

MONROE COUNTY

Mini 4-H



HANDBOOK



Welcome to Monroe County Mini 4-H!

Mini 4-H is a fun and educational program designed to help build self-esteem by providing youth the opportunity to learn and be recognized through non-competitive, experiential learning. It also helps develop an interest in continuing into the 4-H program.

This publication is provided to help your family learn more about the Monroe County Mini 4-H Program. As you consider participating in the Mini 4-H program, it is important for you to be informed of the general terms and conditions which govern the Indiana 4-H Program. The Extension Office staff is here to serve your educational needs and wants your family to be successful in our local youth development program. This manual is to help you guide your child through their years in Mini 4-H. It offers information and suggestions of how you can be of assistance to your child. You can always call your child's 4-H club leader, check the Purdue Extension - Monroe County website, or call the Extension Office with questions. We encourage your questions, comments, and we look forward to your family's participation.

Purdue Extension - Monroe County Office

3400 South Walnut Street

Bloomington IN 47401

Phone: 812-349-2575

Fax: 812-349-4637

email: monroeces@purdue.edu

<http://www.extension.purdue/monroe>

Office Hours: Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

4-H 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

4-H Motto

"To Make the Best Better"

4-H Colors

"Green and White"

4-H Emblem

Four leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf

Purdue Extension Monroe County Staff

Amy Thompson, *County Extension Director*

Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources

afthompson@purdue.edu

Katie Richárd, *Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development*

richar76@purdue.edu

Courtney Stewart, *Extension Educator, Health & Human Sciences*

stewa229@purdue.edu

Jacqueline Claffey, *Office Manager*

jclaffey@purdue.edu

Cindi Percifield, *Administrative Assistant*

ckpercif@purdue.edu

Shelly Brummett-Powell, *NEP*

powell86@purdue.edu

Mary Beth King, *Program Assistant*

king413@purdue.edu

What is 4-H?



4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program



4-H is for boys and girls in kindergarten through grade 12



4-H is for urban as well as rural youth



4-H helps young people develop life skills. A life skill is an ability that one can use in everyday life. The five basic life skills are:

1. Building self confidence
2. Developing an inquiring mind
3. Setting goals and making decisions
4. Relating to other people
5. Developing a concern for the community

4-H PLEDGE

A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and the people around you. The 4-H pledge below means we promise to make good choices, to be a good friend, to do helpful things for others, to take care of my body and show others how to live in a healthy way.

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

MOTTO: "To Make the Best Better"

The 4-H Motto refers to each member. It means that each member will do the "best" they can do in whatever is attempted. The member will then strive to improve to make their "best" become "better." Its intent is to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better through participating in educational experiences.

COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color. Green represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.

EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The "H" stands for Head, Heart, Hands and Health – the foundation of all 4-H programs.

Head: learning to think, making decisions, understanding the "whys," and gaining new and valuable knowledge.

Heart: being concerned with the welfare of others, accepting the responsibilities of citizenship, determining values and attitudes by which to live, and learning how to work with others.

Hands: learning new skills, perfecting skills already known and developing pride in work and respect for it.

Health: practicing healthful living, protecting the well-being of self and others, and making constructive use of leisure time.

More About Mini 4-H

WHO CAN JOIN MINI 4-H?

Mini 4-H members are youth enrolled in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades as of October 1 of the current year, regardless of age.

HOW CAN I JOIN MINI 4-H?

Open Enrollment for the 4-H Program is October 1 through January 15. Enrollment can be completed online at <https://in.4honline.com>. This is the most accurate and efficient method to enroll. You may also turn in a completed 4-H paper enrollment form to the Monroe County Extension Office. There is an annual enrollment fee of \$5.00 per mini member. 4-H members must enroll every year.

MINI 4-H MEETINGS

Meetings are a fun time for all Mini 4-H'ers to gather together and get to know one another. Members will learn more about 4-H and the Mini 4-H program, as well as engage in some fun activities. Most 4-H clubs meet at least once each month. Many clubs begin meeting in January and meet regularly until after the fair. There are a few that meet year round. Each club is run independently by adult volunteers. It is best to contact the adult leader of the club to inquire about their requirements, fees, schedule, etc. to determine which club(s) will meet your family's needs. Attendance at club meetings is not mandatory although it is highly encouraged as a part of the overall experience. Youth who actively participate gain the greatest benefit from the 4-H program. Attendance and participation at club meetings cannot be required as criteria for project completion. Monroe County has one club, Fairgrounds Mini 4-H Club, specifically for Mini Members. We also have several Community Clubs that allow Mini Members. Mini Members are also invited to participate in our 4-H Animal Clubs, with the exception of Beef & Swine. A list of Monroe County 4-H clubs and their locations (for mini members) is listed below. A more detailed list of all our clubs with their meeting times is available on our website. If you would like more information on any of our clubs or contact information for the club leaders, please contact us at 812-349-2575.

Community Clubs

- *Country Sunshine – Fairgrounds
- *Happy Hearts - TBD
- *Helping Hands – Fairgrounds
- *Lucky Pandas – West Side
- *Mini 4-H (Fairgrounds)
- *Smithville Samaritans – South Side
- *Sportfishing – Lake Monroe
- *Stanford Ridge Runners – Fairgrounds
- *Unionville Hot Shots – East Side/Unionville

Animal Clubs

- *Cat Tails Cat Club
- *Dairy Club
- *4-H Dog Lovers Club
- *Goat Club
- *Mini Horse & Pony
- *Fancy Flyers Pigeon Club
- *Poultry Club
- *Lamb Handlers Sheep Club
- *Harey Hoppers Rabbit Club

MINI 4-H PROJECTS

4-H projects are learning experiences for the 4-H member. 4-H members must sign up for at least one project each year. Youth are encouraged to enroll in only as many projects as they anticipate completing. More may be added if you have more time. 4-H members may add or drop projects until the deadline (usually early June) as set by Purdue. To add or drop a project, please call the Extension Office at 812-349-2575. ***See the following pages to view Monroe County Mini 4-H Project options.***

Bicycle

- Take a picture of you and your bike
- Describe the ways you use your bike, or label bike parts
- Explain why it is important to wear a helmet

Crafts

- Make your own Creative Craft!

Collections

- Collect 5 items or 5 pairs of items
- Go to a museum and look at many collections, write a report to discuss

Dinosaurs

- Make a fossil cast (you can use bones, leaves or twigs)
- Find four pictures of dinosaurs
- Make a model of your favorite dinosaur

Entomology

- Make a poster showing a bug's life cycle
- Design and make your own bug from materials at home

Farm Animals

- Make a poster showing the different things that farm animals make for us
- Make a poster showing the different kinds of farm animals

Foods

- Make a peanut butter sandwich or popcorn snack
- Make a poster with kitchen safety rules

Forestry

- Draw a Tree
- Describe uses of wood,
- Collect and identify leaves or trees

Gardening

- Grow and exhibit three vegetables
- Create a scrapbook of pictures of vegetables

Helping Mom and Dad

- Exhibit five pictures showing what you do to help around the house or farm

Legos

- Build an article of your choice

Models

- Make a snap together plastic model
- Make a model out of clay or popsicle sticks

My Pet and Me

- Make a scrapbook or poster about your special pet

Plants and Flowers

- Grow and cut three flowers to exhibit or a flowering plant in a pot
- Make a poster to show the different parts of a plant

Sewing

- Create a sewing kit
- Make a pin cushion
- Sew a teddy bear, cat, or pillow

Sportfishing

- Learn how to fish safely

Soil and Water

- Create your own Agri-Buddy
- Write a story on the adventures of a worm
- Write a story about the travels of a raindrop

Sun, Stars and Space

- Make a solar system
- Make a poster showing different constellations

Whales and Dolphins

- Find and identify pictures of dolphins or whales
- Make a poster to show how big whales are by comparing it to something you already know
- Make a model of your favorite whale or dolphin

Wildlife Adventure

- Make a poster identifying birds
- Create a bird watching chart
- Observe and describe different animal characteristics

WHEN DO WE GET OUR PROJECT MANUALS?

Project manuals are available at the Monroe County Extension Office or on our website. Members are welcome to visit our office and pick up the manuals or you can ask your leader to get them. You can then begin working on your project(s) after you receive your manuals. The manuals provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities. 4-H'ers should complete most or all of the activities in the manual. The manuals also suggest several options for exhibiting at the county fair. There are many different projects (listed above) to choose from. A member can select as many projects as they desire.

Depending on what you decide to make for your exhibit, you may incur some cost for supplies, such as glue, poster board, construction paper, etc.

HOW DO WE EXHIBIT A PROJECT AND HOW ARE THEY JUDGED?

The Mini 4-H program is set up to allow your child to exhibit their project(s) at the Monroe County Fair. The project(s) should be based on the information in the manuals. Mini 4-H "judging" is different from judging for Grades 3-12. This is not a competitive judging because it is not age appropriate (refer to the article on page 7, Ages & Stages). Each Mini 4-H'er will have the opportunity to talk to a "judge" and will receive a blue ribbon on their project to be displayed at the Monroe County Fair.

PROJECT CHECK-IN FOR THE COUNTY FAIR

You will bring your project exhibits to the Monroe County Fairgrounds for Mini 4-H Project Check-in. Members will talk to a "judge" about their project. All exhibits will receive a blue ribbon and will be placed on display in the 4-H Exhibit Hall during the fair, where you, your family and friends will be able to see your project(s) on display.

Project check-in is scheduled annually and is typically about one week before the fair opens. Please check the 4-H Schedule of Events, available in March, to confirm the date and time of Mini Project Check-In.

Mini 4-H project exhibits will be released on the Sunday after the fair closes. Make arrangements with a friend or family member if you cannot be there to pick up your child's projects.

NON-COMPETITIVE POLICY AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Mini 4-H is a program designed to encourage positive development of children in kindergarten, first and second grades. 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.

- Planned learning activities which invite children to be active and explore material and ideas without the pressure of completing a specific product or exhibit.
- Low leader to child ratio that allows time for adult leaders to provide individual positive encouragement and assistance.
- Simple, interesting activities that are fun.
- Encouragement of children to participate in group activity by sharing or displaying their projects.
- Rewards that are identical and/or ribbons of the same color for everyone.

Ages and Stages of Youth Development *Early Elementary*

Physical Growth: Early-elementary age children are at a period of slow, steady growth. The rapid changes of the infant/preschooler are behind them. The adolescent growth spurt is far away. 6 to 8 year olds are busy learning how to use their bodies by mastering physical skills. Because these skills are not yet polished, craft projects often end up messy, with crooked nails and too much glue. Activities need to be just that-active. Provide opportunities to practice skills, but use projects that can be completed successfully by beginners.

Growth in Thinking: Early-elementary-age children are moving out of the “stage of initiative” and into the “stage of industry.” The child at this stage of development is more interested in the process than in the resulting product. During this stage of industry children are less interested in completing a project than in working on it. Thinking is very concrete at this time. If they have never seen it, heard it, felt it, tasted it, or smelled it, they have a hard time thinking of it.

Social Growth: School-age activities take children away from home and parents and put them in environments where they face new responsibilities and demands. The opinion of peers is becoming very important. Often, the 6-8 year olds care more about being successful

when their peers are watching than when just Mom or Dad are around. Small group activities are effective, but the children still need an adult to share approval.

Emotional Growth: Early-elementary age children are wrapped up in themselves. Their thinking capacity doesn't allow them to imagine clearly what other people think and feel. 6-8 year olds need to seek the approval of adults, because they are not yet confident enough to set their own standards. Rules and rituals become fascinating, but the children are not yet ready to accept losing. That is why success needs to be emphasized, even if it is small. Cooperative games in which every child wins can be especially enjoyable at this age. Failures should be minimized, and some measure of success should be found in every experience to ease the blows of young egos. When an activity fails, the parent can help the child by interpreting the reasons behind the failures. Learning to cope with problems is a skill adults can encourage in 4-H members. The usual 4-H practice of awarding competitive ribbons should be minimized or avoided here. Competition with others is inappropriate at the Mini-4-H level.

Source: *Ages and Stages of Child and Youth Development A Guide for 4-H Leaders. Pub. #292*

Mini 4-H Parent's Page

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project areas.

Your child will receive project manual(s) to teach them about the project areas they are interested in. These manuals will also provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities throughout their year in Mini 4-H and their interest in these specific projects.

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through the activities. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activity for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is "learn by doing." This is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

The Monroe County Fair is an exciting time for 4-H members and families. It is a time that allows community youth to showcase their talents, interests, and enthusiasm for learning. The Mini 4-H program is set up to allow your child to exhibit a project at the Monroe County Fair.

Mini 4-H is fun! Your child will certainly enjoy it! You can have fun, too, by guiding and helping as your child participates in the program. Encourage and praise your child as he/she enjoys learning and sharing with you.

If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H, other 4-H programs or 4-H related questions, please contact the Monroe County Extension Office at (812) 349-2575.



Mini 4-H Poster Tips & Hints

Supplies Needed:

- 22" x 14" Piece of poster board - any color (*half of a regular 22"x28" board*)
- Stiff backing
- Project items for poster
- Clear lightweight plastic to cover poster (not plastic wrap)
- Lettering supplies: markers, colored pencils, or stencils, or purchased lettering
- Rubber cement or glue stick to attach items

Tips and Hints:

- Posters read horizontally like a dollar bill.
- Attach items for poster securely.
- Mix pictures with words.
- Be as neat as possible.
- Parents can help but should not do the whole poster.
- Attach poster to stiff backing.
- Cover with clear plastic and tape plastic to rear side of backing.