



## The 4-H Club – What is it?

A 4-H club consists of 5 or more school-age youth, guided by two or more adult volunteers. The 4-H Club's goal is long-term youth development, which encourages its participants to learn life skills that will help them grow into healthy and productive citizens.

A 4-H club is an informal, educational youth opportunity, which serves as a “hands-on” laboratory for helping youth grow in many ways:

- Learning how to make thoughtful decisions
- Developing a thirst for inquiry and lifelong learning
- Learning positive socialization skills by working in a group and as part of a team
- Improving youths' communication skills
- Learning and using practical technical skills
- Acquiring confidence and a positive attitude toward self
- Enhancing citizenship skills by developing an awareness and involvement in their community
- Developing leadership and teamwork skills
- Exploring possible vocations and careers
- Learning to manage time wisely and set priorities
- Interacting with adults who act as role models and have a positive influence on their lives
- Spending quality time with parents/guardians and other caring adults in a mutually rewarding setting

### Types of Clubs

**Neighborhood 4-H Clubs** are groups of youth (5 or more) that are often led by parents/guardians. They meet in schools, churches, community centers, or homes to complete a variety of 4-H projects throughout the year. With the exception of a few countywide clubs, members are usually from the same community.

**4-H School Clubs and After-School 4-H Clubs** - When 4-H curricula are utilized within the classroom during regular school hours or in an after-school program outside of regular school hours the group of children who participate on a regular basis is considered to be a 4-H club. The classroom teacher and/or other resource people who teach the subject matter serve as club leaders.

**Sponsored 4-H Clubs** - A government agency, faith-based group or other youth serving organization may sponsor a 4-H club. Sponsored clubs usually meet at the agency's facilities and are led by agency staff (paid and/or volunteer).

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