

4-H Youth Committee Meeting – Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties

Wednesday, May 9th, 2025, 6:00pm (Zoom Meeting)

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome –

4-H Youth Development Educator, Johnna Jennings welcomed meeting attendees and began introductions of Extension staff members to the community committee members.

II. Committee Purpose –

Jennings reviewed the purpose of the committee; “To be the eyes and ears of 4-H Youth Programming in Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle Counties. To assist our staff with programming needs and connections.”

III. Program Updates –

Traditionally, in these meetings, the group is divided into two “breakout” rooms according to program area, Traditional 4-H and Schools and New Audiences. Youth Representatives work with 4-H Community Club staff and Adult Representatives work the New Audience 4-H staff to work on partnerships in our communities and ways for 4-H/Extension to become connected. However, due to low attendance, the group remained together for the meeting.

Extension staff shared program updates. Johnna shared that she will be retiring from Extension on April 30th of this year.

A request was presented to search out new members to serve as current committee volunteer appointments come to an end.

When Extension staff requested feedback on the implementation of after-school 4-H clubs hosted at the local schools, committee members advised against this, as many schools already host afterschool clubs or have other programming. Committee members suggested partnering with teachers to bring 4-H experiences or club activities into the classroom during the school day.

Youth participants suggested that Extension staff partner with local high schools to offer learning sessions on mental and emotional wellness as well as stress management.

IV. Adjournment –

Johnna shared the next meeting date: Wed. October 22nd, 2025, and the meeting concluded.