

# Welcome to Iowa County 4-H: Information for New Families



Welcome to the Iowa County 4-H program!!! You and your family will learn that 4-H is a family affair where youth and adults get together to learn new things, meet new friends and have fun. The purpose of 4-H is to provide real-life experiences for youth through a fun and practical, learn-by doing, educational program.

**Do you like having fun?** Are you looking for new experiences? Are you hunting for something different? That's why you should be involved in 4-H. You are going to have the time of your life!

Look over the project offerings and you will agree that 4-H has something for everyone. Youth in Iowa County are involved in clothing, scale models, foods, natural resources, community service, photography, woodworking, dairy, model rockets, livestock, leathercraft, dog obedience, history and heritage and many, many other projects. If you would like to work on a project that is not listed, you can enroll in the self-determined project and design your own learning activities.

The Iowa County 4-H program enrolls about 530 4-Hers and nearly 225 adult volunteers who have been approved through the Volunteer Protection process. There are 21 4-H clubs in all parts of the county and some of these clubs have celebrated 50 years of 4-H.

4-H provides opportunities for youth to learn the life skills they need to be responsible adults. Some of the life skills that youth might learn are making good choices, leadership, public speaking, goal setting, planning and organizing, working as a team, written communication, cooperation, learning how to learn, and managing change. In 4-H, parents and other adults help youth plan and conduct meetings, projects and activities and guide youth as they learn new skills in 4-H.

You can help make 4-H be the best it can be by getting involved! Take a chance, and introduce yourself to someone new. Try something different.

If you would like more information about the 4-H program, feel free to stop in or call the Iowa County University of Wisconsin-Extension Office located in the lower level of the Iowa County Courthouse Annex. The phone number is 608-935-0391. Or check out our website at: [www.uwex.edu/cty/iowa](http://www.uwex.edu/cty/iowa).

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## What 4-H Offers Youth

**Self-confidence** – as they pursue personal potential, 4-H members get to know and like themselves better.

**Positive group interactions** – 4-H'ers learn to interact positively with others as they share what they have learned and receive information from others.

**An inquiring mind** – 4-H'ers develop inquiring minds as they gather, analyze and process information.

**Effective resource management** – 4-H'ers learn to meet their goals by identifying resources, planning and organizing.

**Leadership** – 4-H'ers learn to be leaders by working with others in groups to accomplish group goals.



**4-H** is the largest youth organization in the world. 4-H kids and leaders live all over Wisconsin, in all 50

United States, and in 82 other countries worldwide.

Almost 10 million members and nearly 680,000 leaders are involved in 4-H worldwide! It is open to everyone without discrimination.

## 4-H Emblem, Colors, Pledge, And Motto

The four-leaf clover is the official 4-H emblem. The four "H's" stand for *head, heart, hands, and health*.

4-H colors are:

Green - life, springtime, youth  
White - fresh clean

The 4-H pledge is:

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.

You should learn the pledge. You should also try to follow it in 4-H and in your daily life.

The 4-H motto is:

**"Make the Best Better"**

## How Did 4-H Begin?

4-H began in the early 1900s. The first groups were called Boys and Girls Clubs. Then in 1914, Congress passed an act that established Cooperative Extension and 4-H. 4-H celebrated its centennial in 2002.

Cooperative Extension is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is also part of the University of Wisconsin. Through Cooperative Extension, UW reaches out to your community.

## Who Brings 4-H To You?

Deb Ivey is the 4-H Youth Development Agent in Iowa County. Extension agents, like the 4-H Agent, are hired by the University of Wisconsin to work with 4-H. They organize 4-H in the county and community.

The University Extension Office is located in the lower level of the Richard M. Scullion Administrative Annex of the Courthouse in Dodgeville. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

222 North Iowa Street  
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4-H leaders help 4-H'ers learn and have fun.

Leaders, since they are volunteers, do not get paid. They help because they want boys and girls to learn new things. They want you to grow up to be a happy, caring person.

Friends of 4-H also help. These "friends" are organizations, industries, and businesses. They offer awards for outstanding 4-H work.

## 4-H Membership And Programs

A person who is in kindergarten or older can join 4-H and be a member through one year after high school. To join, contact a local 4-H leader or the Iowa County 4-H Youth Agent. 4-H has special programs and activities for all age groups.

A 4-H club is a group of young people and adults who meet regularly for fun and learning. Clubs are usually made up of families from a community and often formed around schools, churches or community centers. Most clubs hold monthly meetings attended by members and their parents. They may offer one project or many projects. Club activities can include demonstrations, project work, community service, and social events.

Remember that, in 4-H, meetings are held to:

- Get things done
- Bring up new ideas
- Build leadership skills of all members
- Be a change of pace from everyday activities
- Get to know other members
- Learn and have fun

## How to Join a 4-H Club

*Find a club in your area.* If you know of a 4-H club in your area, contact one of the members or leaders. They will invite you and your family to a club meeting so you can learn more.

If you do not know of a club in your area, contact the UW-Extension Office at 935-0391. Fall might be a good time to join, but membership is open year round.

*Visit one or two monthly meetings.* Learn all you can about the club and 4-H.

*Let the club leader know your family wants to become a 4-H family.* The leader will give you an enrollment form to fill out and help you select projects. Parents may also be asked to help by leading a project group or assisting in some other way.

## Who Helps In 4-H?

4-H is really a **family** program. Your parents and family are important in 4-H. They help you with project work and other activities.

4-H members are also helped by **volunteer leaders**. Volunteers are essential to the continued growth and development of a successful 4-H program. Every 4-H club needs one or more adult leaders. These leaders teach boys and girls, organize the club, help officers at meetings, and tell parents about 4-H.

There are different kinds of 4-H leaders:

- Club Leader.** Coordinates the overall club program and serves as a link with the UW-Extension Office.
- Project Leader.** Works with small groups of members who are enrolled in the same project. They help members set their individual project goals and teach new skills in project areas.
- Activity Leaders.** Work with groups of members participating in one or more activities, such as music, recreation, health and safety, demonstrations, special events.
- Youth Leader.** Works with an adult to give leadership to activities, events, or projects.

The **Extension Agent** helps 4-H club leaders. The agent works with volunteers to plan the county program, helps leaders organize clubs and special 4-H groups, furnishes project material, coordinates county events, and trains 4-H leaders.

Statewide 4-H specialists work at the UW. They help train 4-H agents and leaders, develop new programs and projects, and make the existing ones better.

## Learn By Doing

One 4-H goal is to help members become caring citizens of their communities. Therefore, every club is encouraged to choose and work on a community service project. Many clubs share something related to their project area with older people in retirement or nursing homes; some clubs work on environmental projects such as cleaning up trash or planting flowers and shrubs

## 4-H Project Work

Select a project that fits your abilities and interests and those of your family. Members enroll in new projects each year.

Choose projects that fit into your family, community, and the way you live. Share your projects with your parents. Take only one or two projects the first year. Project membership can help you learn useful skills, how to get along with people, and how to help your community and country by practicing these skills.

These are some of the projects you can choose:

- Cloverbuds and Explorers.** Introduction to 4-H designed for youth in Kindergarten through second grade
- Animal Sciences.** Dairy, Livestock, Small Animals, and Veterinary Science
- Communication Arts.** Cultural Arts, Photography, Theatre Arts, Public Speaking
- Family Living.** Clothing, Foods and Food Preservation, Home Environment, Child Development

•**Mechanical Sciences.** Aerospace, Bicycle, Woodworking, Electricity, Tractor, Small Engines

•**Environmental Sciences.** Insects, Fishing, Wildflowers, Canoeing, Water Resources, Backpacking, Geology

•**Plant Sciences.** Field Crops, Vegetables, Home Grounds, House Plants

•**Social Sciences.** History and Heritage, Leadership, Health, Citizenship

**Demonstrations.** 4-H members show and tell others how to do things. This is your first step toward helping others and becoming someone who can lead others.

**Record Keeping.** You will write a record and story of what you do for each project. Record keeping helps 4-H'ers set goals, accomplish them and evaluate the progress they have made. The record keeping skills members acquire in 4-H are useful throughout life.

**Recreation.** You will enjoy life, yourself, and your friendships with others in social activities with your 4-H club.

## Opportunities at the County Level

**Project Workshops.** Workshops in various project areas are scheduled throughout the year, such as small animal workshops, horse clinics, dog obedience training.

**County Contests.** 4-H members who enter contests such as the foods revue, Day in the Arts and clothing preview are judged and receive ribbons; they learn how to improve their presentations.

**Dairy and Livestock Judging.** These are contests in which each 4-H member evaluates classes of three or four animals, ranks them from the highest quality to the lowest quality and explains the ranking.

**Exhibits.** You may exhibit your project results at club meetings, local fairs, or the Wisconsin State Fair. This shows others what you have learned in 4-H, helps you find out how to improve your work, and gives you a sense of pride and accomplishment.

**4-H Camp.** Many 4-H members in grades 3-6 attend 4-H camp at Upham Woods near Wisconsin Dells. They take part in educational and recreational experiences as they learn about nature and living with people.

**4-H State and County Exchanges.** Exchanges can be arranged with clubs from different counties, with city and farm members, or with clubs in other states. Families also have the opportunity to host international students. Exchanges give you a broader knowledge of people and living situations and the chance to create lasting friendships.

**4-H Trips.** A variety of out-of-state trips are available to older 4-H youth who have demonstrated leadership, project growth and responsibility. These trips include State Youth Conference, Washington Focus, and National 4-H Congress.



## Club Meetings

Members plan and carry out what they want to do as a group. A good club meeting has four parts with definite activities in each part.

- Opening.  
Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, 4-H Club Pledge.
- Business.  
Roll Call, Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports, Old Business, New Business.
- Education.  
Program, demonstrations or talks, videos, speaker.
- Fun.  
Recreation, group singing, skits, entertainment, refreshments.

## What Do Officers Do?

4-H club officers are elected by members. They are proud of their jobs and do their best to get things done right and on time. Each officer has specific jobs:

◆ **President.** The president leads the club meetings and keeps them orderly.

◆ **Vice President.** The vice president leads in the president's absence, introduces guests, is the program chair, and takes care of the club's property.

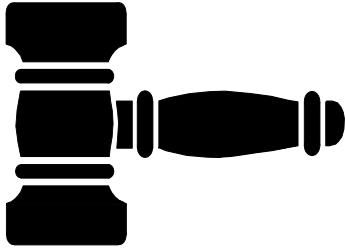
◆ **Secretary.** The secretary writes down what happens at the meeting, keeps attendance records, brings the secretary's book to all meetings, and takes responsibility for letters and other correspondence.

◆ **Treasurer.** The treasurer takes care of club money, pays bills, keeps an accurate account of the club's finances, and reports at each club meeting.

◆ **Reporter.** The reporter sends news stories to local newspapers and radio stations and plans publicity for events.

◆ **Recreation Leader.** The recreation leader leads games, fun activities, and singing with enthusiasm.

◆ **Committee Chairs.** Your club may have several committees, depending on the club size and what you want to do. Committees may include: program, membership, recreation, community service, publicity, social events, and safety.



◆ Be a friend. Get to know other members. Help out when needed.

◆ You make suggestions and present ideas. If you want the club to vote on something, you make a motion. Every member should know how to make a motion:

The member raises his or her hand, or stands, and waits to be recognized. Only one person should talk at one time. When the president calls on the member, he or she says, "*I move that....*" Another member says, "*I second the motion.*" If no one seconds it, the motion is dropped. The president asks for discussion. When discussion stops, the president asks members, "*Are you ready for the question?*" If no one wants more discussion, the club is ready to vote. The president states the motion so everyone can hear it and calls for a vote. The president states "*The motion is carried,*" or "*The motion is lost*", according to the vote.

◆ Tell your parents about important dates in advance so they can get you to the meeting or event.

◆ **Read your county 4-H newsletter!** It's called the "*Clover Connection*" and it comes in the mail about once each month. It is written for you. There is news about other 4-H clubs and upcoming 4-H events for you and your club. Keep your newsletter and other 4-H materials in a safe place. This will help you be a better member.

◆ Give a club or county public presentation. Are you afraid to speak in front of a group? Don't worry, you can learn how in 4-H. Public speaking skills will not only help your club, but also help you succeed in everything else you do.



## What Do All Members Do?

◆ Attend all of your club meetings if possible. Arrive on time and plan to stay until the meeting ends.

◆ An active club member volunteers for jobs without being coaxed. You attend all meetings and activities if possible.

◆ Go to meetings with your ideas and share them with others. Listen to what others have to say. Even if you don't agree with their opinions, it lets you hear other points of view. No matter what, you should respect their freedom of speech. Raise your hand and be called on before speaking.

## A Parent's Role In 4-H

Parents are essential to the 4-H experience. Parents should help their 4-h'ers obtain the supplies and equipment they need for their projects, assist with assignments and help with record keeping. Children need parental encouragement to get them started in 4-H and to keep them involved in the program through their teen years. You can help if you:

**Share** - take an interest in your child's 4-H projects and activities. Listen, look, and offer suggestions, but avoid the temptation to "take over" and do things yourself. Learning by doing is the 4-H way. Your child learns by his or her mistakes as well as successes, if you provide encouragement.

**Prepare** - parents can assist by helping a child understand the value of having projects, duties, and presentations done on time, in a proper way. Also, be sure your child learns the importance of letting someone know if he or she cannot follow through as expected.

**Be there** - your child will gain more from 4-H by attending club meetings regularly and by getting involved in 4-H camp, the county fair, and many other activities. Parents can be a part of 4-H, too. Don't just drop your youngster off at meetings - sit and observe. You are welcome. Get to know the club leader. Lend a hand wherever you can. However, try to remain objective and avoid "taking over" any activities. Remember, the club is for the kids.

**Care** - arrange to attend programs and events where your child is taking part. Your presence shows that you consider your child, and what he or she is doing, very important.

Parents may also be asked to provide transportation, bring refreshments or attend a meeting.

## 4-H Rewards For A Job Done Well

The greatest and most lasting rewards a 4-H member can receive are:

- Satisfaction from a job well done.
- Pride in his or her accomplishments.
- Recognition from leaders, parents, and other 4-H members for accomplishments.
- Knowledge and skill gained through the project.

Other forms of recognition are:

- County award discs to members showing outstanding accomplishment in a project.
- Scholarships to graduating 4-H members, 4-H camp, state events, and national events.
- Ribbons for contest entries and exhibits.
- Ambassador program for older youth.

4-H awards recognize improvement in knowledge, skills, and participation to

***"Make the Best Better".***

Adapted from:

*Welcome to 4-H!*, (FS576) New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, The State University of New Jersey

*Welcome to 4-H: New Member's Information*, (EM4487), Cooperative Extension, Washington State University

The Iowa County 4-H Program is open to all youth in kindergarten through 13<sup>th</sup> grade, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex or disability.

University of Wisconsin-Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Iowa County cooperating.  
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