



Welcome To 4-H



A New Member Guide To 4-H

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

HANCOCK COUNTY EXTENSION, 327 W. 8th STREET, GARNER, IA
641-923-2856 | M-F 8:00am - 4:30pm



Contact Information

My 4-H Club Information

My 4-H Club

My 4-H Co-Leader's Name

My 4-H Co-Leader's Phone Number

My 4-H Co-Leader's Email

My 4-H Co-Leader's Phone Number

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Websites

Hancock County 4-H

www.extension.iastate.edu/hancock/4h

Hancock 4-H on Facebook

www.facebook.com/HancockCounty4H

Iowa 4-H Website

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h

Hancock County Extension Office

327 W. 8th Street
Garner, IA 50438
Phone: 641-923-2856
Fax: 641-923-3671

Iowa State Fair 4-H Non-Livestock Exhibits

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/statefair

Iowa 4-H Livestock

www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock

MISSION STATEMENT

4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WORKING



Member Information

What happens when you enroll in 4-H?

1. Youth select at least one project area in which to enroll. You can request literature, attend meeting specific to that project (if available), and find suggested activity fair exhibit ideas from the Iowa 4-H website.
2. Youth and their families select a 4-H Club in the county to join.
3. After enrolling in a club, a 4-H member (and family) attends club meetings. At these meeting, members plan club events, vote on items, swap ideas and information, and do fun and educational activities.

Beyond local club participation, 4-H families can participate in a variety of county sponsored events, such as project workshops, camps, county fair, and more!

What is expected of you?

County 4-H programs have basic expectations of members, such as:

1. Attend club meetings.
2. Demonstrate skills you have learned for a group.
3. Participate in a community service project.
4. Record what you've done and learned through the year.

Exhibiting at the county fair is a highlight of the year for many 4-H members. Youth are encouraged, but not required, to showcase what they are learning in their 4-H project work at the county fair.

Do you have other questions? A 4-H newsletter is mailed every other month to alert families or upcoming events. **Be sure to read it!**

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.



What does a 4-H Club do?

- Most clubs meet monthly with a year-long plan for their programs.
- Each meeting usually includes presentations by members.
- A 4-H club elects its own officers and conducts its own business.
- Meetings might also include presentations by leaders, parents, or a resource person, recreation / games, a family night, or a field trip.
- Most 4-H clubs do a variety of community service projects. Members should decide the types of projects their club will do.

What happens at a 4-H club meeting?

Here are some things that might happen at a 4-H meeting:

- Games of fun activities welcome everyone.
- 4-Hers say the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge.
- Roll call and share minutes of the last meeting.
- Treasurer's report of income and expenses.
- Committees tell what they've planned or done.
- "Old business" or things talked about before.
- "New business" or new ideas, activities, and plans.
- Presentations are given by members.
- Food and fun are at the end!

Did you know?

A 4-H Club usually elects the following officers:

- **President**—conducts meetings and appoints committees
- **Vice President**—is in charge of the program plans
- **Secretary**—keeps minutes and attendance records
- **Treasurer**—pays club bills and deposits funds received
- **Recreation Leader**—helps plan parties and leads games
- **Reporter**—writes newspaper stories about club events
- **Historian**—keeps a lasting record of the club's yearly story

OUR VISION

A WORLD IN WHICH YOUTH & ADULTS LEARN < GROW AND WORK TOGETHER
AS CATALYSTS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE



4-H Vocabulary

Every organization has a vocabulary that seems familiar only to its members and 4-H is no different. Here are a few of those words:

Projects - A 4-H project is an area of emphasis in which a 4-H'er enrolls, studies, learns, and keeps records. A "Pick Your Adventure" flyer lists all of the project areas in 4-H.

Exhibits - A 4-H exhibit is an item resulting from project work that the 4-H'er has chosen to bring to the fair and have evaluated by a judge. For example: a 4-H'er may enroll in the woodworking project area and choose to bring a birdhouse to the fair that he or she constructed.

Static exhibits - refers to non-animal exhibits displayed in the 4-H Building

Communications - Educational Presentations are talks or demonstrations, given in front of an audience, about some topic that interests the 4-H'er. **Working Exhibits** are less formal. They involve a one-on-one type of demonstration technique. **Share-the-Fun** includes entertainment acts, like music, dance, interpretive speech, or skits. They can involve any number of youth - from one 4-H'er to the whole club.

Conference Judging - This method of judging is used for static exhibits at the fair. A 4-H'er discusses their

work with the judge. The judge determines the ribbon placing and the item is put on display during the fair.

4-H Enrollment - Annually in the fall members must re-enroll in **4-H online** (internet based database). This includes your name, address, phone, health information, parent contacts, and project areas you have chosen for the year.

Code of Ethics Form - This form asks members to be responsible for doing their own project work in an ethical manner. Signed in 4-H online.

Medical Information/Release - Much like the information provided to schools and other youth-serving organizations, 4-H needs medical information in case of an emergency with a member. All information is kept confidential.

Livestock Identification (ID) - All animals that are part of a 4-H project must be identified. Market animals will have ID forms completed at their respective weigh-ins. All other animals are entered into 4-H online.

Entry Forms - These forms are what the 4-H'er completes to enter specific exhibits into competition at the county, district, state, and interstate levels. Each contest has a rulebook and entry deadlines. Some entries are online, others are paper copies turned into the Extension Office.

4-H IS BASED ON RESEARCH



If I Had Only Known...

(From a member)

- I can go to any county activity that is listed in the newsletter. I don't have to be signed up for that project.
- Read each issue of the newsletter very carefully!
- Keep ALL records of activities and presentations from 4-H, school, community, church and other organizations for later reference when applying for trips and awards.
- Any of my friends can join 4-H!! You DO NOT need to own an animal or live on a farm to join 4-H. (most projects don't have anything to do with animals).
- 4-H'ers may join at any age between 4th and 12th grade, not just as 4th graders. (K-3rd grade can be in Clover Kids.)

(From a parent)

- Send a calendar with my child (ren) to meetings to mark down club and county events.
- Keep a drawer or shelf for all the 4- H newsletters, mailings and records.
- Youth are to keep adding to their records each year. It is not the physical method that is most important, rather it is that the records are accurate and reflect what youth have learned.
- Parent(s), guardian(s) and grandparents are encouraged to attend and participate in 4-H events with their youth.
- To read my newsletter and call the Extension Office, or club leader(s) or other 4-H parents with any question (however small I think it might be).

Did you know?

There are three levels in 4-H.

Grades 4-6 are considered Junior 4-H'ers

Grades 7-8 are considered Intermediate 4-H'ers

Grades 9-12 are considered Senior 4-H'ers

4-H MOTTO : TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER



Families in 4-H

Following are some ways that parents and guardians can help their members in the 4-H program:

- ⇒ Help member select the right project (s) for their interests. Be aware of the child's goals and encourage record keeping.
- ⇒ Give encouragement and supervision, but allow the 4-H'er to do their own work.
- ⇒ Help locate or assist youth in finding financial aid for project work when necessary.
- ⇒ Provide a place for records and other club and county materials in the home.
- ⇒ Help members set standards of honesty, teamwork and good sportsmanship.
- ⇒ Be willing to help whenever possible for the club as drivers, chaperones, lunch committee, or as need arises.
- ⇒ Encourage and support the member in attending club meetings. Host meetings at home or help host at another location.
- ⇒ Help member complete club and county requirements for the year.
- ⇒ Give input into the county program by participating in county meetings and serving on committees.
- ⇒ Have fun with youth.
- ⇒ Read the 4-H newsletter and help youth stay on top of dates, deadlines, and rules.
- ⇒ Any 4-H project is for any gender. Sewing and baking doesn't have to be only for girls, woodworking isn't just for boys.
- ⇒ 4-H exhibits can match the interests your child already has. Do they have a garden, help cook, like to draw, or take lots of photos?
- ⇒ Helping your child to keep records of what they have done throughout the year will be helpful in completing any year end records and really helpful in the long run when completing for scholarships and awards.
- ⇒ Seek help and ask questions from Extension Staff, Club Leaders, fellow 4-Hers, and experts in specific project areas.

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We are excited to welcome you as a new member in the world's largest youth organization—4-H! We invite you to join us in making new friends and having fun!

Like any new adventure, there are always many questions. We hope this guide helps answer some of your questions and directs you along the way. We are happy to answer all your questions. Just call the Hancock County Extension Office at 641-923-2856.

4-H is a **community**
of **young**
people
across **America**
who are learning
leadership,
citizenship and
life skills.

4-H Motto:

To Make the Best Better!

4-H Colors

Green —Symbolizes life, springtime,
& youth.

White —Symbolizes purity.

4-H Pledge

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,
My **HEART** to greater loyalty,
My **HANDS** to larger service,
My **HEALTH** to better living,
For my club, my community, my country & my world.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

FIND US AT: EXTENSION.IASTATE.EDU/HANCOCK/4H