



4-H CAREER PATHWAYS ACADEMY

EXPLORE. INSPIRE. CONNECT.

For 120 years, the Iowa 4-H Program has led the way in innovative programming for young people—providing opportunities for learning, growth and inspiration. A brand-new initiative, the **Career Pathways Academy**, continues this legacy with a goal to reach young people across the state, connect them with career and educational opportunities and inspire them to reach their potential.



The Need. Workforce development and community vitality are top priorities across the state of Iowa. The advancement of technologies and need for skilled workers continues to grow in all parts of our state. To fill these open positions, industry needs a pipeline of committed, qualified workers with not only the experience needed for their positions, but the necessary soft skills and commitment to community as well. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong in Iowa— attracting or keeping these types of employees in communities makes our state a better place to live.



Our Solution. The Career Pathways Academy is a year-long immersive program for youth in grades 8-11 and is designed to offer insight into the wide variety of “pathways” to higher education and career possibilities, while building connections in their local communities. Youth will work in small cohort groups throughout the year, exploring different industries. They’ll then have the opportunity to select 2-3 industries they are most interested in, to dive deeper into what their future in that industry may look like. Along the way, youth will develop skills in leadership, communication and civic engagement, hallmarks of 4-H participation.



Why 4-H. Since 1902, the 4-H Program has been developing youth into tomorrow’s leaders and empowering young people to develop the skills they need to lead successful lives. Iowa 4-H follows the principles of experiential learning and draws on the knowledge base of Iowa State University. Through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences, youth have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential in a safe, inclusive environment, designed to help youth find their own path. In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people and their ability to make a difference in the world.



Program Goals

- Reach underserved and marginalized youth
- Provide hands-on skills development and externships
- Connect youth to career opportunities in their communities
- Build leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial skills
- Prepare youth for long-term academic and vocational success

Industry Pathways

Throughout the year, youth will take part in monthly sessions highlighting the industry pathways listed below. These pathways will showcase workforce opportunities, educational requirements and needed skills while providing hands-on experiences and connections to businesses in their communities.

AGRICULTURE

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

MANUFACTURING

STEAM

How You Can Help



Share Your Expertise

- Host a Tour
- Provide a Speaker



Provide Hands-On Opportunities

- Host an Externship
- Offer a Job Shadow



Invest in Youth

- Provide Scholarships for participants



SCAN CODE TO COMPLETE PARTNER INTEREST FORM OR [CLICK HERE](#)



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

