4-H Youth Development

4-H Youth Development is Cooperative Extension’s nonformal educational program for young people. The program combines the cooperative efforts of youth, volunteer leaders, state land grant universities, federal, state, local governments, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The goal of the program is to assist young people in developing knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, responsible, productive citizens, and contributing members of society. Volunteers are essential to the successful delivery of 4-H programs. 4-H serves youth in a variety of methods:

- Organized 4-H Clubs
- 4-H School Enrichment Programs
- 4-H Special Interest Groups
- 4-H Individual Study Programs
- 4-H Instructional TV Programs
- 4-H Camping
- 4-H Projects
- Hands-on learning

THE 4-H MISSION...

4-H Youth Development Education creates supportive environments for culturally diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential. In support of this mission, we will:

- Provide formal and non-formal community-focused experimental learning.
- Develop skills that benefit youth 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 and the Land Grant University System.

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

The 4-H Vision...

Becoming a world leader in developing youth to become productive citizens and catalysts for positive change to meet the needs of a diverse and changing society.

The 4-H Value Set...

1. We believe that youth development is the focus of everything we do.
2. We believe youth-adult partnerships are essential to successful youth development.
3. We believe that volunteerism is fundamental.
4. We believe in the strength attained from diversity across the entire range of 4-H experiences.

The 4-H Emblem...

A four leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaflet means the development of HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH.

The 4-H Colors... Green and White

The 4-H Slogan... “Learn by Doing”

The 4 H’s...

Head Clearer thinking and decision making. Knowledge useful throughout life.
Heart Greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self concept, concern for others.
Hands Larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy.
Health Better living, healthy lifestyles.

The 4-H Motto...

“To make the best better”

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.

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In cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture, District of Columbia Government Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, programs and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political belief, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.
Head: Clearer Thinking & Decision Making
• Knowledge Useful Throughout Life

Heart: Greater Loyalty
• Strong Personal Values
• Positive Self Concept
• Concern for Others

Hands: Larger Service
• Workforce Preparedness
• Useful Skills
• Science & Technology Literacy

Health: Better Living
• Healthy Lifestyles