects. In 1999,

about 750,000 Texas kids participated in 4-H clubs or school curriculum activities.

"This year 4-H made a pledge to strengthen youth participation and youth-adult partnerships in order to build a volunteerism infrastructure in communities," said Gayle Hall, Extension 4-H specialist. In 1999, more than 217,000 youth got involved in volunteerism, service learning, and community service nationwide, she noted.

"Over and over, volunteers say they concentrate on what they can contribute, yet are amazed by what they gain," Hall said. "People enjoy volunteering when they are able to make needed changes in a community."

Coryell County Extension 4-H agent Marilyn Prause said the 4-H volunteers and the 4-H'ers had a

strong conviction about not charging people to visit their booth and interact with the animals.

"They wanted this to be free and available to everyone, for kids and adults to pet and enjoy the animals," she said. "Much to the delight of our 4-H volunteers and members, the Chamber agreed. We enjoyed providing this service to our community."



These two Canning Club girls, Ruth Lockwood and Lillian Waldrip of Bee County, managed a community canning kitchen during World War I. From April 1 to July 1, 1918, the kitchen canned 30,000 cans of vegetables for public use. They were supervised by Mrs. Mae Click, County Home Demonstration agent, shown at left. The buggy provided Mrs. Click's transportation during this period.



Mark your calendar now!

You're invited to the annual State 4-H Roundup Luncheon for all 4-H Friends & Alumni!

Thursday, June 14, 2001
12:00 noon

See you there!