



4-H Mission:

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

4-H Reach:

Youth: 6 million

Volunteers: 540,000

Staff: More than 3,500

Alumni: 60 million

4-H Locations:

All 50 states, U.S. territories and military installations worldwide.

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."

Web Site:

www.4-H.org

4-H Youth Development: An Overview

Young people become confident, mature adults ready for success in today's challenging world through 4-H, the only youth development program with a direct connection to technological advances from research conducted at state land-grant universities.

Studies show that 6 million youth participating in 4-H do better in school, are more motivated to help others, feel safe to try new things, achieve a sense of self-esteem, and develop lasting friendships.

Boys and girls of all races and ethnic backgrounds in urban, suburban and rural communities across America and on U.S. military installations worldwide participate in 4-H experiences. 4-H programs are offered through school-based, after-school and camp settings and community clubs.

Contemporary Focus

The fundamental 4-H ideal of practical, "learn by doing" experiences encourages youth to experiment, innovate and think independently.

4-H has three primary program areas: **science, engineering and technology; healthy living;** and **citizenship**. Youth learn leadership, citizenship and life skills through more than 1,000 projects with topics as varied as rocketry, GPS mapping, DNA analysis, public speaking, photography, nutrition and community service.

Positive Youth Development

Educators at 106 land-grant universities operate 4-H programs in every state and U.S. territory, alongside trained youth and adult volunteers. Learning opportunities are designed around four essential elements necessary for positive youth development. 4-H offers youth supervised **independence**, a sense of **belonging** with a positive group, a spirit of **generosity** toward others and a wide variety of opportunities to **master** life challenges.

4-H is operated and supported by a shared leadership of public and private partners including National 4-H Headquarters; USDA within the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service; Cooperative Extension educators at land-grant universities; National 4-H Council; 4-H associations and foundations; and volunteers.

An American Institution

The 4-H youth development movement began more than 100 years ago. It evolved from rural youth programs created by land-grant college and university researchers and the United States Department of Agriculture to introduce new technology to what was then a country of primarily rural communities. As our nation's economic and demographic profiles become more diverse, 4-H adapts and expands to meet the needs of all youth.