

Welcome to 4-H!

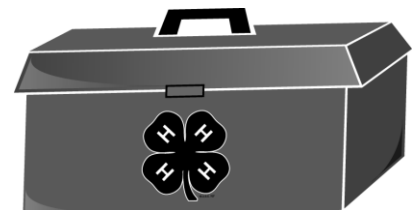
Family Resource Guide **Steuben County**



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VOLUNTEER IN

4-H Toolkit for Success



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in Steuben County 4-H! This booklet is designed with YOU in mind to help you learn more about 4-H, what we do and who we are. Regardless of whether you live on a farm or in town, have one hobby or many, like doing things by yourself or with others, 4-H has something to offer.

We offer informal, educational opportunities in agriculture, community development, health and human sciences, and youth development. As Extension Educators, we work to provide you with the latest scientific information in production of animals, management of resources, helping families make life more livable, and developing individual talents through leadership training. Our office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. We are closed on county holidays.

We welcome the opportunity to make your participation in our programs an enjoyable one!

Sincerely,

Tami M. Mosier

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Purpose of this Guide

This guide is intended to help families new to Steuben County 4-H become familiar with our program. It should serve as a valuable resource for members and parents to better understand the terms, structure and operations of the 4-H program. While some families new to Steuben County 4-H may have transferred from another county, it is important to understand that each county in Indiana has its own way of doing things. Therefore, just because it happened one way in “xyz” county, doesn’t mean it will be the same in Steuben County. Please do not hesitate to contact the Extension Office at any time throughout the year. The Extension Office staff is here to serve your educational needs and wants your family to be successful in our local youth development program.

What is 4-H and the Cooperative Extension Service?

4-H is a non-formal educational program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and is delivered through its Cooperative Extension Service (CES). The Cooperative Extension Service is administered in Indiana through its land grant university, Purdue University. CES offers educational programs in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health and Human Sciences, Community Development, and 4-H Youth Development. In Steuben County, Extension Staff receive program direction and support from the Extension Board that is comprised of a cross-section of people throughout the county.

4-H provides youth in grades 3-12 educational programs through their participation in project and club related activities. Steuben County 4-H offers programming through more than 50 different projects and has multiple community 4-H clubs. 4-H project workshops provide members with technical training that each member needs to be successful not only in discipline, but also with life-long technical skills. 4-H club work provides members with life-long leadership and social skills that will be of benefit to every member in career preparation.

Purdue Extension’s Mission

We deliver practical, research-based information that transform lives and livelihoods.

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 will have a positive impact their communities 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.

Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program Philosophy

The Indiana 4-H 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 models for youth. The rich heritage of the 4-H Program is one to be valued and passed along to future generations.

The Indiana 4-H Youth Policy and Procedures Book sets out certain standards and guidelines to be used to assure that 4-H is a positive youth development program. County 4-H policy is guided by the county 4-H policy making or governing board (i.e., 4-H Council) as provided by the County Extension Board. Legal authority for the 4-H Program rests with the Director of



the Cooperative Extension Service at Purdue University. No county 4-H policy may conflict with state 4-H policy or with federal guidelines and requirements.

Deadlines for county and state participation should be carefully constructed so as to encourage rather than to discourage participation. Such deadlines should be well published. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied the opportunity to exhibit.

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.

Enrollment Eligibility/Membership/Residence

Enrollment in Indiana 4-H is open to any youth enrolled in grades 3-12. Grade is defined as the school grade the child is enrolled at the time of enrollment. A child may enroll in only one 4-H program in Indiana, regardless of their place of residence. In other words, youth are not required to participate in their own county's program and may participate in a different county program provided they have properly enrolled. The only exception to this is if their county of primary 4-H enrollment does not offer a project or statewide activity they want to participate, then the child can enroll in a second county provided they meet Indiana 4-H policy requirements.

Annual 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment

Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. 4-H Online enrollment is October 1 through January 15 at <https://in.4honline.com>. After January 15, contact the Extension Office. 4-H enrollment is open to youth in grades 3-12 for a maximum of 10 consecutive years. 4-H members may drop or add projects by calling the Extension Office, through May 15. There is a \$15 state 4-H program fee and a \$5 county 4-H program fee, payable at the time of enrollment.

4-H Traditions

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.
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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 Web site: <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/index.htm>

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.

Mission of 4-H

To help youth and volunteers in their development through experiential programs using the knowledge and educational base of Purdue University, the land grant university in Indiana, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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 nonformal 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 drama, trips, camps, fairs, shows, and conferences provide additional opportunities and learning experiences.

4-H is open to all youth and adults regardless of their ethnic background, race or personal creed. 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 4-H is two-fold:

- To provide opportunity for parents and other interested adults to work with youth in their development.
- To provide real life experience for youth through a fun, action-oriented, and practical program.

The major focus of 4-H should be on the activities of the local 4-H club. Volunteers and youth plan and carry out organized learning experiences for the 4-H club. The many county and state activities are secondary. Their purposes should be one of supplementing and supporting local club programs.

Why and when did 4-H originate?

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.



How do children and 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.

4-H Terms

Completion: Completion in 4-H is achieved when a 4-H member enrolls in 4-H, selects and prepares a project/activity and submits a finished record sheet or manual composed of his or her accomplishments.

Exhibition: Exhibition in 4-H is the culmination of 4-H project work, often held in conjunction with the County 4-H Fair. Each project submitted for exhibition is evaluated on the degree to which it meets project requirements.

Newsletters: The County 4-H newsletter is mailed/emailed to every 4-H family. 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 only source of information.

Constitution & By-laws: 4-H clubs may have a set of written rules for the operation of the club called the constitution and by-laws.

4-H Fair Books: The booklet which lists the Steuben County Fair classes and rules for entry. A new book is published annually. It is very important that all 4-H families read and are familiar with this book.

Project Manuals/Records: 4-H member and leader guides are typically written by university specialists and serve as suggestions of areas to study in your 4-H projects. These manuals typically contain a record sheet with a set of questions for the member to record his or her experiences in the project.

“My Record of Achievement”: This is a form on which the member records his or her projects and describes the member’s experiences and knowledge gained. Members also record the activities, meetings, and committees they have participated in during the year. An example and directions for completion is available from the County Extension Office.



Who's Who in Steuben County

Regular 4-H Member: Anyone in grades 3-12 who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

Mini 4-H Member: Anyone in grades K-2 who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

Club/Organizational Leader: A volunteer who is responsible for the organizational part of the club.

Project Leader: A volunteer who helps 4-H members as they learn, make or do something. This person can be a 4-H parent who agrees to help with a project. It may also be a Junior Leader or a person from the community who has knowledge in a particular subject matter area.

Activity Leader: A volunteer who is responsible for organizing and conducting special club or countywide activities.

Junior Leader: A 4-H member who is in 6th -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.

Parents: Parents are very important to the success their children will have in the 4-H Program. Parents are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and project workshops with their children. All countywide events are open and parents are encouraged to attend.

4-H Fair Board/4-H Council: This is the 4-H policy-making group, as well as the private funding source for a number of county-level and state-level 4-H programs and trips.

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

Purdue University: Purdue is a land-grant university that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of the directive in the 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: This nonprofit organization works to provide additional resources for the 4-H Program. They sponsor scholarships, fund county and state programs, finance the State 4-H Volunteer recognition program, and support 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 Clubs in Steuben County

Every 4-H Club is different, and we want you to find one that fits your interests and needs. Below is a list of our organized 4-H Clubs.

4-H Bit and Bridle (Horse & Pony)

Meets in Angola—Steuben County Community Center
January-December, 1st Monday, 7 pm
Cindy Heffelfinger 667-4345, Sara Smith 316-6393

4-H Explorers

Meets in Angola—Steuben County Community Center
January-June, 2nd Tuesday, 1:30-3 pm
Paula Thomas 833-2104

4-H Rock'n Rebels

Meets in Hudson—Warstler's Home
January-June; September-December, 2nd Wednesday, 6 pm
Scott & Jamie Warstler 243-6457, Ronna Brames 243-2807

Flint Arrows

Meets in the Salem Center Area—Various members' homes
January-December, 2nd Saturday, 3 pm
Lori Bailer 318-0382, Cheryl Hamlin 316-1832

Fremont Ready, Willing and Able

Meets in Fremont—Fremont Public Library
January-June; October-December, 3rd Saturday, 10 am
Beth Weisenfelder 316-0897

Lucky Ducks

Meets in Angola—Carnegie Public Library of Steuben County
January-July, October-December, 1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Amber Farnham 667-3586

Metz Happy-Go-Lucky

Meets east of Angola—Ferrell's Home
January-December, 2nd Sunday, 4 pm
Jennifer Ferrell 579-6655, Janet Covell 667-3219

Orland Creative Kids

Meets near Orland—Various members' homes
January-December, Sunday (week of the month varies), 3:30 pm
Doug and Stacy Clingan 829-6205



Otsego Go-Getters

Meets east of Angola—Buell's Home
 January-July; October-December, 3rd Sunday, 4 pm
 Denise Buell 316-3604, Kileigh Wolfe 316-3376

The Conquerors

Meets in Angola—Steuben County Community Center
 February-July; October; December, 2nd Tuesday, 7 pm
 Nate and Heather Stuller 479-0556

Tiny Clovers, Mini 4-H (Grades K-2 only)

Meets in Angola—Steuben County Community Center
 March, April, May, twice monthly, six total meetings, 6:30 pm
 Doug Smith 243-0943

Ways Parents Can Help

- Help your child select one or more suitable 4-H Projects to complete. Support your child's 4-H project work.
- Make sure your child attends the 4-H Club meetings. Post and help your child use the club calendar. Provide or arrange for transportation. Club calendars are published in our newsletter. Attend at least three Club meetings (the first and two others) with your child.
- Help your child to complete any 4-H responsibilities he or she may have volunteered for, been elected to, or selected for.
- Help with at least one 4-H club activity during the 4-H year. Volunteer, don't wait to be asked.
- Read the newsletter, especially the calendar to be aware of dates important to your 4-Her.
- Help your child gather any materials needed for their project.
- Help your child complete one or more articles for exhibit and make sure he/she can exhibit them at the County 4-H Fair. Provide transportation and encouragement.
- Help your child complete, and turn in on time, 4-H project records.
- Help your child learn and grow, share experiences with your child, improve relationships with your child, make a contribution to youth in your community, and develop a sense of accomplishment.
- Be an example! Help your 4-Her to be a good sport, and appreciate the successes of others.
- Be a 4-H booster in the community. Support 4-H by sponsoring awards and the 4-H Fair Board.
- Help your 4-Her find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, camps, Fairs, displays, or shows.
- Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
- Offer your services to assist the local program by talking with the Extension Educator. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
- Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop your sons and daughters into finer citizens. The way they work on projects, participate in meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.



4-H FAIR JUDGING

In Steuben County, we practice open judging which basically means you, as a 4-H member, have the opportunity to have an open conversation with the judge of your project. It is a great learning experience in which you can ask questions and obtain constructive criticism and genuine praise regarding your project and your efforts. Parents are not permitted to speak with the judges during open judging as it is a prime time for youth to shine on their very own, explaining what they learned and how they accomplished their goals. Youth may be asked questions such as:

- What new things did you learn?
- Have you taken this project before?
- How much time did you spend on this project?
- What were your goals for this project?
- What would you like to change about your exhibit?
- Tell me something about this exhibit that you want me to know.
- What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- Did you do this exhibit at school or was it in a workshop setting?
- Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit, or do you have any questions that I may be able to answer?

4-H Ribbons

Ribbon placings are defined as follows:

Grand Champion/Reserve Grand Champion: Exceptional work

Champion/Reserve Champion: Outstanding work, well above the average of the group

Honor Group: Very good work, above the average of the group

Blue: A complete exhibit, meets exhibit requirements, well constructed

Red: adequately constructed or does not fully meet the exhibit requirements

White: poorly constructed or barely meets the exhibit requirements

