

4-H OVERVIEW

NAME: 4-H

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development System is to enable youth to develop knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes, and behaviors to be competent, caring adults.

VISION: The Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development System is a leader in the design and delivery of experiential youth education programs and resources that:

- ☞☞ Represent and deliver the research and knowledge of the land-grant university system and other public and private sources to youth and those who support youth.
- ☞☞ Provide education and training for the youth-serving community of individuals, families, agencies, and organizations.
- ☞☞ Support youth-serving salaried and volunteer staff.
- ☞☞ Positively impact youth volunteers, families, and communities.
- ☞☞ Result in positive adult and youth role and mentor relationships.
- ☞☞ Are delivered through a system of professional youth development educators and volunteer staff.
- ☞☞ Influence youth public policy and engage youth in significant decision-making roles.
- ☞☞ Place priority on development of leadership and volunteer skills.
- ☞☞ Foster networks and coalitions for meeting youth needs.
- ☞☞ Reflect and value diversity.
- ☞☞ Are pro-active and responsive and emphasize prevention strategies while addressing youth and societal issues.

4-H takes Cornell University to the youth of New York State

MEMBERSHIP: 4-H is available to all youth, ages 5-19, regardless of gender, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation or marital status may join 4-H. 4-H Cloverbud membership is limited to a club setting.

Adult volunteer leaders come from all walks of life. They serve on boards of directors, issue advisory committees, and finance committees, in addition to carrying out their responsibilities as club leaders, special interest group instructors, etc. Many thousands of experienced 4-H members serve as teen leaders.

FOUNDED: Congress passed the Smith Lever Act in 1914. This provided for a National Cooperative Extension Service. Under it, the “boys” and “girls” “club work” became 4-H.

WORLD SCOPE: 4-H is international, with more than 80 countries having 4-H or organizations modeled after 4-H programs. 4-H and its counterpart programs have sought to promote international understanding and a feeling of “oneness” among people globally. 4-H is a world leader in developing youth to become productive citizens and catalysts for positive change to meet the needs of a diverse and changing society.

WHAT IS 4-H: 4-H is a unique, informal education program for boys and girls. It is one of the largest youth programs in the world. 4-H’ers live in small towns, cities, the suburbs and on farms. They come from all economic and cultural backgrounds. They “learn by doing”, and carry on varied projects.

4-H EMBLEM: The emblem is a four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf. The letters in the emblem stand for **HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH.** – the foundation of all 4-H programs. 4-H leaders help members develop...

HEAD.....Learning to think, make decisions, understand the “whys”, gain new and valuable knowledge.

HEART....Be concerned with the welfare of others, accept responsibilities of citizenship, determine values and attitudes by which to live, learn how to work with others.

HANDS.....Learn new skills, perfect skills already known, develop pride in work and respect for it.

HEALTHPractice healthful living, protect the well-being of self and others, make constructive use of leisure time.

4-H PLEDGE: (adopted at the first National 4-H Camp, 1927)

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.

4-H MOTTO: “To Make the Best Better”

4-H METHOD: “Learn by Doing”

4-H COLORS: Green & White
Green – Nature’s most common color and emblematic of springtime, life and youth.
White – symbolizes purity and high ideals.

NATIONAL 4-H CENTER: National 4-H Council
7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

NATIONAL 4-H WEBSITE: www.fourhcouncil.org

LOCAL WEBSITE: www.ccefm.com

LOCAL OFFICE:
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