

## Ohio 4-H Family Guide

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.

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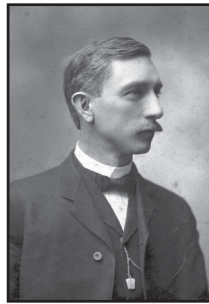
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## How It All Began....

This special Centennial Edition of the Ohio 4-H Family Guide is memory of the founder of 4-H, Mr. Albert B. Graham. It was 100 years ago when A.B. Graham, Superintendent of Schools for Springfield Township in Clark County, Ohio, made an effort to recruit some local students to join what he called a "Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Experiment Club."

The first meeting of this club was held on January 15, 1902 in the basement of the Clark County Court House in Springfield, Ohio. Approximately 85 children from 10 to 15 years of age attended and began what would be called a "4-H Club" within a few years.



A.B. Graham

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Even though 4-H has grown and evolved over the last 100 years, Mr. Graham's educational philosophy of "Learning By Doing" is still going strong. Today, 4-H programs are conducted in all 50 states and in more than 82 countries worldwide.

## 4-H Membership Information

Eligibility for Ohio 4-H membership begins at age 5 or Kindergarten as of January 1 and ends December 31 the year when a youth reaches 19 years of age. Membership begins when an eligible individual is enrolled in a club or group that is under direction of a trained 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.

## Dear 4-H Families,

I am excited that you are participating in the Ohio 4-H program. During the 2002 4-H year we will not only be celebrating our first 100 years of youth development, but preparing for the next 100 years! Across Ohio more than 286,000 youth and 25,000 volunteers are engaged in the 4-H program.

As you may know, 4-H is the youth development program of Ohio State University Extension. Our mission is to provide positive environments for youth and adults to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring and contributing citizens.

While much of the public may see 4-H clubs, project work, county and state fairs, camps, and judging, there is much more! These are the vehicles of linking young people and caring adults to work together in making a difference in the lives of your child and your community. We strive to:

- ⌘ Develop marketable skills in youth for lifelong success;
- ⌘ Encourage community service and citizenship to transform local communities;
- ⌘ Build sustained relationships between youth and adults to enable youth to become positive and productive citizens;
- ⌘ Appreciate and build upon diversity to foster a harmonious global society; and
- ⌘ Build volunteer skills and abilities to more effectively work with youth.

Again, thanks for being a part of Ohio 4-H. Feel free to visit us at [www.Ohio4-H.org](http://www.Ohio4-H.org) from your home. Have a GREAT year!

Sincerely,

Jeff King  
State 4-H Leader

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All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status.

Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Ag. Adm. and Director, OSU Extension

TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868

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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?

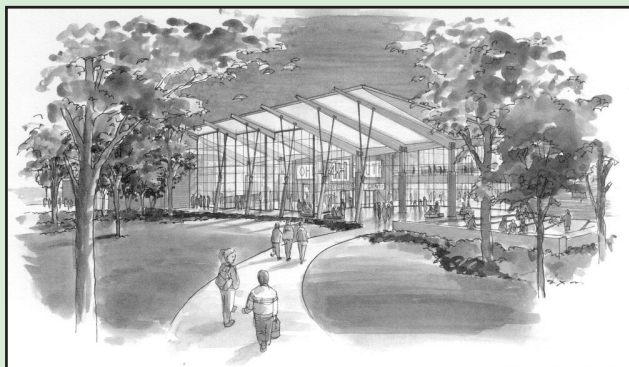
Financial support for 4-H is provided by the federal, state, and county governments. However, public funds cannot fully support 4-H program needs, nor can they be used for 4-H member awards, incentives, or volunteer development and recognition. Thus, the support of donors throughout Ohio who believe 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 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 Foundation is also currently working on raising funds for a new Ohio 4-H Center. The Foundation members value youth and envision that this state-of-the-art facility will provide young people with global experiences which will prepare them to be well-rounded citizens and leaders.

It is anticipated that thousands of Ohio youth will be served through 4-H Youth Development education programs held at the center. The Ohio 4-H Center will serve as the home of Ohio 4-H and provide cutting-edge research, teaching resources, and county programming opportunities.



*Artists rendition of the proposed Ohio 4-H Center*

As 4-H celebrates its centennial, it is time to focus on youth and build a facility that will enable premier youth development programming on The Ohio State University campus. Be a part of "Building the Future." Ask your county OSU Extension office how you can get involved with building the Ohio 4-H Center.

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