

# ***Welcome to Posey County 4-H!***

In joining 4-H, you are part of the largest informal education program in the United States. This packet is designed to help you learn more about the basic of 4-H in Posey County. Please contact the Purdue Extension-Posey County Office if you have questions about any of the material covered in this packet, as assisting you in your 4-H experience is our top priority!

## **What is 4-H?**

4-H is the largest youth serving organization in the country. It is a volunteer-led program that reaches youth in both rural and urban settings. Professional leadership is given by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Local leadership is provided by 4-H Youth Extension Educators and 4-H Program Assistants. Support for 4-H programs is a joint effort of local county government, Purdue University, and the USDA.

4-H programs are hands-on, age-appropriate, and university-based. 4-H helps youth improve their self-confidence; learn subject matter; and develop important skills including leadership, citizenship, communication, and decision-making that can be applied over a lifetime. 4-H is young people sharing, doing, and learning together in all kinds of projects, events, activities and informal situations with the guidance of their adult family members and other adult volunteer club leaders. Members choose projects that fit them and where they live. Group activities and events such as talent contests, trips, camps, fairs, shows, and workshops provide additional opportunities and learning experiences.

4-H is open to all youth, regardless of their ethnic background, race, religion, gender or personal creed. Most 4-H clubs have meetings once a month. During these business meetings, decisions are made concerning group sponsored activities, community service efforts, project opportunities, fund-raising projects, etc.

## **The Purpose of 4-H**

The purpose of 4-H is to provide real life experiences for youth through a fun, action-oriented, and practical program, as well as to provide opportunities for parents and other interested adults to work with youth in enhancing their development.

The major focus of 4-H should be on the activities of your local 4-H club. Adult volunteers serve as 4-H club leaders and plan and carry out organized learning experiences with youth. The many county and state 4-H activities are secondary, as their purpose is to support and reinforce what has been learned in local programs.

## **The Origins of 4-H**

4-H as we know it began around 1900 as a means of reaching parents with improved farm and home practices. American farmers had experienced poor economic times for thirty years, and it was risky for them to try a newly recommended farm practice. In 1902, a few Midwestern school teachers developed some crop demonstrations with their students, who in turn shared their successes with their parents and families. These school projects developed small groups that covered a single topic such as: beef, corn, gardening, or canning. By 1909, some of these clubs were called 3-H clubs, and in 1911 the name 4-H was finally adopted.

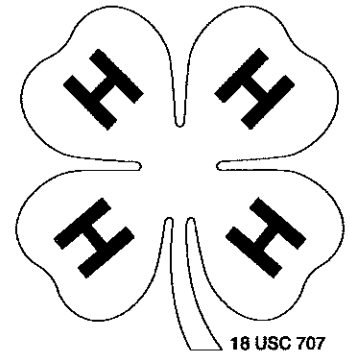
## What Can 4-H Offer Your Child?

Through the eyes of a youngster - a 4-H'er will:

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

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

- Develop an inquiring mind and a desire to learn.
- Make decisions and solve problems.
- Relate to and work with others.
- Develop a concern for their community and the people in it.
- Build their self-confidence.
- Learn to set and reach goals.
- Develop a sense of responsibility.



### 4-H Emblems and Symbols

**Emblem:** The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The four "H's" stand for: head, heart, hands, and health. These four H's represent the training and development in which 4-H members participate. The meaning of the four "H's" is clearly shared in the 4-H pledge below.

**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."

**Colors:** Green and white are the 4-H colors. The white background of the logo symbolizes purity; the green 4-H clover represents springtime, life, and youth.

**Motto:** "To Make the Best Better"

**Slogan:** "Learn By Doing"

### Purdue Extension-Posey County Office Information

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*Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

## 4-H Terms to Know

**4-H Achievement Point Card** - This sheet is kept in your record book and is added to each year. You record the points that you should receive for participation in all different aspects of the 4-H program, as this record is an invaluable tool for completing scholarship applications and keeping track of your 4-H progress!

**Clover Connection** - This is the title of the bi-monthly Posey County Newsletter mailed to every 4-H family. This acts as the source for communication on events and activities and general information for 4-H'ers.

**Club Guidelines** - Most 4-H clubs have a set of written guidelines for the operation of the club. Be sure you become familiar with your club's guidelines early in the year.

**Completion** - Achieving this in 4-H means a member completes all membership requirements of the 4-H club for the year.

**Enrollment** - Youth may become Mini 4-H members when they enter Kindergarten and may continue as a member through Grade 2, regardless of age, with a maximum of 3 years of participation. Grade is determined by the grade during the current calendar year. Youth may become 4-H members when they enter Grade 3 and may continue as a member through Grade 12, regardless of age, with a maximum of 10 years of participation. Grade is determined by the grade during the current calendar year. Any special situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the 4-H Council. To enroll, go to [www.4HOnline.com](http://www.4HOnline.com) and follow the prompts. For Mini 4-H, the club is "Posey County Mini 4-H," and there is no cost to join.

**Mini 4-H** - Mini 4-H is 4-H programming designed specifically for youth in Grades K-2. Their exhibits are not judged, per Indiana 4-H policy, and they are welcome to attend both Mini 4-H workshops and regular club meetings of their 4-H-age siblings.

**My Record of 4-H Achievement** - You record your projects describing what you have done and learned on My Record of 4-H Achievement. You will also record the activities, meetings, and committees you have participated in during the year. This is kept in your green record book and is added to each year so that you have detailed memories of your 4-H experience.

**Posey County 4-H Handbook** - This booklet is updated annually with all of the guidelines for membership in Posey County 4-H. One is given to each 4-H families, and additional copies are available for sale in the Extension Office.

**Project Manuals** - Project manuals are guides written by specialists that lead you through activities and give suggestions to help you complete your projects. You can find many of them online at the Indiana 4-H website.

**Projects** - A project is something that the 4-H member has learned about during his or her time in 4-H. The 4-H member can then use what they've learned to make an exhibit that can be entered for judging at the 4-H Fair. These exhibits are on display during the week of the 4-H Fair. Guidelines for projects are found in the annual Posey County 4-H Handbook.

**(Green) Record Book** - This book is given to first year members. Your "My Record of 4-H Achievement" cards, 4-H Achievement Point Card, and project record sheets are kept in this book. You continue to add to this book every year that you are a member of 4-H.

## **Who's Who in Posey County 4-H?**

### **Local Level:**

**4-H Member** - A youth who in grades 3-12 who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

**4-H Club Leader** - A volunteer who is responsible for the organization of the club.

**Junior Leader** - A 4-H member who is in Grades 7-12 and is enrolled in the Junior Leader project. These youth take an active part in helping the younger members of their club. They attend Junior Leader meetings once a month, and they participate in community service activities, fund-raising activities and learn leadership skills.

**Parents** - You are very important to the success your child will have in the Posey County 4-H Youth Development Program. You are encouraged to attend monthly meetings with your child and ask questions. All county-wide events are open to the public, and parents are encouraged to attend. Your key role is the support you can give to your children: support your child in the commitments he/she makes; help him/her think through decisions; and see that he/she reaches his/her goal. There are several ways for you to help: (1) Attending 4-H meetings and other special events. (2) Guiding your child's project work and encouraging completion without doing the work for the 4-H'er. (3) Supporting the local 4-H club leader and offering your services. (4) Making it possible for your child to participate in a variety of 4-H activities, such as camps, fairs, and contests.

### **County Level:**

**Project Superintendent** - Project superintendents are volunteers who are willing to answer project or activity questions for other volunteer leaders or 4-H members. These volunteers are listed in the Posey County 4-H Handbook.

**4-H Council** - This is the 4-H policy-making group, as well as the private funding source for many county level 4-H programs. This group meets on the first Thursday of each month.

**4-H Fair Board** - This is the 4-H fair planning board, as well as the caretakers of the grounds and buildings on the fairgrounds. This group meets on the first Monday of each month.

**4-H Junior Leaders** - This organization is for youth in Grades 7-12. The group plans social and educational events for its members, and the members of this group also participate in their local 4-H club.

**4-H Youth Development Extension Educator** - This person is the professional who guide, teach, and administer county 4-H youth programming. They are staff members of Purdue University.