

# 4-H FACTS

## What is 4-H?

LOTS of Things!

- 4-H is fun!
- 4-H is for all youth ages 5-18.
- 4-H is for adults.
- 4-H is part of Nebraska Extension, a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

## Non-formal Education

4-H is a non-formal, practical, learn-by-doing educational program for youth ages 8-18 years old on January 1 of the current year. In addition, the 4-H Clover Kid program has been developed for youth ages 5-7 years old on January 1 of the current year. These younger youth participate in non-competitive activities and events.

## Learn-By-Doing

4-H is education for life that uses a learn-by-doing approach which enables young people to learn what is useful to them. It allows them to adapt what they learn to everyday life through action and reflection. 4-H gives youth the opportunity to experience a sense of accomplishment and success, key ingredients to gaining positive self-esteem.

## A Family Affair

4-H is a family affair. 4-H'ers and family members are encouraged to attend meetings together. Working on projects can take place at home, in the yard, or around the kitchen table - with guidance from parents, siblings, a neighbor, friend or other adult. 4-H members need the support and encouragement of their families. Growing together through 4-H enhances family strengths

## 4-H Mission Statement

To develop youth and volunteers by utilizing the knowledge base of the land-grant university system. Through non-formal education, participants will acquire knowledge, develop life skills and strengthen values that enable them to become increasing self-directing, productive, contributing citizens.

## 4-H Colors

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime and youth. White symbolizes purity and high ideals.

## 4-H Emblem

- A green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each leaf. The H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health, the foundation of all 4-H programs.
- The official emblem is copyrighted and may be used only as approved by 4-H.

## 4-H Motto

"To Make The Best Better"

## 4-H Slogan

"Learn By Doing"

## 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 and my world.



## Practical Skills

4-H participants learn *practical skills* such as fitness, meal preparation, rocket building, clothing care, animal and human nutrition, first aid, woodworking, gardening, and many other skills through the more than 150 projects available.

## Life Skills

Other skills that are defined as *life skills* are a part of every 4-H project. A life skill can be defined as "an ability that is necessary and useful throughout life." These skills include the "thinking," "doing," and "feeling" abilities used in many situations. The life skills learned through 4-H are those which contribute positively to productive, healthy and competent lives. They include:

### HEAD

- **Thinking Critically:** Having curiosity about our world, and the desire and ability to learn more about something of interest.
- **Solving Problems:** Consider a problem, make a decision, see how the decision affects others, and take responsibility for the decision.

### HEART

- **Respecting Self, Others and the Environment:** Knowing what is unique or special about oneself, others, and the environment.
- **Communicating:** Learning how to give and receive messages appropriately.

### HANDS

- **Preparing for a Career:** Exploring career opportunities and developing skills for them.
- **Serving Others:** Recognizing each person has a responsibility to the community.

### HEALTH

- **Healthy Lifestyles:** Learn what is good for mind and body, and practice those things.
- **Managing Change & Challenges:** Able to adapt and function in a changing world.