

This guide is designed especially for volunteers, members and their families involved in 4-H through community and project clubs, EFNEP groups, and special school and community enrichment programs. Created by: Bob Horton, Ph.D., Extension Specialist, Curriculum Design

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**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.**

Ohio 4-H Facts

4-H Membership Information

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Ohio 4-H membership begins at age 5 or Kindergarten and ends the year when a youth reaches 18 years of age. Membership begins when an eligible individual is enrolled in a club or group that is under direction of an adult and within the scope of Ohio State University Extension.

Youth in 4-H “learn by doing” as they participate in more than 200 projects and hundreds of other activities designed to help them develop as individuals and become responsible, productive members of society. Last year, more than 286,000 Ohio youth were involved in 4-H.

Did you know? ...

- 4-H is the largest youth organization in the country.
- One in every six Ohioans has been involved in 4-H as a member, volunteer, parent, or donor. There are more than 45 million 4-H alumni nationwide.
- 4-H began in 1902 when A.B. Graham held the first Boys & Girls Agricultural Club meetings in Springfield, Ohio.
- More than 26,000 volunteers contribute 975,000 hours to Ohio 4-H each year. At an hourly rate of \$12.84 (industry standard), 4-H volunteers contribute \$12.5 million in time each year.
- The official 4-H emblem is a green, four-leaf clover with a white “H” on each leaf. The four H’s stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.
- The 4-H motto is: To Make The Best Better.



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Ohio 4-H Foundation

The mission of the Ohio 4-H Foundation is to raise money to enhance the 4-H youth development program and to recognize 4-H youth and the adult volunteers.

Did you know that more than 1,000 individuals, companies, and organizations contribute funds to Ohio 4-H each year?

Financial support for 4-H is provided by the federal, state and county governments. However, public funds cannot fully support 4-H program needs, nor can they be used for 4-H member awards, incentives, or volunteer development and recognition. Thus, the support of donors throughout Ohio who believe in the 4-H program is vital to our success.

The Ohio 4-H Foundation solicits and receives contributions on behalf of Ohio 4-H. The Foundation was founded in 1945, and the Ohio 4-H Foundation Endowment was established in 1946 as a permanent investment in 4-H youth development.

The Foundation is guided by a 42-member volunteer Board of Trustees, comprised of business and industry leaders, Extension personnel and 4-H youth representatives from around the state.

The Board reviews proposals and distributes endowment interest income for the training of volunteer leadership and the recognition of 4-H members through scholarships, awards and positive youth development experiences. The board also oversees the 4-H support funds, which channel private sector annual investments directly to designated 4-H programs.

Several values help determine the Board's plan of action each year:

- Youth development is the focus of all 4-H activities.
- 4-H encourages individuals to reach their potential.
- Partnerships are essential to successful youth development.
- Volunteerism is fundamental.
- Diversity strengthens 4-H.



For more information, call Ohio 4-H Youth Development at 614-292-4444.