

Purdue Extension LaPorte County Mini 4-H Handbook



Watch us learn and grow!

Adapted from: Purdue Extension Hendricks County 4-H

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Purdue Extension Office

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4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

my **HEART** to greater loyalty,

I promise to use my heart to be a good friend.

My **HANDS** to larger service,

I promise to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

And my **HEALTH** to better living,

I promise to take care of my body and to show others to live in a healthy way.

For my club, my community,

I promise to help my group, my community,

My country, and my world

Welcome to Mini 4-H

Mini 4-H is for youth who are in kindergarten, first or second grade during the 4-H year (October 1-September 30). This program is designed to encourage positive development, give youth the opportunity to explore interest, practice small and large muscle control, and introduce you to the LaPorte County 4-H Program.

As a Mini 4-H parent or guardian, please support your child through the activities in this handbook. Encourage and praise your child as they have fun learning and sharing with you. Please avoid completing activities for them. Learning by doing is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

How do I Enroll and How much does it cost?

Enroll your Mini 4-H youth at v24honline.com and pay the annual \$5 program fee at the Purdue Extension office). Once registered, you will receive a bi-monthly bulletin keeping you informed of Mini 4-H and 4-H opportunities. Any questions can be answered by LaPorte County Purdue Extension at 219-324-9407.

Can Mini 4-H participate in Clubs?

Following are 4-H Clubs Mini 4-H members are welcome to attend. Meetings are not mandatory. Please reach out to Club Leaders to confirm meeting place and time.

Club Name	Leader (s)	Phone Number
Cass Champions	Michelle Dyjak	219-508-0486
	Joe Rudolph (Mini 4-H Liaison)	219-733-2978
Cass Merrymakers	Andrea Mitzner	219-575-2721
Clinton Climbers	Donna Matuszak	219-241-7920
Clinton Livewires	Heather Horne	219-405-7210
	Kate Fasshauer (Mini 4-H Liaison)	
Creative Clover Kids	Jeanne Zurek	219-218-4109
Dewey Advancers	Sherrie & Verne Schafer	219-754-2329
Hanna-Noble	Peggy & Wayne Schoof	219-363-9553
Hudson Hustlin' Helpers	Anita Smith	574-654-8750
Johnson Prairie Farmers	Jon Smith	574-298-9490
	Ruth Lile	574-910-0107
Kankakee Ranchers	Amy Frazier	219-608-4896
	Roger Eggert	219-716-0840
LaPorte City Firestars	Katrina Bohlin	219-363-3182
LaPorte City Helping Hands	Andrea Mansfield	219-393-0135

Club Name	Leader (s)	Phone Number
Lincoln Hotshots	Julie MacLeod	574-656-3535
	Susan Bannwart	219-608-8752
Pleasant Clovers	Jennifer Lambert	219-608-8962
	Kirsten Lambert (Mini 4-H Liaison)	
Pleasant Farmers	Kristina Krause	219-851-8304
	Abe Krause	219-608-2375
Pleasant Pals	Margo Schrader	219-369-9232
	Nancy Williamson	219-369-9314
Springfield Country Cousins	Pam Mark	219-369-3681
	Roxanne Thomas	219-898-3995
Springfield Hoosier Rebels	Cindy Browning	219-575-0564
	Heather Kessler	
Union Township Tigers	Mindy Heidel	337-842-3882
	Stephanie Jones	
Wagonmasters	Connie Trojanowski	219-608-1284
	Chad Mrozinski	574-532-2908
Wills Future Leaders	Janice Pickett	219-778-4811 (Home); 219-608-1931 (Cell)
	Johanna Pickett	219-608-1045
Wills Willing Workers	David Hesters	219-778-9441

What Projects are available and What do I do with my exhibits?

There are a many Mini 4-H Projects to choose from. A Mini 4-H member can exhibit up to **FIVE (5)** projects each year. Each project manual will explain the guidelines for projects to be exhibited at the LaPorte County Fair.

Mini 4-H exhibition, held annually a the LaPorte County Fair, is an exciting time for all 4-H members, families and friends. It is a week that allows youth to showcase their talents, interests and enthusiasm for learning.

Mini 4-H Projects and Exhibit Options

Listed below is a brief description of project options. **Each child can choose a maximum of FIVE (5) projects to exhibit each year.** Mini 4-H Project Manuals are available at the LaPorte County Extension Office or by visiting: <https://extension.purdue.edu/laporte/>

Arts & Crafts

Let's get creative and make a craft. Use your imagination as you design your craft. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Decoupage Splatter Painting
Collage Plaster Figurine

Second Grade

Seed Drawing Painting
Tissue Paper Decoupage Clay Free Form

Bicycle Safety

Let's learn the basic rules on how to keep safe while on your bicycle. Exhibit Option:

All grade levels: Complete Mini 4-H Bike Safety manual and participate in the Bicycle Rodeo, date to be determined, held on the LaPorte County Fairgrounds prior to the start of the LaPorte County Fair.

Bugs

Let's learn about bugs and what makes them different from each other. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

My Butterfly

Bug Lab

Second Grade

Thumbprint Bugs

Backyard Bugs

Collections

Let's learn to collect and attractively exhibit items such as leaves, cars, stamps, etc.

Kindergarten & First Grade

What I Collect

What You Collect

Second Grade

What I Collect

What Museums Collect

Cookie Decorating

Let's learn how to decorate cookies. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

3 Iced Cookies with
sprinkles/candy/baking chips.

Second Grade

3 Iced Cookies with smooth top.
Cookie must have a border and
design made of frosting and/or candy.

Dinosaurs

Let's learn about dinosaurs and fossils. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Build a Dinosaur

Clay Fossils

Second Grade

Dinosaur Diorama

Fossil Prints

Farm Animals

Let's learn about farm animals and how they are important to us. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Barn "Yarn" Animals

Animal Tracks

Second Grade

Farm Animal Diorama

Poster: What Do Farm Animals Give Us?

Foods

Let's learn basic kitchen rules and how to prepare simple foods you can enjoy. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

No-Bake Cookies

Second Grade

Using Refrigerated Biscuit Dough, make one of the following:

- Breadsticks
- Cinnamon Twist
- Fruit Turnovers

Gardening

Let's learn more about growing plants. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Seeds in a Bag

Container Gardens

Second Grade

Grow a Green Bean Plant

Grow a Potato Vine

Little Peeps

This project provides youth an opportunity to become familiar with chickens and ducks. Each exhibitor may bring one chicken or duck. Members must have verification that birds are from an NPIP flock that has been tested and found free of pullorum-typhoid. Members must have certification or have birds blood tested.

Exhibitor is responsible for caring for the animal each day and making sure the cage is cleaned by 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m, and encouraged to be at judging, date to be determined.

Models

Let's learn about models and the different ways to make them. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

My Own Model

Snap Together Model Kit

Second Grade

Shoebox Room Model

Snap Together Model Kit

Nature, Plants and Trees

Let's learn and discover nature around us. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Leaf Poster

Bird Feeder

Second Grade

Tree Poster

Poster: Tree Treasures

Pets

Let's learn more about what animals make good pets, and how you take care of a pet.

Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Poster: What Pet is Best?

Poster: My Favorite Pet

Second Grade

Poster: Pet Observation

Poster: Pet Research

Recycling

Let's learn about the importance of reduce, reuse and recycle. Exhibit Options:

All grade levels: Exhibit one of the crafts from the manual or make a poster about recycling.

Sewing

Let's learn about basic sewing tools and hand stitches. A SEWING MACHINE IS NOT NEEDED.

Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten

My Sewing Kit or Pin Cushion

First Grade

Hand Puppet

Second Grade

Place mat

Sun, Stars & Space

Let's learn about our solar system, the sun, and exploring the space. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Poster: Sun Clock

Poster: Night Skies

Poster: Outer Space Art

Second Grade

Notebook: Shadow Science

Poster: If I Were an Astronaut . . .

Planet Mobile

Wearable Art

Let's learn about creatively decorating an article of clothing or an accessory. Exhibit Options:

Kindergarten

A finished article of clothing decorated on one side only, front or back.

First Grade

A finished article of clothing with more than one but no more than three separate decorated areas(front, back, or sleeves/legs).

Second Grade

A finished article of clothing and one accessory OR two finished articles of clothing.



Mini 4-H La Porte County Fair Activities Registration/Release Form Due by Friday, June 18, 2021

These activities are for children who have an interest in participating at the LaPorte County Fair. If you are interested in working with an animal, a current 4-H member will work with you.

Once you have completed and returned this form we will be in contact with you. Any questions, do not hesitate to contact Purdue Extension (219) 324-9407.

Name of Participant: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Telephone #: _____

Participating in (Circle one - Class enrolled in as of October 1st of current year):

Kindergarten Class 1st Grade Class 2nd Grade Class

I am participating in (Circle all that applies):

Bicycle Rodeo Dairy Goat Little Peeps

Miniature Equine Pedal Tractor Pull Pet Parade Rabbit

Sheep Swine

NOTE: Parent(s)/Guardian must sign and return the Mini/Exploring 4-H Liability Release Form on the reverse side of this form before the child listed above is allowed to participate in the activities.

Please return **completed registration and signed liability release forms by Friday, June 18, 2021**, to LaPorte County Extension Office at 2857 W. St Rd 2, Suite A, LaPorte, IN 46350.

Mini/Exploring 4-H Liability Release Form

The safety and well-being of our 4-H youth is of the utmost importance. Although kindergarten is specified as the time when a child may begin participation in some 4-H events and activities, parents are encouraged to take into consideration their child's physical and mental development before agreeing to let the child begin to show, work with, or care for animals. Each child matures at a different rate, and children in grades K-2 may still be too young to begin showing, working with, or caring for animals.

The Indiana 4-H Youth Program at Purdue University has agreed to allow Mini/Exploring 4-H members in grades K-2, to participate in NON-COMPETITIVE animal projects subject to certain conditions. These conditions are specified below.

“Mini/Exploring 4-H members, in grades K through 2, will be allowed to show, work with, or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Mini/Exploring 4-H members may independently show, work with, or care for animals that weigh 300 pounds or less.

Mini/Exploring 4-H members may only show, work with, or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian.” *(The word assisted means that the adult has control of the animal at all times.)*

Mini/Exploring 4-H members exhibiting horses must wear ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified helmets whenever mounted. The parent/guardian is responsible to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the approved harness in place and fastened whenever a rider is mounted.

I understand that participating in 4-H activities can involve certain risks to my child. On behalf of my child I accept those risks. I hereby release and discharge Purdue University, The Trustees of Purdue University, the LaPorte County Commissioners, the LaPorte County Cooperative Extension Service, and each of their trustees, officers, appointees, agents, employees, and volunteers ("Released Parties") from all claims which my child or I might have for any injury or harm to my child, including death, arising out of my child's participation in a Mini/Exploring 4-H animal activity(ies), even if such injury or harm is caused by any of the Released Parties. I do not, however, release these individuals and entities from liability for intentional, willful or wanton acts and this release shall not be construed to include such acts.

Mini/Exploring 4-H member's name

Parent/Legal Guardian - Print Name

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

