

Tips for a Successful 4-H Year

A new 4-H year is upon us, and to guide you along, here are some tips to help you get the most out of your 4-H experience. Let 4-H be a positive experience for you by making sure you know what is required, and getting involved as much as possible.

General Info

Do you know the 4-H pledge? Or what 4-H stands for? As a 4-H member, you should be familiar with the basic aspects of the program.

4-H Emblem

The 4-H Emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf. The “H” stands for Head, Hearth, Hands, and Health.



4-H Colors

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

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.”

Project Materials

Whenever you enroll in 4-H, you should receive all the materials that go along with that project, such as project manuals, record sheets, and the fairbook. Make sure you have all of your materials before starting your project.

Manuals

This is the project book that has detailed info and activities related to that project. Most manuals are used more than one year. Make sure you read through these and do some of the activities to allow you to learn more about the project. Some projects do not have a manual, but rather a resource book that is to be used throughout your 4-H career.

Record Sheets

A record sheet is a record of what was learned for that year in a project. Record sheets are what actually complete you in a 4-H project. You can find record sheets located in the manual, as a separate handout sheet, or online.

Fairbook

The fairbook contains project guidelines & requirements, as well as the fair schedules. Each 4-H family receives a fairbook when enrolling. Each project has its own section in the book that explains what you need to do for your grade or level within that project.

4-H Clubs & Workshops

Clubs and workshops are another way for members to have a positive experience while learning, and are led by adult volunteers. Being a part of a club allows you to ask questions, socialize with other youth, and expand your 4-H experience, so get involved with your club and make 4-H fun!

Community Clubs

You join a community club regardless of what project you decide to take. In Randolph County, members typically join the club which corresponds with their respective school, but this is not required. Most clubs will meet on a regular basis in the spring.



Project Clubs

Project clubs are those that members can join along with being a part of a community club. These clubs are project specific and have their own meetings and activities. Project clubs include Dog Obedience & Agility, Horse & Pony, Junior Leaders, Rabbits, and Shooting Sports.

Project Workshops

Workshops are designed for members in a certain project to receive additional instruction. There may be just one workshop offered, or several workshops. Examples include photography, scrapbooking, cake decorating, tractor, and electric.

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4-H Fair

The 4-H Fair is at the Randolph County 4-H Fairgrounds. The fair is a chance for all the 4-H projects to be showcased to the public. All non-livestock projects are brought in to be judged the week before the fair. The livestock projects are brought in and judged during the fair. Be sure to check your fairbook to find out when and where to have your project ready for the fair.

Completion

In order to receive credit for the hard work you put into 4-H, you need to make sure you complete 4-H for the year. This means you have met all the project requirements. Exhibiting at the fair does NOT equal completion. A record sheet must be turned in for you to be recorded as having completed a year in 4-H. You can even complete a project without having an exhibit at the fair simply by turning in a completed record sheet.

Questions?!

Do you know where to go if you have a 4-H question? The Randolph County Extension Service is the base for our county's 4-H program. Here they have all the materials, info, and staff to guide the program and answer your questions. You may also get help from 4-H leaders, other 4-H members & families, Randolph County Extension website, or from your project materials.

Randolph County Extension Service
1885 S US Hwy 27
Winchester, IN 47394
765-584-2271

www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/randolph