

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

100 E. Tyler St., Suite 300
Athens, TX 75751
Phone: 903-675-6130
Fax: 903-677-7222
<http://henderson-co.tamu.edu>



July 8, 2016

Clover Connection

By: Kate Pittack
Extension 4-H Agent

The month of July has been a little slower paced here in the Henderson County AgriLife Extension Office. Many 4-H clubs take a small summer break before reorganizing and starting off the new 4-H “year” in August. It has also given me a chance to do some planning and catching up on reports. This timing was a bit of an adjustment for me, coming from the 4-H program in Nebraska where summer (especially July & August) meant prime county fair season. With the dog days of summer approaching I’m happy to get a little break from the bustle and heat.

Last week, I talked about one of the most impractical things I’d done in the name of a 4-H project. This week, I’d like to tell you about one of the most terrifying. Well, at least it seemed like it to me at the time. I was about 10 years old and for my club’s community service project, our parents and leaders had talked us into going door to door in our town to sell daffodils for the American Cancer Society. We were all paired in groups of 3-4 and given a clip board and our “territory” to cover.

When I participated in this activity it was the early 90’s and much more common to have door-to-door peddlers. In today’s world, parents and 4-H leaders probably wouldn’t turn a group of 30 youth out to walk the streets and knock on random doors asking for donations and that’s probably o.k. While having to do this definitely put most of us outside of our comfort zone, we all got pretty darn good at striking up a conversation and giving our “pitch” by the end of the day.

What does all of this have to do with 4-H? Well, first off we were helping raise money for the American Cancer Society and performing community service/doing good deeds for others

is a key component of the 4-H program. The other part was that we were developing and practicing our public speaking skills. With the experience of making “cold calls” under my belt it made writing and presenting a speech for my 4-H communications contest a breeze. While I got my start in public speaking through 4-H, I also went on to participate on the speech team when I got to high school.

Thanking your parents for making you knock on strangers’ doors to ask for donations might not sound like something you would be thankful for, but those initial experiences I had through 4-H in stepping out of my comfort zone certainly helped shape me into the working professional I am today. Thanks mom!

Kate Pittack is the Henderson County Extension Agent – 4-H & Youth Development for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Contact her at: kate.pittack@ag.tamu.edu & visit our webpage at <http://henderson.agrilife.org>