

HALL COUNTY 4-H WELCOMES YOU

DID YOU KNOW

- 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth organization with over 6 million youth members!
- In Nebraska, 4-H reaches 1-in-3 age-eligible youth and engages youth and families in all 93 counties.
- 4-H has been around for over 100 years!

There are so many opportunities available in the 4-H program! The 4-H experience can be personalized to fit your goals, schedule, and interests. The best part is you can be involved as a whole family, learning and growing together.



“4-H gave me the confidence to try new things and work toward goals.” - 4-H Member

***“The friendships and support received throughout my years in 4-H will help me conquer my dreams.”
- 4-H Member***





Joining 4-H

Your first step in joining 4-H is registering online using the 4-H enrollment system (4-H Online); go to v2.4honline.com to get started! The system is open mid-October through September 30th each year.

What works best for you? - A Community Club or Joining as Independent Members

4-H Community Club:

The flagship of 4-H is the traditional club program, where youth receive support from adult mentors and are encouraged to take leadership roles. Clubs have regular meetings and most learn at least one project together.

4-H Clubs can vary by interest area, age group, and activities. If you would like a 4-H club to contact you with information about their club, contact the Hall County Extension Office at 308-385-5088 or email: hall-county@unl.edu.



Independent Members:

Independent members learn with their families at their own pace. 4-H offers a variety of opportunities to discover your world, your community, and yourself. YOU make your own choices and set your own goals.

Starting a new club:

We are always welcoming new clubs! If you interested in starting your own, 4-H clubs must have at least three families enrolled with five kids or more. Please contact the Hall County Extension Office at (308) 385-5088 or check online for further details, 4h.unl.edu/delivery-modes/clubs/.

Tips for Parents or Guardians:

- You are always invited to participate in 4-H club meetings and activities with your child. We ask Clover Kids (ages 5-7) to have an adult with them at 4-H club meetings.
- Guide your child as they select 4-H projects and help them develop goals that are challenging and realistic. Encourage their project work by making it a family learning adventure.
- Be sure to read the monthly newsletter and follow us on social media.
- If you have any questions, know that no question is too small; we are here to help your family have a great 4-H experience.

4-H Projects

What's a 4-H Project?

A 4-H project is your chance to dive into a topic you're excited about. With nearly 50 options there's something for everyone. You set the pace; focus on one project all year, try a few for a couple of months, or explore the same subject for years to become an expert.



Most projects lead to a finished exhibit you can showcase at the Hall County Fair if you choose, but it is not a requirement. There's no limit to how many you can pick; however, it's better to tackle a couple of projects rather than rush through too many. Parents and leaders are here to help you set fun, achievable goals. Ready to explore? Let's go! Click here to help you decide on your first 4-H project: go.unl.edu/hallcounty4-h.

How to Pick a 4-H Project

Most clubs choose a project to work on together during the year, guided by a leader, parent volunteer, community expert, or even an older 4-H member. These projects may happen during meetings or independently.

In addition, you can choose extra projects to work on at your own pace. Parents, leaders, and local experts are great resources for guidance and support as you explore your interests.

What's a 4-H Project Manual?

Project manuals are like roadmaps for your learning adventure! These age-appropriate guides offer hands-on lessons to help you build skills and gain knowledge. Manuals are often part of a series with multiple levels and are created by universities across the nation.

Using a manual is optional but highly recommended. Treat it as a helpful resource, not a rigid checklist—feel free to pick the activities that excite you most!

Where to Find Project Manuals

Manuals can be purchased online at **UNL Marketplace** (marketplace.unl.edu/extension/nebraska-4-h/4-h-curriculum) or **Shop 4-H** (shop4-h.org/?rfsn=897681.d5750). Manuals can also be purchased at the Hall County Extension Office, with prices varying by project.





Awesome Opportunities for 4-H Members

Hall County 4-H is much more than projects - it's your chance to shine, explore new skills, and have a blast! Check out these exciting ways to get involved:

Adventure Awaits

- **Public Speaking Contest:** Got a story to tell? Write and present your 4-H-inspired speech or PSA.
- **Talent Show:** Sing, dance, juggle, or show off another talent! Top performers could perform at the Hall County Fashion Show.
- **Fashion Show:** Strut your stuff! Sew or style an outfit, model with confidence, and wow the judges. Top models are selected to rock the runway at the NE State Fair.
- **Ice Cream Roll:** Make ice cream with a buddy! Judged on mixing, measuring, and yum-factor.
- **Pre-Fair Contests:** From Bicycle Road-E-O to Horticulture Judging, these fun family-friendly events will test your skills and keep you learning.
- **Shooting Sports Competitions:** Ready, aim, and fire! Learn from certified leaders and show your skills in county and state events.



Track Your Journey & Celebrate

- **Diamond Clover Program:** Reach for the stars with six levels of accomplishments to apply for, learn, grow, and be proud!
- **Achievement Applications:** Record your 4-H wins and use them to snag awards at the county or state level.
- **College Scholarships:** Dream big! State and local scholarships are up for grabs to help you reach your future goals.
- **Achievement Event:** Every fall, Hall County 4-H Council and 4-H Staff celebrate Hall County 4-H youths' accomplishments from the previous year.

For more information, visit the Hall County 4-H website: go.unl.edu/hallcounty4-h. Jump in and make memories you'll never forget!



The County Fair

One of the highlights of the year for 4-H members is being able to exhibit their completed projects at the Hall County Fair!

When is the fair?

The Hall County Fair is held during the month of July. As part of the fair, 4-H members compete in small and large animal shows, enter static exhibits, and participate in miscellaneous contests. Some contests, such as Shooting Sports, Fine Arts Night, Fashion Show, and others, occur before the Hall County Fair.



Who can participate in the fair?

Any youth (4-H age 5-18) enrolled in 4-H by June 15th of the current year can participate in the fair. Hall County 4-H staff will have the Fair Book available in April. The Fair Book lists all the 4-H classes that can be entered.

Static Exhibits: A static exhibit is any exhibit that isn't alive (doesn't breathe and/or walk). The process for entering a static exhibit is simple. In May/June, each 4-H member will receive a Hall County Fair entry form. From class descriptions found in the Hall County Fair Book, 4-Hers will write down which exhibits they are planning to enter at the fair. These pre-entry forms are due back to the Extension Office on a designated due date. Exhibit cards will be printed and available the week of the fair for pick up at the Extension Office or may be picked up at fair check-in. Entry date and time will be listed on the fair schedule and in the newsletter. It is the responsibility of the 4-Her to bring their exhibits to the fairgrounds on entry day at the posted time.

Animal Exhibits: The Hall County Extension Office will announce the dates animal projects must be tagged/identified. It is your responsibility to properly ID your animals by the deadline. Please watch the Hall County 4-H newsletter and check the dates on the website. To compete, you must also complete the pre-entry form sent out in May/June.

How are exhibits judged?

All static and animal exhibits are judged to earn a purple, blue, red, or white ribbon. Additional awards may be presented during the animal shows or at the 4-H Recognition Event. Youth receive a fair premium based on the color of the ribbon earned. At the conclusion of the fair, 4-H members can pick up their premium checks in the Exhibit Hall.





4-H Frequently Asked Questions

Can we join 4-H at any time during the year?

Yes, youth may join 4-H at any time during the calendar year. Some clubs may have a “cut-off” date for accepting new members for the year. All 4-H youth must be enrolled with Nebraska 4-H by June 15 to be eligible to exhibit at the Hall County Fair, Nebraska State Fair or any competitive 4-H events.

What does it cost to join a 4-H club?

There is a \$15 fee to join Hall County 4-H for all members. 4-Hers purchase their own project manuals, and the cost of projects vary according to the supplies needed.

Are clubs organized by age?

Many 4-H clubs have children of a wide variety of ages, and some have members who are similar in age.

What is 4-H age?

The age of a 4-Her is determined by their age on December 31 of the previous year. Their “4-H age” will determine what age group they will compete in at county fairs, state fairs & other 4-H events. A Clover Kid must be 5 by December 31 of the previous year. A regular 4-H member must be 8 by December 31 of the previous year.

What is a Clover Kid?

Youth ages 5 to 7 are known as "Clover Kids" in 4-H. As full 4-H members, they have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs and activities, including the fair. Clover Kids are not eligible to compete in competitive events. Instead, they take part in many fun and engaging contests where they receive participation ribbons. The emphasis is on learning and personal growth, rather than comparison or judgment of their work.



What are the age divisions for competitive events?

Most competitions are held in the following age divisions: Juniors (8-10), Intermediate (11-13) and Seniors (14-18). However, age divisions do vary from program to program. Always carefully review the registration information for 4-H events and projects.

4-H Fun Facts

What do the four “H’s” stand for on the 4-H clover emblem?

The “H’s” stand for: head, heart, hands, and health. Club members pledge their Head, Heart, Hands, and Health (the four H’s) as they recite the 4-H pledge at meetings.

What is 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.



What is the 4-H motto?

“To Make the Best Better”

What are the 4-H colors?

The 4-H colors are green and white.

How did 4-H begin?

4-H began in 1902 as Corn Clubs for boys and Canning Clubs for girls. Although the program has changed a lot through the years, it has always been a program designed to help youth become productive members of their communities. The national 4-H program celebrated its 100th birthday in 2002.

Do I have to live on a farm to join 4-H?

No, although 4-H began as a program for rural youth, today 4-H is available for all youth whether they live on a farm or in the city.

How old do you have to be to join a 4-H club?

Youth can join a 4-H club as soon as they are 5 years old (by December 31 of the previous year) and they can stay involved until their final year of eligibility. The last year of eligibility is 4-H age 18.

What is the 4-H year timeline?

The 4-H year runs from October 1 to September 30.



Connect with 4-H

Stay in touch with Hall County 4-H through the 4-H Newsletter. Your family will receive this monthly digital publication via email once your enrollment is complete. View pictures and videos, and stay in the loop by visiting our website or Facebook page and signing up for Remind.



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hall.unl.edu

Remind

Signup: remind.com/join/4h-hall
or text the message @4h-hall to
the number 81010.



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