



**young people across
America who are learning
leadership, citizenship,
and life skills.**

When youth are active in 4-H club work, they gain a stronger sense of who they are and where they fit in their community. They gain a commitment to democracy and a passion for public work. Adults who get involved learn to respect and value the contributions of youth.



**To Learn More, or
to Get Started...**

Contact **Katy Forsythe**, 4-H Youth Development Agent for Eau Claire County at **(715) 839-4712** or katy.forsythe@ces.uwex.edu

*A hundred years from now it will
not matter*

*what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in,
or the kind of car I drove...*

but the world may be different

because I was important

in the life of a child.

- paraphrased from an essay by

Forest Witcraft, "Within My Power"

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**Make a
Difference in the
Lives of Kids.....**



**Start a 4-H Club
in Your
Neighborhood!**

Why Start a New Club?

Starting a new 4-H club is a great way for children and adults in your neighborhood to get to know each other by sharing experiences and knowledge. A 4-H club is a place where young people can learn new skills, gain self-confidence, and contribute to their communities. Starting and leading a new club can also begin a family tradition that can be passed down through generations.



How

Starting a new club may seem like a daunting task, but your 4-H Youth Development Agent will be there to help you every step of the way. The most important step is recruiting youth members and adult volunteers. Start with your own children and their friends. You can also contact schools or community organizations. Boys and girls, grades K-12 are eligible to join 4-H. It is also important to recruit other adults to help with club leadership. Parents of 4-H members are often willing to help. Other possibilities include senior citizens, 4-H alumni, friends, or people with a special area of interest to share.

How Big Should a 4-H Club Be?

4-H clubs must have at least five members

in three or more families. There is no maximum number. What is most important is that all 4-H members have opportunities for learning and leadership.

Where Do 4-H Clubs Meet?

This will probably be determined by the size of your club and available local meeting places. Consider school buildings, churches, fairgrounds, town halls, community rooms, homes, etc. Many community groups are willing to allow their facilities to be used for 4-H activities. Facilities should be handicap-accessible so all 4-H members and leaders can attend.

How Often Does a 4-H Club Meet?

Although a 4-H club should meet at least six times a year, it is recommended that they meet ten or more times. Many 4-H clubs meet monthly, but you might want to consider meeting more frequently than that, especially if you have a club of young members.

How Much Does 4-H Cost?

There is a small enrollment fee to join 4-H. Beyond that, clubs decide if they will need a treasury and if so, whether it will be built through minimal dues or club fundraisers.



Who Will Lead?

When starting a new 4-H club, you will need to determine who will be the "General Leader." This person or persons serves as the advisor and mentor to the club members, and as the main contact to the Extension Office. It is an important responsibility, and does require some free time for meetings and other club activities. Some clubs change leaders often and others have had the same leader for many, many years.



Being A Leader...

Being a leader in a 4-H club can be a very rewarding role. It allows you to be a mentor to youth and to develop your own leadership skills. It is a good opportunity to really get involved in something with your children. As a 4-H leader, you can share your skills and knowledge with the future leaders of your community. Being a 4-H leader can really make an impact in the lives of youth, and you'd be surprised how much you can learn from them as well.

4-H is a community of