

How do I join 4-H?

Call your county UW-Extension office or a local 4-H leader. The Extension office can tell you what projects and activities are available. The yellow pages of your telephone book should list a number for 4-H under "Government-County."

Why do young people like 4-H?

They have fun with friends at meetings, social activities, camps, fairs, and on tours and trips. They learn to do interesting things, such as take care of animals and plants, fix their bikes, take pictures, practice cooking, and collect rocks. Also, they help others to learn more about their 4-H project; provide leadership to younger kids; and learn more about themselves.

How do I get a 4-H group organized?

Have a meeting with other interested young people and adults. Publicize it through school or any place where young people and their parents can be reached.

What do you do at the first meeting?

Get acquainted and have fun with a group mixer and/or some refreshments. Invite the 4-H youth development agent or an experienced 4-H leader to talk about some projects the group might like. Decide when, where and how often the group will meet.

Who names a club?

Club members name their club, with guidance from their leader and 4-H youth development agent.

Should 4-H clubs have dues?

If a club wants money for some activities, it usually charges dues or conducts money-making activities. Although there are no national 4-H dues, there is a \$1.50 annual fee collected to support the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. Dues can not be used as a barrier to keep someone from joining 4-H.

What about officers?

4-H clubs may have officers and committees to conduct business. 4-H has instructional materials available for presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers and reporters. Waiting until the second or third meeting to elect officers let's members know each other's strengths.

What should parents know about 4-H leaders?

Be sure they realize that leaders are volunteers who are not being paid. Parents should attend a 4-H meeting or volunteer to hold meetings in their homes so they can see how leaders work with clubs.

How do you get parents to help?

Ask! Think positively, because people who expect help usually get it. Be specific about jobs and offer a choice. People have different abilities and different amounts of time to share with the club.

As a 4-H parent, how can I help my child?

Read over the project manual with your child and discuss which 4-H projects are interesting and affordable. Show your interest and enthusiasm, by helping her or him understand what to do, when to do it, and how to carry out different phases of the project. Assist with project work, but don't do the job for your child. Your role is to teach and guide, not to control.



What is the 4-H emblem?

A green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each clover leaf.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT 4-H

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What is 4-H?

4-H is a volunteer-led organization that reaches boys and girls through small groups called clubs and sometimes in classrooms. 4-H members decide for themselves which projects they want to learn more about. Most projects use hands-on learning experiences to teach subject matter and life skills.

Who can join 4-H?

4-H is open to *any* youth within the grades of 1-13 (one year out of high school).

Who provides leadership for 4-H?

4-H is sponsored in Wisconsin by the Cooperative Extension Service of University of Wisconsin-Extension. Nationally, it is a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Local leadership is provided by 4-H youth development agents in the county offices of the Cooperative Extension Service.

What do the "H's" stand for?

The four "H's" stand for "Head, Heart, Hands, and Health." And here is the 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.

What is a 4-H leader?

An adult who works voluntarily with a group of 4-H members.

Are there different kinds of leaders?

Adults who teach members how to do things are called “project leaders.” They usually have a special interest or skill, such as photography, clothing or gardening. Adults who help a group get organized and run its meetings are called “organizational leaders.” The same person can be both a project and organizational leader. Sometimes, big clubs divide jobs and have several project leaders and youth leaders to meet all the needs of 4-H members.

Who are youth leaders?

Youth leaders are older 4-H members who develop skills in working with others. These teens assist the club leaders and members with project work, club program and activities, and county events.

How many leaders should a 4-H club have?

Depending on the size of the club and the ages of its members, 4-H recommends a minimum of two leaders per club. Clubs with 40 or more members should have at least three to five leaders to share the workload and give individual attention to members.

Where would I learn how to be a 4-H leader?

Contact your county UW-Extension 4-H youth development agent to discuss your interest in working with youth, your previous experience, and the resources available to you. All volunteers complete application and enrollment forms, have a background check and participate in an orientation. You will receive materials needed to organize a 4-H club or you could be matched with a club leader in your neighborhood or county.



What do 4-H clubs do at meetings?

4-H clubs usually cover five general areas: project work, business meetings, recreation or social activities, community service work, and special interest programs.

Do they do all of these things at each meeting?

Sometimes there is a short business meeting or members can work on their projects and then have recreation. Sometimes the whole meeting is devoted to one thing. For example, everyone will bring their dogs and practice obedience training; or they elect officers and plan the club program; or they have a pizza-making party; or they tour a local factory.

When and how long do clubs meet?

This depends on the group. Many clubs meet for an hour or two after school, in the evening or on a Saturday. The most important thing is to have a regular time to get together that members and their families can remember.

How often do 4-H clubs meet?

Depending on what the group wants to do, some clubs will meet every month year-round, while others meet every week for a month or two. 4-H clubs may organize any time of the year. Some projects have enrollment deadlines to be eligible for a specific activity. Check with your county Extension office about these deadlines.

Where do 4-H clubs meet?

They meet any place that is large enough and convenient for the members. Some clubs meet in the homes of leaders or members. Others meet in a central place, such as a school, church or community room.

Who plans the program for the club?

Members of the club plan the program. A small club might make plans at a meeting of the whole group. A large club might get ideas from everybody, but then assign a committee to put together a program.

How big should a club be?

Size depends on the age of the members, space available for meetings and available leadership. An ideal club is big enough to have fun together, but small enough for everybody to feel a part of the group. Wisconsin clubs average 10 to 20 members and two to three leaders.

What are 4-H projects?

A 4-H project is a series of learning experiences and many projects have manuals to assist the 4-H'er with his or her project. The most popular projects are dairy, visual and theatre arts, environmental education, foods and nutrition, clothing and photography. There are more than 50 projects available from the Cooperative Extension Service of UW-Extension.

What is a 4-H project manual?

Project manuals contain information and direction for completing projects. Some projects have a manual for each level. Others have one manual, which the member uses throughout her or his 4-H career. A manual may range from two to 100 pages and may cost from 50 cents to \$10.

What does a 4-H project cost?

It varies. A member in visual arts might use supplies from around the home to practice the skills he or she is learning and have no additional expense. A member who buys and keeps a saddle horse might invest hundreds of dollars. Members should consider cost as they select a project.

Are 4-H members expected to do their own project work?

Since 4-H is a “learn by doing” program, leaders, youth leaders and parents may tell or show a member how to do something, but members are expected to learn how to do things themselves.

What is an exhibit?

An exhibit is a display or object designed to show what has been accomplished in a member's project. An exhibit is not an end in itself, nor does it measure all the learning that takes place from completing a project.

Are projects done individually or as a group?

Both, since some projects, like fishing or biking, may be more fun when done as a group. Others, like making a dress or creating a drawing, may be done individually.