

NEW 4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER



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

Welcome to 4-H!

Thank you for your interest in the St. Croix County 4-H Program we are very excited that you have enrolled. 4-H is the world's largest youth organization with over 6 million youth enrolled in over 80 counties around the world. 4-H is a family affair where youth and adults get together to learn new things, meet new friends, and have fun. Our goal is to teach youth important life skills like leadership, teamwork, critical thinking and communication to help prepare them for successful futures – and they do it while engaging in fun, hands-on 4-H activities!

At times 4-H can be a complicated youth organization with many acronyms and a sometimes confusing chain of command. We hope that this communication along with assistance from your club leader will help ease your transition into 4-H. In addition to this publication, which you will receive quarterly, the county office will send you our monthly 4-H Communicator Newsletter, and a weekly 4-H email blast to help keep you informed. At any time please feel free to contact your club leader or the UW-Extension 4-H staff with questions. We're pleased that you have joined us.

~Heather Vierling

St. Croix County 4-H Youth Development Agent

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."*



**Join us
on
Facebook**

St. Croix County 4-H



Choosing a Club

St. Croix County has a variety of clubs available for youth to join. All of our clubs follow the 4-H community club model. This model incorporates all ages of youth and all interests of youth in the club. Some clubs do have the majority of their youth enrolled in the same project such as dairy or horse, so meetings may cater more toward those activities. Our suggestion is to call and speak with club leaders to learn more about their clubs: when and where they meet, ages of youth in the club, annual club activities, time commitment for your family, etc. Attend a club meeting and see what you think. Don't worry, if you pick the wrong club you can always change. See the UW-Extension website for a full list of clubs and contact information.

What Happens at a Club

Meeting?

Each club holds a business meeting in which the members discuss business. Club meetings may provide members opportunities to meet people in their club and decided important issues about recreation, fundraising, community service, and other activities. As they become older, these meetings allow youth to broaden their leadership skills by becoming an officer or committee chair. Youth are the only ones who vote at 4-H Club meetings, parents and volunteers may give advice and suggestions, but youth make the decision themselves. Club meetings also usually include fun or educational activity after the business and some clubs have snacks. Besides for business meeting, clubs may also have activities in the following areas:

Fundraising – members are responsible for planning and implementing any fundraisers that the club decides to do. Committee members look for ways to raise money for the activities of the club.

Recreation – members present ideas to the club about what, where, and when to do recreation

Community Service – members create a list of community service activities for the club to do throughout the year, then the club will decide which to do.

CLUB OFFICERS

Club officers are members that are learning more about leadership roles. They are usually elected in the fall and serve for a one-year term. Some clubs have members take turns trying the different offices. Leadership Day offers youth and adults an opportunity to learn about the offices. Usually clubs elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian (keeps a scrapbook of member activities for the year) and Song and Game Leaders.



4-H Travel Opportunities

4-H youth have the unique opportunity to travel outside the county to explore and develop life long skills. 4-H offers state, national, and international travel each year. To learn more about these trips contact the UW-Extension Office or attend our Trip Orientation Workshop.

- 4-H Summer Camp / 4-H Day Camp
- WI Tour
- WI 4-H Youth Conference
- Art Beat, Art Camp, Art Lab
- Fall Forum
- State 4-H Teams
- YPCL Conference
- Badger Dairy Camp
- National Dairy Conference
- National 4-H Space Camp
- National 4-H Summits
- Citizenship Washington Focus
- American Spirit
- National 4-H Congress
- International Travel



Picking Your 4-H Projects

A 4-H “project” is a set of learning experiences in one area, such as foods, woodworking, or robotics. Whatever projects the club members chooses they are sure to have fun learning with people interested in the same thing as they are.

Usually youth are given the opportunity to sign up for projects at the beginning of the 4-H year.

Project meetings are usually held at another time and place than club meetings. 4-H projects are educational, practical and enable youth to learn facts and skills useful in everyday life; learn how to communicate, work and play with others; learn more about educational and career opportunities; learn to be a leader and make new friends; to name a few.

Project leaders determine the type of activities, place and time of meetings, age of participants (can be limited depending on the safety requirements of the activities) and maximum number of participants (usually groups are small, less than 12, so that youth have a maximum opportunity for hands on learning).

There are several ways that youth can complete projects:

- Project Group- some youth from a club work with a volunteer from the club on a project.
- County-wide projects – some youth from several clubs work together with a volunteer to complete a project. These usually last for a short time, and do not run all year. For example, photography and robotics.
- Club based projects – some clubs are small and so the group decides together which projects they will do. Then clubs work on the project at club meetings all together.
- Family led projects – If there is not a volunteer in the club or county willing to lead the project, youth can work with a parent or guardian on the projects.

We ask that first year member’s sign up for a maximum of three projects, and older youth take no more than 6 projects. When you enroll the first time, or re-enroll following years, be sure to plan which projects you want to work on for the year.

WHAT DOES 4-H DO FOR YOUTH?

 **2X** MORE LIKELY
TO PLAN TO GO
TO COLLEGE

2X  **A+**
MORE LIKELY
TO GET BETTER
GRADES IN SCHOOL

41% 
LESS LIKELY TO
ENGAGE IN RISKY
BEHAVIORS

GIRLS ARE  **2X** MORE LIKELY
TO PURSUE
SCIENCE CAREERS
OVER THEIR PEERS

http://extension.usu.edu/news_sections/impacts/utah4h

4-H HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



MORE THAN
200
PROJECT
AREAS



http://extension.usu.edu/news_sections/impacts/utah4h

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Websites:
<http://stcroix.uwex.edu/>

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



ONE DAY...

What a difference 4-H makes



All Photos are taken from: <http://4-h.org/professionals/marketing-resources/#!/photo-library>