

February 11, 2021

Dear 4-H Family,

Welcome to the Starke County 4-H Program! By now you have probably selected a 4-H club and begun to attend club meetings. A few of our clubs started meeting for 2021 in-person and others are meeting virtually. You have probably also chosen at least one educational project to explore. If you have questions about 4-H clubs or projects (or anything else!), please feel free to ask. Your Club Leader and Extension Educators will be happy to assist you. A copy of the “4-H Family Guide” is available in the Extension Office and online at www.extension.purdue.edu/starke

Starke County 4-H Program

4-H provides the Exploring 4-H program for youth in grades K-2 and the regular 4-H program for youth in grades 3-12. 4-H project workshops provide members with the technical training. Workshops are an excellent way for you and your 4-H member to learn more about specific projects. 4-H club work provides members with life-long leadership and social skills.

While 4-H is a state and national education program, each county can adapt their 4-H program to the needs of that community. In Starke County, the 4-H Council is charged with overseeing the 4-H program by establishing policies and administering the 4-H program. The Fair Board is responsible for conducting the Fair. The Fair allows every 4-H member to display his or her exhibit, so the public can see what the children have learned that year from his or her involvement in 4-H.

To help you start off, we have prepared this list of our program’s key people and resources:

Who’s Who

Club (Administrative) Leader: Adult volunteers who are in charge of a local group. They work with club officers to make sure that the club achieves its goals.

Club Officers: Elected 4-H members who run the business and recreation portions of 4-H club meetings.

Project Superintendent: Someone in charge of a particular project who can answer specific topical questions (e.g. the Cake Decorating Superintendent can tell you what tip to use to make a leaf design).

Extension Office Staff: Julia Miller is the Educator dedicated to working with 4-H in the Starke County Extension Office. Other educators work with Agriculture & Natural Resources and Health & Human Sciences. We also have a great support staff. When you call, you may reach Kim Temple or Sherry Neely, who will be happy to assist you.

What’s What

4-H Club: A group of children in grades K-12 who meet regularly to learn important life skills such as teamwork, community service, public speaking, and running a business meeting.

4-H SPARK Club: A short-term program that focuses on a specific interest and offers youth a taste of 4-H.

4-H Meeting: 4-H clubs generally meet about 6-10 times per year. Attendance is not mandatory, but participation in your club will enrich your 4-H experience and is strongly encouraged. Meetings typically have a short business meeting, demonstrations by a few members (a type of show-and-tell), a fun and/or educational activity, refreshments and recreation.

4-H Online: This is our on-line database. You enrolled in 4-H through this website. You can continue to use this site to update your information, drop or add projects (through May 15), and enroll in future events.

4-H Resource Handbook: A great reference tool that you will want to keep and use throughout the year. It contains exhibit requirements and all the information you will need to complete your projects. Each 4-H family receives one handbook per family. The handbook is also available on our website at:
www.extension.purdue.edu/starke

Newsletter: Our main source of communication with 4-H families. Please read this bi-monthly publication so you will be aware of all the opportunities available to you.

Project manuals: Most projects have a resource book to help you learn about your project. Many of them contain fun, educational activities.

Project record sheets: Most projects require the completion of a record sheet. This allows you to share what you have done and what you have learned.

Website: www.extension.purdue.edu/starke

Facebook page: Like us at: “**Purdue Extension – Starke County**” to stay connected and receive reminders.

The 4-H Pledge

The 4-H Pledge is recited at the start of every 4-H club meeting.

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.

With more than 6 million young people enrolled, 4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization. We are happy that you have chosen to be a part of our program and look forward to working with you this year.

If you have any questions regarding the 4-H program, please contact your local club leader or the Extension Office. Our phone numbers is: 574-772-9141. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00pm. You can also email me at jwickert@purdue.edu.

Sincerely,

Julia K. Miller,
Extension Educator,
CED/4-H Youth Development