
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF 4-H!

Basics for New Leaders



Following is a topical table of contents for the six Letters to New Leaders, 4-H 115B to 4-H 115G. These letters and the suggested reference materials are designed to help you be a successful 4-H volunteer who works with youth in a long term experience.

Letter 1: What is 4-H?

- Introduction to the letter series
- What is 4-H?
- How does the 4-H program work?
- How is the 4-H program delivered?
- What's more important – the 4-H project or the 4-H boy and girl?
- What is the 4-H volunteer's role?



Letter 2: How to start a 4-H club

- How to recruit 4-H members-and how many should we have?
- How can I enroll my members?
- What type of club should we choose?
- What is all of this about projects?
- Are there dues for 4-H members?
- What about insurance?
- Where will our club meet?
- How often will our club meet?
- Enrollment guidelines

Letter 3: Planning and facilitating 4-H club experiences

- Setting goals with your 4-H club
- Planning a yearly 4-H club calendar
- Club officers and committees
- Teaching the 4-H pledge, motto, and symbols
- Members learn from meetings
- Possible agenda items for a 4-H club meeting
- Involving parents with your club
- Tours, activity days, etc.

Letter 4: Techniques for teaching youth

- The child-centered approach
- 100 ways to say "very good"
- Helping youngsters learn
- Teaching tools
- Leadership styles and how they affect your club
- Characteristics of a good leader
- What to do about kids who act up
- Okay, so the activity, ideas, or meeting flopped

Letter 5: Opportunities for 4-H members

Club Activities

- Social events
- Community service learning
- Recognition activities

County Activities

- Project workshops
- Contests-Judging, Share-the-Fun, Fashion Revue
- Presentations
- County fair
- 4-H summer camp

Beyond the County

- Citizenship Washington Focus
- National 4-H Conference
- National 4-H Congress

State 4-H activities

- 4-H Youth Conference
- State Fair
- State Council
- Shooting Sports Qualifying Match
- Clover Woods
- Scholarships
- State Recognition

Letter 6: Opportunities for 4-H volunteers

Youth leadership programs

- 4-H leadership project area

Opportunities at the county level

- New 4-H volunteer orientation
- Ongoing 4-H volunteer training/meetings
- County 4-H activities
- County 4-H Youth Committee

Opportunities at the state level

- New volunteer training
- State fair
- Judges' workshops

Opportunities at the national level

- National 4-H Center

Other resources for 4-H volunteers

- Iowa State University 4-H website
- Master Volunteers

Thanks for volunteering!

This is an adaptation of an Oregon State University publication that was prepared by Mary Alice Dodd, 4-H volunteer leader, Linn County; Lyla Houglum, Extension specialist, 4-H and youth development, Oregon State University; and Michelle Robinson, Extension agent, 4-H youth, Oregon State University Extension Service. Development of this material was funded by R.J.R. Nabisco, Inc., through the National 4-H Council Salute to Excellence Program, September 1987.

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