

Porter County 4-H Family Resource Guide



Welcome to Porter County 4-H!

Thanks for your interest in Porter County 4-H! The purpose of the Family Resource Guide is to give you an overview of our program. We want to help your family have an incredible experience in 4-H. Keep in mind that this is only an overview. Your best way to stay informed is to regularly attend your 4-H club meetings and to read the monthly “Pandemonium” newsletter. (Your family will start receiving this monthly publication once you are officially enrolled, or check it out now at: www.tinyurl.com/PorterCo4HNews)

The 4-H program can sometimes seem a little overwhelming when you are new. Just keep in mind that our staff and volunteers are here to help you navigate the program. Your family’s 4-H experience can be tailor-made to fit your goals, schedule, and interests. You can be involved as a whole family, learning and growing together.

Porter County has many 4-H clubs. Clubs are an important part of a successful 4-H experience. The club experience includes: community service activities, learning opportunities, building lifelong friendships, and more! See the included Porter County 4-H Club Directory or contact us for help selecting a 4-H Club near you.

Keep in mind that the club leaders are volunteers. Like all of us, your leader is more than willing to do his or her part, but your leader wants help as well. Your club will be able to accomplish so much more if parents and guardians share some of the responsibilities with the leader. Ask your leader what you can do to support your child’s club.

Welcome to the wonderful world of 4-H!

Connect with Us

We are here to help; reach out to us whenever you have questions or concerns.

County 4-H Staff:
Joan M. Grott
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
joangrott@purdue.edu

Laura Barber
4-H Operations Manager
219-465-3557
lbarber1@purdue.edu

Purdue Extension – Porter County
155 Indiana Ave., Suite 301
Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219-465-3555

www.extension.purdue.edu/porter
www.facebook.com/PorterCounty4H
www.twitter.com/PorterCounty4H
www.instagram.com/PorterCounty4H
Official Hashtag: #PorterCounty4H

Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program Philosophy

The Indiana 4-H Youth Development program serves the youth of Indiana by providing a strong educational youth development program. This program delivers educational experiences in a variety of settings. Caring, capable and contributing adults assist in the 4-H program as role models for youth. The rich heritage of the 4-H Program is one to be valued and shared with future generations.

It is the policy of 4-H to be an inclusive organization. No county policy or practice should be used to arbitrarily exclude youth from either membership or participation. Youth should participate in 4-H Youth Development opportunities at levels and times that best suit the youth's development and support family involvement.

4-H Mission and Vision

4-H Mission: The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who positively impact their community and world.

4-H Vision: Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

What is 4-H?

4-H is a youth organization that belongs to the members, their families and other interested adults who serve as volunteers. Professional leadership is given by Cooperative Extension Service faculty of Purdue University. Support for 4-H programs is a joint effort of the local county government, Purdue University, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

4-H is young people sharing, doing, and learning together in all kinds of projects, events and activities in non-formal situations with guidance from their families and other adult volunteers. Members choose a project or projects that meet their needs and the places where they live. Group activities and events such as performing arts, trips, camps, fairs, shows, and conferences provide additional opportunities and learning experiences.

Most 4-H clubs have meetings for the entire membership once a month. During these business meetings, decisions are made relative to group-sponsored activities, community service efforts, project opportunities, fund-raising efforts, etc.

Purpose of 4-H

The purpose of a 4-H club is to provide positive youth development opportunities to meet the needs of young people to experience belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity—the Essential Elements—and to foster educational opportunities tied to the Land Grant University knowledge base. Clubs are organized throughout the county and typically meet after school hours. Youth members who hold leadership positions and are supported by one or more adult volunteer(s) lead club meetings. Club meetings typically take place once a month in a centralized location such as a school cafeteria, community center, church, or home. Activities during these meetings may include hands on learning activities, community service projects, and fundraisers.

How do youth benefit from 4-H membership?

Through the eyes of a young person, a 4-H member will:

- Learn, make, or do things that appeal to them and are meaningful to them.
- Make friends, belong to a group, and give and receive acceptance and affection.
- Have a good time, which makes learning appealing and enjoyable.

Through the eyes of an adult, each 4-H member will one day become a contributing and caring adult in his/her community because of the knowledge and life skills they learned in 4-H. These members will learn how to:

- Develop an inquiring mind and a desire to learn.
- Make decisions and solve problems.
- Relate to and work with other people.
- Develop a concern for their community and the people in it.
- Build their self-confidence.

Family Involvement

4-H Members have a better experience when they have parents, older siblings, grandparents, neighbors, or other adults who are able to encourage them throughout their learning experience. 4-H youth and their family are encouraged to attend club meetings and events together. Projects can be worked on around the kitchen table, in the backyard, or at a local community center. Parents can support their child by keeping track of important 4-H dates on the family calendar, keep their child organized, reinforce the importance of following directions, and above all, model the behavior they want their child to exhibit in public settings. It is important to note, the projects and exhibits themselves are to be the work of the member, not that of a family member or anyone else. Engage as a whole family and learn together.

4-H Membership & Enrollment

Mini 4-H is a program designed to encourage positive development of children, Kindergarten through second grade. The goal of Mini 4-H is to help young children explore friendships outside the family; explore the way in which things work; practice both small and large muscle control; and think about the ways people work together on projects.

Youth may become “regular” 4-H members when they enter the third grade and may continue their membership through the completion of grade 12. Each individual may continue membership for a maximum of ten (10) consecutive years.

An individual’s 4-H grade is determined by the school grade in which he or she is classified at the time of year he or she enrolls in 4-H. A member does not advance in 4-H grade until he or she enrolls in 4-H for the subsequent year. Each member should enroll in the division of a project/subject that would best suit his/her interest and potential for personal growth and would enhance their family involvement.

Opportunities in the 4-H program are available to all Indiana youth as defined regardless of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation or disability. Membership in 4-H is gained by annually enrolling through a Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office located in each of Indiana's 92 counties.

The Indiana 4-H Youth Development program year is October 1 to September 30 annually. Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing individual 4-H enrollment via the 4HOnline enrollment process (<https://in.4honline.com>). Statewide 4HOnline enrollment occurs annually October 1 through January 15.

There are program fees to cover the cost of member insurance, annual tenure pins, and other basic operational costs. The Indiana 4-H program fee for members in 3rd-12th grade is \$15 per member (maximum of \$45 per family). The Porter County program fee for all members in grades K-12th is \$5 per member. Program fees are payable online at time of enrollment. If paying by check, payment is due within one week of enrolling. (Additionally, some clubs may have an additional dues to cover local club activities.)

Who's Who in 4-H

4-H Member: Anyone in grades 3-12 who completes the enrollment process and participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

Mini 4-H Member: Anyone in grades K-2 who completes the enrollment process and participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

Junior Leader: A 4-H member who is in the 7th -12th grade and is willing to assume additional leadership roles within the local and/or county 4-H program. Jr. Leaders take an active role in helping the younger members in the club. By doing this, they grow, mature, and learn leadership skills. The countywide Junior Leader organization typically meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

Club Officers: Members lead the club through holding officer positions and participating on committees. 4-H club officers may include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, News Reporter, Recreation Leader, Song Leader, Devotions Leader, and Health & Safety Officer.

4-H Club Leader: A volunteer who is responsible for the organizational part of the club.

Parents/Guardians: Parents are important to the success of youth in 4-H. Parents are encouraged to attend club meetings as well as countywide events with youth.

County 4-H Project Superintendent: A volunteer with knowledge in a specific project/subject area who is willing to answer project/subject matter questions and conduct project workshops for 4-H members from throughout the county.

4-H Council: This is the 4-H policy-making group, as well as the private funding source for a number of county-level 4-H programs. This group typically meets on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, September, and November at 7:00 p.m. at the Porter County Administration Building (155 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso).

Extension Educators and Staff: The professionals who guide, teach, and administer the 4-H Program. Extension Educators are staff members of Purdue University.

Purdue University: Purdue is the land-grant university that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of Indiana. The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of the directive of Purdue's Youth Development and Agricultural Education Department.

Program Leader: The State 4-H Youth Development Program Leader has the responsibility for 4-H programming at the state level.

State Specialists: State Specialists have responsibility for the 4-H Youth Development Program on a statewide basis. Each specialist is responsible for a specific part of the total 4-H Program. They are based at Purdue University and are under the direction of the State 4-H Youth Development Program Leader.

Indiana 4-H Foundation: A nonprofit organization that works to provide additional resources for the 4-H Program. The foundation sponsors scholarships, funds county and state programs, finances the State 4-H Volunteer recognition program, and supports educational awards trips for outstanding youth on the state level. Forms for donations are available at the County Extension Office. They also sponsor the 4-H license plate program. Contact the Extension office for information about license plates for your vehicles.

4-H Terms

Enrollment: The annual process of signing up for 4-H and selecting projects for the year at <https://in.4honline.com>.

4-H Project: Subject matter that the 4-H member chooses to study through completion of hands on activities. Members sign up for a project(s) at time of enrollment. Oftentimes, youth will exhibit and display their project at the county fair in order to show the community what they have learned. (See a complete listing of available projects at: tinyurl.com/PorterCo4Hhandbook.)

Project Manuals: Each project has a manual (typically written by university specialists) that guides the youth through the learning process as well as a set of guidelines that helps them meet the project requirements. Manuals often contain a record sheet with a set of questions for the member to record his or her experiences in the project.

County 4-H Handbook: The book that lists the policies and procedures of the county 4-H program as well as all guidelines and exhibit requirements for each project/subject. A new book is published annually. It is very important that all 4-H families read and are familiar with this book. (Also available online at: tinyurl.com/PorterCo4Hhandbook.)

Completion: 4-H members are considered complete in their 4-H educational experience for the year when they have (1) completed the 4-H member enrollment process; and (2) completed project/subject or participated in a 4-H educational experience. Additionally, 4-H members who participate in a club- or fair-based 4-H project/subject will submit a completed 4-H record sheet based on 4-H educational materials.

Exhibition: Exhibition of 4-H projects/subjects in county or state exhibits/fairs is voluntary on the part of the exhibitor. The exhibition of 4-H projects/subjects provides 4-H members an opportunity to display their 4-H projects/subjects, enter into competition, and participate in an educational/social environment with peers. With exhibition also comes the responsibility for abiding by all the terms and conditions pertaining to the respective 4-H project.

Newsletter: The County 4-H “Pandemonium” newsletter is emailed or mailed to every 4-H family and is also available online (www.tinyurl.com/PorterCo4HNews). This gives information about county-level 4-H meetings and activities offered to 4-H members, leaders, and parents. For most events, this will be your primary source of information.

“My Record of Achievement”: This is a form on which the member records his or her projects and describes his or her experiences and knowledge gained. Members also record the activities, meetings, and committees they have participated in during the year. As members advance in the program, this becomes their “permanent record” and is used by the county Awards Committee in determining recipients of special awards and scholarships.

4-H Volunteer: Dedicated, enthusiastic, caring adults who have completed the screening process through the County Extension Office. The current Indiana 4-H Volunteer Certification process includes an application, background check, presentation of a government issued photo ID, and signing the Indiana 4-H Behavioral Expectations.

4-H History & Traditions

4-H work, as we know it, began around 1900 as a means of reaching parents with improved farm and home practices. American farms had experienced poor economic times for 30 years. It was risky business for them to try a new recommended farm practice. In 1902, a few Midwestern school teachers developed some crop demonstrations with their students who in turn shared the techniques with their parents.

These school projects developed small groups covering a single topic such as beef, corn, gardening, and canning. By 1909 some were called 3-H clubs and in 1911 the name 4-H was finally adopted.

4-H Pledge

4-H Members are encouraged to learn the 4-H pledge that is recited at the beginning of each 4-H meeting.

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 County, and my World.

4-H Emblem

The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter H on each leaf.



Guidelines for the use of the 4-H Name & Emblem are available at the County Extension Office or by visiting the National 4-H Headquarters website: <https://nifa.usda.gov/4-h-name-and-emblem>

4-H Slogan

“Learn by Doing”

4-H Motto

The national 4-H motto, “To Make the Best Better,” is the objective of every member and volunteer.

4-H Colors

Green and white are the 4-H colors. The white background of the flag symbolizes purity; the green 4-H emblem is nature’s most common color in the great outdoors and is the color of springtime, life, and youth.

Porter County 4-H Club Directory

Following is a list of our current 4-H Clubs. The clubs are listed alphabetically by township. We encourage you to review this list and contact leaders to confirm meeting details and club objectives. You are welcome to join whatever club best suits your family's needs; you are not required to join the club in your township. (*meeting dates and times are subject to change.)

Club Name: Boone Busters

Township: Boone

Meeting Place: Hebron Elementary School Cafeteria

Typical Meeting Date/Time*:

Second Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Leaders:

Donna McCullough, 996-6145,
dmac.mccullough@gmail.com

Angela McGlothlen, 996-7233,
erma1999@airbaud.net

Club Name: Center Homesteaders

Township: Center

Meeting Place: Elks Lodge, 157 W. Jefferson, Valpo

Typical Meeting Date/Time*:

Second Monday of the month, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Leaders:

Helen Golding, 462-1053

Dawn Melton, 286-0096,
meltonhorselady@hotmail.com

Club Name: Center Wildcats

Township: Center

Meeting Place: School year: Immanuel Lutheran

School Cafeteria, June-July: 4-H Building at
fairgrounds

Typical Meeting Date/Time*:

Second Thursday of the month, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Leaders:

Lela Hewlett, 462-3492,
lmhteacher@frontier.com

LeeAnn Brewer, 465-0956,
lambathome@frontier.com

Sabrina Barrish, 508-2396,
cloverbarrish@yahoo.com

Lisa Teel, 477-2584, teelduo@frontier.com

Janenne Stuber, 929-1935

Sarah Redmond, 242-2072,
rahrey930@yahoo.com

Club Name: Jackson Volunteers

Township: Jackson

Meeting Place: Jackson Elementary School Cafeteria

Typical Meeting Date/Time*:

First Thursday of the month, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Leader:

Jeanne Reed, 462-7765, reedrevest@msn.com

Club Name: Liberty Hot Shots

Township: Liberty

Meeting Place: Sunset Hill Farm County Park

Typical Meeting Date/Time*:

First Sunday of the month, 2:00 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Leaders:

Cassandra Wallace, 309-4162,
aussiecass@yahoo.com

Melissa Ford, 263-6957,
melissanshawn4d@gmail.com

Kathy Wilder, 926-7208,
kathyswilder@gmail.com

Club Name: Liberty Sunsetters

Township: Liberty

Meeting Place: Valparaiso University, Christopher

Building Community Room

Typical Meeting Date/Time*:

Third Sunday of the month, 3:00 p.m.

Adult Volunteer Leaders:

Kyle & Sandi Russell, 242-2271,
sarussell219@gmail.com

Jeff Russell, 242-2338,
jcrussell32@gmail.com

Amy Wright, 707-0810,
amycwright1994@gmail.com

Club Name: Morgan Hustling Hoosiers

Township: Morgan

Meeting Place: Morgan Township School

Typical Meeting Date/Time*:

Meeting Dates & Times Vary

Adult Volunteer Leaders:

Rachel Hannon, 766-2445

Kara Moon, 242-5480,
karabmoon@gmail.com

Club Name: Morgan Sodbusters
Township: Morgan
Meeting Place: Morgan Township Fire Station
Typical Meeting Date/Time*:
Second Sunday of the month, 2:00 p.m.
Adult Volunteer Leader:
Stacy King, 531-8934, bnsking@msn.com

Club Name: Lakeshore Drifters
Township: Pine
Meeting Place: Hawthorne Park, Porter
Typical Meeting Date/Time*:
Second Monday of the month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Adult Volunteer Leader:
Julia Waltz, 708-334-7055,
juliawaltz12@gmail.com

Club Name: Pleasant Pioneers
Township: Pleasant
Meeting Place: Kouts High School Cafeteria
Typical Meeting Date/Time*:
Second Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m.
Adult Volunteer Leaders:
Jack & Katy Rust, 766-3307,
jrrust1@frontier.com
Marcia Krug, 766-3459
Paul & Doreen Kuehl, 766-3377
Ilah Miller, 309-0435, ih12miller@gmail.com
Sarah Miller, 766-3493

Club Name: Portage Trailblazers
Township: Portage
Meeting Place: First Baptist Church, Portage
Typical Meeting Date/Time*:
Meeting Dates Vary, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Adult Volunteer Leader:
Tamra Wells, 689-0461,
wells.family.six@gmail.com

Club Name: Boone Grove Future Farmers
Township: Porter
Meeting Place: Porter Lakes Elementary School
Typical Meeting Date/Time*:
Meeting Dates Vary, 7:00 p.m.
Adult Volunteer Leaders:
Leslie Maxwell, 405-4042,
maxwellpart45@gmail.com
Karen Krause, 252-6134,
rk-krausefamily@comcast.net
Suzette Lipkovich, 577-5625,
suzette_wick@yahoo.com

Club Name: Washington Wiz Kids
Township: Washington
Meeting Place: Washington Elem. School Cafeteria
Typical Meeting Date/Time*:
First Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Adult Volunteer Leaders:
Leah Goetz, 707-0709,
leahgoetz8908@yahoo.com
Tabby Evans, 309-3149, tabndon@aol.com
Paul Oman, 462-3101, oman13@juno.com

Club Name: Discovery Trackers
Township: Westchester
Meeting Place: Baugher Center, Chesterton
Typical Meeting Date/Time*:
First Tuesday of the month, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Adult Volunteer Leader:
Annette Hansen, 241-7431,
fairymama16@gmail.com

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran.

Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.