Oct. 7-13 is National 4-H Week, and Dawson County is celebrating the 4-H youth who have made an impact on the community, and are stepping up to the challenges of a complex and changing world.

Nearly 400 youth and volunteers contribute many hours each year to community service and the success of the 4-H program in Dawson County.

They participate in county, state, regional and national events in areas such as leadership, science, engineering, technology, family/consumer sciences and public speaking.

Dawson County 4-H members do service projects like taking May baskets and tray favors to senior living facilities, community cleanup projects, and planting flowers to beautify area towns. These service learning projects help youth realize the power of being a volunteer.

Recent findings from Tufts University's 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development indicate that young people in 4-H are three times more likely to contribute to their communities than youth not participating in 4-H.

Notably, the Tufts research discovered that the structured learning, encouragement and adult mentoring that 4-H'ers receive play a vital role in helping them actively contribute to their communities.

Four-H youth are a living, breathing, culture-changing revolution for doing the right thing, breaking through obstacles and pushing our country forward by making a measurable difference right where they live, according to Mike Wolf, Dawson County Extension assistant.

Learn how you can Join the Revolution of Responsibility at 4-H.org/revolution, or contact Wolff at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Dawson County at 308-324-5501 or mwolff11@unl.edu.