

4-H Camp Options

We've not revisited the new 4-H Camp model since the announcement last fall that was direct mailed to all 4-H families. For those of you who are new to 4-H or might have forgotten what is happening with 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch, here are the highlights.

- “County Camps” will no longer be happening and Rock Springs Ranch will be organizing and coordinating all aspects of the 4-H overnight camping experience. This means that those of you who are used to “Pioneer Trails” 4-H camp, will not see that as an option and we will not be collecting camp registration as in the past. However, for those who would like to target the same camp date regionally, the Extension units involved in the old Pioneer Trails group suggest “session 4” which is when the Pioneer Trails Camp slot would have been in the rotation for 2022 - June 19-22.
- Youth/Families can now select the timeframe to attend 4-H Camp at the time that works best for you. You can register and pay for 4-H Camp directly at: <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/> Three- and six-night options are available. Other options for camp outside of the “traditional” camper ages follow.
- **Teen Camp:** Rising High Schoolers, ages 14-17, will have their own teen camp opportunities. There won't be “gap years,” and now older 4-H youth who don't want to be a counselor but do want to have a camp experience will have options as well.
- **L.I.T Camp:** This is a teen leadership camp experience for 15 and 16-year old's, rising 11th Graders. L.I.T. stands for Leaders In Training. LIT's will have the opportunity to enjoy many parts of the RSR experience. Time will be split between leadership, community development programming and an introduction to camp staff positions.
- **C.I.T. Camp:** This Camp will be an age appropriate enhancement to the 4-H traditional teen Counselor experience. Teens, 16 to 17-year old's, especially rising 12th Graders, may still come to camp as part of our new Counselor in Training (CIT) Camp. The main change here being that instead of being the 24/7 caregiver for a session of camp, they will just do it from breakfast to bedtime. These youth will be able to provide leadership to younger campers while also having their own community and camp experiences, all with the mentorship and supervision of 18 to 25-year-old youth development staff. L.I.T and C.I.T are the replacement experiences for our “traditional” 4-H camp teen counselors.
- Two sessions of **Family Camp** (early June and early August) offer a chance for the entire family to attend camp at Rock Springs Ranch.

The 4-H camp model has shifted, but the same quality overnight camping experience will be available to all youth across Kansas. The major changes are how campers register for camp, shift to adult staff counselors for campers, removal of local Extension staff from program delivery at camp and the added opportunities for all youth ages 8-18. To view the full information document, visit: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/4-h-programs/camp/docs/Direct%20Mailing%20to%204H%20Families.pdf> and check out more at: <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/>