
4-H LEADS FOR LEADERS

4-H IS

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Leader's Guide



4-H IS . . . Youth Development and people—sharing, learning, growing—becoming the best they can be.

4-H IS . . . Life skills. Through real-life situations, 4-H helps youth develop life skills such as: communication, citizenship, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal relations and community and global awareness.

4-H IS . . . one of a kind! It provides learning experiences in which youth, with help from parents, interested adults and older youth leaders, grow personally as they develop skills for living.

4-H'ers have fun while they work and learn together. 4-H takes place in meetings, project groups, individual project work, schools, special activities or events. Skills learned through 4-H help people become better members of their families, communities and world. 4-H participants explore careers and positive leisure time activities.

The mission of 4-H is “the 4-H Youth Development program creates an educational environment for positive development of culturally diverse youth, which enables them to reach their fullest potential.” 4-H accomplishes its mission through non-formal education.

4-H IS . . . a family affair. 4-H is centered in the home and family. Members and parents often attend meetings together. Work on projects takes place at home—in the yard or around the kitchen table—with guidance from a parent, an older brother or sister, or a neighbor. The 4-H member needs the support and encouragement of a family. Growing together through 4-H strengthens the family.

4-H IS . . . open to all. 4-H happens everywhere. It is in the city, suburbs and small towns, on farms and ranches. The 4-H program is open to all who wish to participate without regard to race, creed, sex, marital status, handicaps or disadvantages, economic or ethnic backgrounds.

4-H IS . . . a publicly supported informal education program. County, state and federal funds are combined in a unique partnership to support this educational program. The curriculum is provided through your land-grant university—Colorado State University. Private funds from individuals, businesses and organizations enhance the 4-H program by providing support for special events, awards, and recognition and support supplemental educational materials.

4-H IS . . . flexible. More than 150 projects provide opportunities for all youth regardless of location, race or economic situation. Project and program requirements can be modified to meet the needs and interests of special groups.

How 4-H Began

The idea of a 4-H program began to gain strength in the early 20th century. Clubs were organized to teach members how to grow better crops and livestock, to become more skillful in food preservation, breadmaking and related subjects. The names of the projects have changed throughout the years, however, the main objective teaching life skills has not.

Boys and girls enjoyed their projects and proved to be able demonstrators. Their project demonstrations were helpful in getting the best known methods adopted and put into wider use by adults.

In 1914, Congress created the Cooperative Extension Service by passing the Smith-Lever Act. This law made the Extension system a part of each land-grant college. Since that time, 4-H has been directed by the Extension system of each state and territory.

Colorado's first 4-H club was organized in Logan County in 1910. Clubs are now active in every state with over 5-million nationwide and in over 80 foreign countries.

Colorado's 4-H program is guided by Colorado State University Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. County programs are directed by Cooperative Extension agents. Local 4-H work is advised by volunteer leaders in cooperation with the members, their parents and interested citizens in the community.

4-H Symbols

The 4-H emblem, colors, pledge and motto are symbolic of the 4-H organization and its beliefs.

4-H Colors

The 4-H colors are green and white. The white background of the 4-H flag symbolizes purity and the green 4-H emblem is nature's most common color in the great outdoors, symbolic of springtime, life and youth.

The 4-H Emblem

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The four "h"s represent the development of the member's head, heart, hands and health.

The emblem and the name "4-H club" are protected by a copyright held by the United States Department of Agriculture.

4-H Pledge

Every member and leader should know and be able to repeat the 4-H pledge:

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.

Note: In repeating the pledge, raise the right hand to side of head when speaking line #1; place right hand over heart when speaking line #2; extend hands, palm upward, when speaking line #3; drop hands and stand at attention when speaking the remainder of the pledge.

4-H Motto

The 4-H motto is, "To Make the Best Better." This should be the goal of members in all their undertakings.

4-H Slogan

The 4-H slogan is, "Learn by Doing." Teaching done in 4-H Youth Development is organized around this concept.

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