

Welcome to 4-H - A Message for Parents

More Than You Ever
Imagined!

Parents, your involvement is one of the best parts of 4-H!
Please help us *make the best even better* by choosing to be a project or activity leader with the intention of becoming a club manager.



How can you help your child get maximum benefit from 4-H? Are you looking for more involvement opportunities?
Find 4-H Clubs Near You:
Check out our Club Forms!



Take part in shaping 4-H by joining a Committee!
Encourage your child to take on new challenges in Leadership!



Citizenship is a marvelous way to contribute to the club, the community, and the world!

Conferences - Your child can learn new skills, meet new people, and explore the variety of offerings at a leadership or citizenship conference!



SUPPORT THE POWER OF YOUTH

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Purpose

The purpose of 4H is to help young people discover and develop their potential. 4-H encourages young people to set their own goals and make their own plans and decisions. This helps our youth mature and build self-confidence. By being part of a group, 4-H'ers learn to understand and to cooperate with others. These two basic skills help youth achieve a happy, useful life.

Goals

GOALS

The goals of 4-H are to help young people:

- **Develop initiative and assume responsibility**
- **Develop leadership and be of service to others**
- **Develop the ability to live and work cooperatively with others**
- **Acquire knowledge and skills and explore careers**
- **Achieve satisfaction from work and accomplishments**
- **Choose from alternatives and plan satisfying lives**
- **Develop positive self images**

Meetings

The 4-H members in clubs/groups may elect officers and plan, implement, and evaluate an annual plan of work. A volunteer leader coaches the officers and members in these activities. Any parent or adult volunteer leader may join the discussion during a 4-H meeting, but only 4-H members vote on matters that are brought before the club/group.

The meeting also enables members and parents/guardians to get together to share experiences and interests. One of the best things 4-H offers is an opportunity to enjoy learning with family and friends.

4-H Projects and Activities

Learn by doing in an atmosphere where learning is fun is the basic philosophy of 4-H. The project or activity is where learn-by-doing takes place. A 4-H project is:

- Planned work in an area of interest to the 4-H member
- Guided by a 4-H adult leader who is the project leader
- Aimed at planned objectives that can be attained and measured
- Summarized by some form of record keeping

Leader Responsibilities

Project Leaders are adult volunteers, sometimes parents/guardians of members whose duties include:

- Help members plan and organize project work
- Help members organize and conduct project meetings
- Obtain project literature and distribute materials
- Encourage members to set attainable goals
- Keep members informed about project related events
- Give recognition to accomplishments
- Participate in leader meetings

You Can Help

As a parent/guardian, you can support the 4-H program in many ways. You can:

- Provide financial support for your child's project
- Provide transportation to an activity
- Help secure needed materials or equipment
- Support and guide the project work of your child
- Offer assistance to the project group and to the 4-H program

You are vital in helping your child to get the most out of 4-H. Please take an interest in 4-H projects and events and encourage your child to participate. If your child is taking part in an event, come and watch and visit with others. Interest and participation make 4-H strong.

Those Who Care, Share

Part of the history of any organization is the philosophy of the people who help to guide its growth. The 4-H Motto is:

To Make the Best Better

The 4-H Pledge says:

I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

The 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The four H's stand for **Head**, **Heart**, **Hands**, and **Health**. The leaves of the clover are green and the H's are white.

