

Ceremony for New 4-H Members

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Ceremonies for new 4-H members should acquaint them with the purposes and ideals of 4-H at the beginning of their 4-H experience. This ceremony may be held at a 4-H club meeting, parents' night, family night, etc. It is best if a leader or officer visits with the new member(s) beforehand to explain the ceremony and what the member(s) should do.

Setting

Six officers or members are needed. Officers stand behind a table, which displays the 4-H flag, the United States flag, and four candles representing the four H's. The new member(s) are asked to come forward.

President: "To you _____," (say new member(s) name(s)) "who are about to become member(s) of _____ 4-H Club, we will explain the purposes and ideals of 4-H.

"4-H helps us become better citizens by teaching us to work, play, and learn together. We develop our talents and try to do our very best in our club.

"You are joining a national organization. Iowa State University, the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., our County Extension Council and our own leaders all help us in 4-H."

First officer: "The 4-H emblem is a green four-leaf clover with a white letter H on each leaf. The H's stand for Head, heart, hands, and health. The head directs all we do. It is placed first among the four H's because in 4-H we learn to think clearly. The head stands for high ideals in our working and playing together.

"The second H stands for heart. The hearts of the 4-H members are kind and friendly. The heart helps us to be sincere and respect others."

Second officer: "The third H stands for hands. Hands help us to do and serve in 4-H. Doing a job well gives you a good feeling. As 4-H members we are skillful workers and learn to finish our work.

"The fourth H stands for health. Good health is important to everything we do. Without health, our head and hands cannot do their best work, and it is hard to keep the heart kind and friendly."

Third officer: "The 4-H colors are green and white. Green is nature's most common color and is the sign of life and growth. White represents purity and our high ideals."

Fourth officer: "The 4-H motto is 'To make the best better.' In 4-H we strive to become better persons, find new ways of doing things, develop new interests, serve others, and continue to learn. In 4-H we keep trying to improve our own best efforts."

Fifth officer: "In 4-H there are certain things that are expected of all members. 4-H members are expected to attend club meetings, take part in these meetings by giving talks or demonstrations, enroll in a project, and complete the 4-H year. We are sure that you will want

to do more. Opportunities in 4-H are unlimited. We, the 4-H officers and members, are always ready and willing to help you.”

President: “We welcome you as member(s) of the _____ 4-H Club.

Optional - All stand and please join us as we say together the 4-H pledge.”

All: “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.”

(Following the pledge the officers may wish to shake hands with the new member(s) as a gesture of welcome and friendship. New members may be presented with 4-H record book covers, small 4-H box, pin, or other 4-H item.)