

What is a 4-H Club?

The 4-H club serves as the primary means of delivering youth development programming in 4-H. It has the advantage of providing long term involvement with the support of “caring” adults.

There are components and characteristics that are common to all 4-H clubs and these commonalities provide the definition of a 4-H club.

A 4-H Club:

- Is an organized group of youth.
- Has a planned program that is ongoing throughout all or most of the year.
- Is advised by adult staff or volunteers.
- Typically elects officers.
- May meet in any location.
- Includes opportunities to learn skills through a wide variety of project experiences.
- Offers opportunities for leadership, citizenship/community service, and public speaking.

National Criteria for 4-H Youth Development Programming

- 4-H programs, curricula, and procedures are based in research and are developmentally appropriate.
- 4-H programs are based on the needs of children/youth and their parents.
- 4-H provides access to resources of Land Grant University Cooperative Extension System. 4-H provides members access to county, state, national 4-H opportunities.
- 4-H membership is open to all youth.
- 4-H program delivery employs experiential learning strategies.
- 4-H encourages active involvement and participation by children/youth and adults in all aspects.
- 4-H relies heavily on youth and adult volunteers/staff leaders to provide a critical support system for 4-H.
- 4-H provides training for volunteer/staff leaders recognizing that training is essential for effective 4-H programs.
- 4-H adapts to and supports mobility of children/youth and parents.
- 4-H clubs comply with national 4-H name and emblem policies and policies of the state.

Steps to forming a new 4-H Club

- Contact the county 4-H agent
- Attend local 4-H volunteer/leader orientation
- Submit a complete 4-H volunteer application to the county 4-H office
- Obtain county and state 4-H policies and guidelines
- Assess youth, parent and community needs and interests
- Identify a consistent club meeting location

- Recruit potential club members – must have at least FIVE.
- Conduct organizational meeting
- Recruit parent helpers
- Complete and submit club enrollment forms to county 4-H office
- Elect youth officers for 4-H club
- Select a non-discriminatory name for 4-H club
- With club member input, prepare a six month club calendar
- Submit six month club calendar to county 4-H office
- Complete and submit club charter application to county 4-H office