



\*\* This news release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at <https://ksre-learn.com/4h-leavenworth-county-pies>

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#### **4-Hers, seniors join forces to make pies for the Leavenworth County fair**

Intergenerational program benefits youth and older citizens, says extension agent

*By Pat Melgares, K-State Research and Extension news service*

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – An ambitious group of [Leavenworth County 4-H](#) members have found a delicious way to serve their community – while getting hands-on lessons on pie-making from some of their town’s best chefs.

K-State Research and Extension 4-H agent Sonya Murphy said the youth have paired with the Leavenworth County Council on Aging to prepare 40 pies for the county fair, which takes places in late July and early August.

The first batch came off the prep tables on June 14; the group will meet again on June 26 to finish the job. The pies will be frozen, then thawed and baked just prior to the start of the fair.

“There is value in teaching a skill that is somewhat lost, but especially in allowing a generation (of senior citizens) to pass down their knowledge to the younger generation,” Murphy said. “This inter-generational event not only is educational, but builds relationships between two generations.”

Murphy said approximately 30 4-H members and 12 senior citizens are working together to make pies, which will be sold at the county fair for \$4 a slice. The proceeds will support numerous Leavenworth County 4-H Council activities, including ribbons for Club Days, an achievement ceremony and county fair; watermelon eating contest; and other events that involve nearly 400 4-H youth in Leavenworth County.

“We will be making peach, cherry and apple pies, each with a homemade crust,” Murphy said. “Along the way, youth learn basic cooking skills like measuring ingredients, rolling out dough, and tips and tricks that can help throughout the process. There is also the benefit of fostering communication between youth and an older generation.”

She adds: “It’s nice to see youth put down their electronics and work side-by-side on a hands-on activity with a senior. Seniors are eager to share their knowledge, and the youth are eager to learn.”

This is the second year that the Leavenworth County program is baking homemade pies for the county fair. Murphy called the first year “successful.”

“It is a great way to teach the skill of pie-making and provide our public with a homemade item,” she said. “Homemade pies are a highly requested item in our food stand.”

To learn more about the county’s pie-making efforts, interested persons may contact Murphy at 913-364-5700, or [sonyam@ksu.edu](mailto:sonyam@ksu.edu). More information on 4-H activities around Kansas [is available online](#), or by contacting the [local extension office](#).

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**FOR PRINT PUBLICATIONS:** Links used in this story  
Leavenworth County 4-H Youth Development, <https://www.leavenworth.k-state.edu/4-h>

Kansas 4-H Youth Development, <https://www.kansas4-h.org>

K-State Research and Extension statewide offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations>

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