

4-H in Missouri



Mission

Engaging youth as valued, contributing members of their communities in partnership with caring adults.

Vision

A world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together for positive change.

In support of this mission, 4-H will:

- Provide formal and non-formal community-focused experiential learning.
- Help youth develop skills that benefit them throughout life.
- Foster leadership and volunteerism in youth and adults.
- Build internal and external partnerships for programming and funding.
- Strengthen families and communities.
- Use research-based knowledge available from the land-grant university system and other sources.

The accomplishments of this mission will result in capable, competent and caring citizens.

Goals

The goal of 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directed, productive members of society. A necessary corollary of the youth development goal is the development of volunteers as individuals/leaders in the 4-H program.

4-H Is

4-H is the youth volunteer education program of University of Missouri Extension, University of Missouri and Lincoln University. It is a family-community effort, supplementing and complementing the mission of the home, church, and school for the development of youth. 4-H is:

- An informal education program,
- Community-based and locally determined,
- Primarily group focused and family oriented,
- Volunteer operated, and
- Coordinated by University of Missouri Extension faculty.

4-H Methods

4-H uses knowledge as the means to help individuals meet basic developmental needs and acquire essential life skills including positive self-concept, social interaction skills, decision-making abilities, practical knowledge and physical competencies.

- 4-H emphasizes practical learning experiences through subject matter related projects and activities using Extension and Land Grant University resources.
- 4-H structures the learning environment using knowledge from the social and behavioral sciences to promote the acquisition of life skills.
- Rural and urban youth from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds participate in 4-H through a wide range of educational models.

4-H Management

Under the supervision of extension specialists, 4-H volunteers interact with youth and adults through structured group and individual learning experiences. Professional extension faculty instructs volunteers in social and behavioral science subject matter, educational methods, and the democratic process to achieve human development objectives.

4-H Support

4-H is publicly supported by county, state and federal governments. Private resources, both human and financial, are used to enrich the learning experiences of youth and adults.

The 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.

The 4-H Motto

“To Make the Best Better”

What the “Hs” Mean

The “Hs” in 4-H stand for head, heart, hands and health. Through 4-H, youths in small towns, and in rural, urban and suburban areas learn to strengthen and develop themselves.

4-H Slogan

“Learn to do by Doing”

4-H Colors

The white in the 4-H Flag symbolizes purity. The green, nature’s most common color, represents life, springtime, and youth.

4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease, and work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all of these things, I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts for their fulfillment.