

NEW 4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER



St. Croix County 4-H Youth Development Program—Winter 2018

A Brief 4-H History!

Adapted from: <http://4-h.org/about/history/>

4-H's beginnings are as varied as the 50 states. No one club or specific individual can be credited as the founder of 4-H. 4-H began as boys' corn clubs and girls' canning clubs that began to pop up between 1902 and 1909 in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. These early youth clubs developed, in part, out of the state land grant college's efforts to take agricultural information to the public. Founders of these clubs wished to not only interest young people in rural life, but to also bring new knowledge home to their parents. Volunteer farm men and women were trained by county extension agents to act as leaders in these early clubs.

In about 1907 or 1908 the early clubs became known as 3-H clubs, with the three leaf clover's "Hs" standing for "head", "heart", and "hands". In 1911, there was discussion of adding a fourth "H". The word "hustle" was considered, and then replaced by "health". From 1924 – 1939 the 4-H emblem was patented. Then in 1939, a law was enacted to protect the 4-H name and emblem. Now this very special emblem can only be used for official 4-H club and program activities.

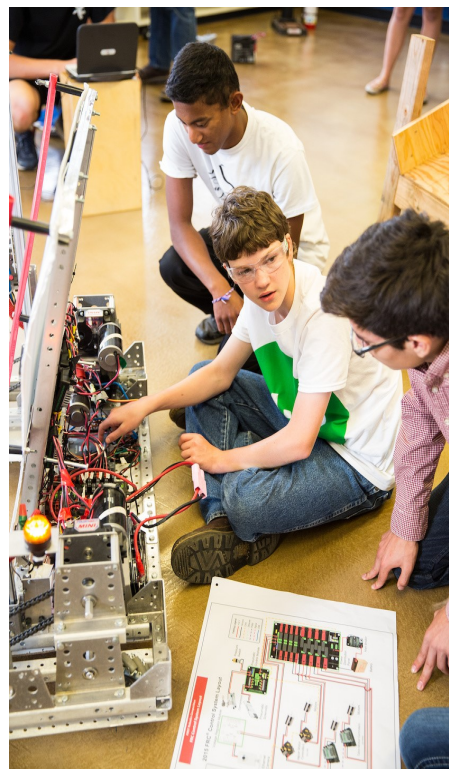
Today, 4-H serves youth in rural, urban, and suburban communities in every state across the nation. 4-H'ers are tackling the nation's top issues, from global food security, climate change and sustainable energy to childhood obesity and food safety. 4-H out-of-school programming, in-school enrichment programs, clubs and camps also offer a wide variety of STEM opportunities – from agricultural and animal sciences to rocketry, robotics, environmental protection and computer science – to improve the nation's ability to compete in key scientific fields and take on the leading challenges of the 21st century.

4-H Motto

*"To Make the Best
Better"*

We Believe in

- ⇒ Youth as leaders and decision makers
- ⇒ Learning by doing
- ⇒ Youth making a difference
- ⇒ Goal—setting to achieve growth



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St. Croix County 4-H



4-H is a Family Program

A 4-H member needs the support and encouragement of their family. Parents and other family members can contribute in many ways to the 4-H program. They may help members:

- Determine project goals
- Obtain necessary project supplies
- Carry out work at home
- Maintain records
- Evaluate project work
- Attend club meetings
- Participate in countywide events
- Choose to become a 4-H leader

Some helpful advice from 4-H families to new 4-H families:

- Read the St. Croix County 4-H Communicator (newsletter) and weekly County 4-H Email Blasts
- Don't procrastinate on important 4-H deadlines
- Bring your family calendar to your 4-H meeting
- Take lots of pictures of your children during 4-H activities
- If you have questions reach out to your club leader, other 4-H families, or the county 4-H agent

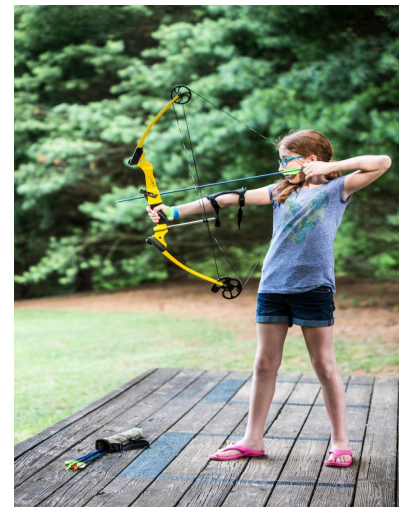
What Are Project Meetings?

A project meeting is defined as a scheduled meeting which is planned, organized, coordinated, and /or taught by a certified 4-H volunteer with the purpose of learning new project skills or mastering project knowledge which will assist the 4-H member enrolled in 4-H project work.

Routine tasks associated with project work should not be considered as an appropriate substitute for project meeting attendance. For example, feeding a pet cat daily should not be considered a project meeting. As the purpose of the 4-H program is one of education and not competition, project meetings should provide an opportunity to develop new skills. Therefore, project meeting focus should be on skill development and not simply on fair exhibit completion and competition. For example, if a 4-H member baked purple ribbon cookies at a project meeting last year and returned to bake the same recipe this year, this activity would be defined as project work and not a project meeting as no new skills were developed.

A number of St. Croix County 4-H clubs have project meetings. In addition the following projects have countywide project meetings:

- Clothing
- Dairy
- Dog
- Food & Nutrition
- Horse
- Livestock (beef, sheep, swine, meat goat, dairy goat)
- Photography
- Poultry
- Rabbit / Cavies
- Shooting Sports (archery, rifle, shotgun)
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)



4-H Terminology

4-H Agent—4-H staff that manages the county 4-H program and provides outreach programming to non 4-H youth.

4-H Fiscal Year - July—June

4-H Year - Oct—Sept

Ambassadors— youth grades 7 and up can apply to be an ambassador. This group helps promote 4-H on a countywide level.

Certified 4-H Volunteer Leaders - adults (21 years and older) who have been through volunteer training, are mandated reporters, and have had a national background check.

Cloverbud— 4-H member in grades K—2.

Club Leader—an adult volunteer who is responsible for the general operation and coordination of the club.

Club Meeting—monthly meeting for 4-H members.

Countywide Committees - groups of youth and volunteers who specialize in a project or planning a 4-H event.

Leaders Association—group of countywide volunteers who set policies, coordinates countywide activities, and plan and promote the county 4-H program.



Becoming a 4-H Volunteer

Volunteers are the backbone of 4-H youth development. They provide the leadership and mentorship that is essential to 4-H. In 4-H there are lots of ways to share your talents and time to help youth develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility, and life skills. Research has shown that youth that have caring adults in their lives are more likely to become productive citizens, effective leaders, and lifelong learners. We hope you will consider becoming a 4-H volunteer.

Types of volunteers include:

Club Leaders – key individuals who encourage and coordinate the 4-H activities of members, volunteers, and parents at the club level.

Project Leaders – work with individual members, or a group of youth, in a project area to support and guide their learning.

Resource / Activity Leaders – volunteers who can only make a short term commitment, but want to help with events, fairs, committees, or in other ways.

All adults (21 years and older) who would like to become 4-H volunteers are required to complete the following steps:

- 1) Enroll through your family account in 4HOnline
- 2) Complete a national background check
- 3) Attend VIP (Volunteers in Preparation) Training
- 4) Complete Mandated Reporter Training
- 5) Annually sign a 4-H Volunteer Behavior Expectation Form

2017-2018 St. Croix County 4-H Events & Deadlines

All Countywide Committees have their own important dates and deadlines. Each Club will also have a yearly meeting and activities calendar. The dates below are all tentative.

October

- * National 4-H Week
- * Deadline for Ambassador Applications
- * Annual Leader Retreat

November

- * Deadline to Re-Enroll for the upcoming 4-H year
- * Deadline for M.E. Forms
- * Deadline for 4-H Charters
- * New Family Orientation

December

- * Ambassador Holiday Make and Take

January

- * Annual Fair Board Meeting
- * 4-H Food Expo

February

- * Camp Counselor Apps Due
- * Clover College

March

- * Deadline to apply for 4-H Scholarships

April

- * Deadline to Change Projects
- * Mini Talent Explosion

May

- * Deadline to Register in the St. Croix County Fair

June

- * 4-H Camp
- * Cake Decorating Judging / Foods Revue
- * Clothing Revue
- * Area Animal Science Day
- * NW 4-H Golf Classic

July

- * St. Croix County Fair

August

- * WI State Fair
- * WI Tour
- * Cloverbud Day Camp

September

- * Deadline to turn in Record Books
- * M.E. Trip Orientation
- * Leaders Association Annual Meeting / Elections

Contact Information

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<http://4h.uwex.edu/>

Facebook:

St. Croix County 4-H



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH