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## 4-H What's It all About? : Extension Circular 0-76-73

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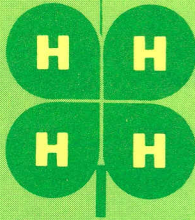
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focus on  
leadership



## Symbols of 4-H

### Emblem

A green four-leaf clover with a white letter "H" on each leaflet. The four "H's" represent the four-fold development of Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

### Colors

Green and White

Green—nature's most common color and emblematic of springtime, life, and youth.

White—symbolizes purity and high ideals.

### Motto

To Make the Best Better.

### Pledge

I pledge:

My Head to clear thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty,  
My Hands to larger service, and  
My Health to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
and my country.

# 4-H, What's It All About?

You are a 4-H Leader. Congratulations for being selected, and for your willingness to serve youth! You will have both responsibilities and opportunities. You will gain untold satisfactions as you see boys and girls grow and develop. Boys and girls will look to you as their friend, teacher, guide and helper. Your job will be challenging and rewarding.

You may have been a 4-H member yourself, or you may have heard of 4-H only recently. As a leader you will want to know what 4-H is all about. Let's look at it.

## DEFINITION AND PURPOSE

4-H is a voluntary, educational program designed to meet the needs and interests of boys and girls.

The emblem is a four-leaf clover with an H in each leaf. The letters in the emblem stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health—the foundation of all 4-H programs. As a leader, you'll help your members develop.

### Head

Learning to think, making decisions, understanding the "whys", gaining new and valuable knowledge in many areas.

### Heart

Being concerned with the welfare of others, accepting responsibilities of citizenship determining values and attitudes by which to live, learning how to work and live with others at home, in our communities, state, nation and world.

### Hands

Learning new skills, perfecting skills already known, developing pride in work and respect for it, exploring possible vocations and careers.

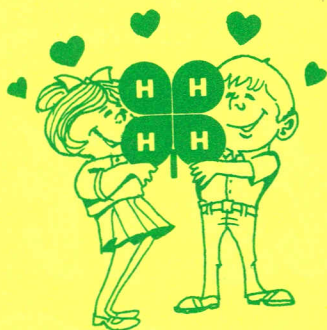
### Health

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

As a 4-H leader, you will help your 4-H members with this four-fold development.







## What Makes 4-H Effective?

### 4-H Is Real Life Experience

It is learning how to do jobs, how to make decisions similar to those that are important in adult life.

### 4-H Can Be a Family Affair

There is a place for others in the family group if they want to participate. Sometimes you, as a leader, can reach and teach others (friends, parents, brothers and sisters) through "your" boys and girls. Members must have the support and interest of their parents.

### 4-H Is Adaptable

Programs can and should be "tailor-made" to fit any individual, any home, any community. That's part of the fun. You can help your club "cut and fit" so that everyone gains from the experience.

### 4-H Is Decision Making

Learning to stand on one's own feet and learning to work with a group is important to each person. Early practice in making both personal and group decisions builds for the future. You help members find possible answers and you encourage them to explore and decide which decision they will follow.

### 4-H Provides for Ownership Responsibility

Making, buying and selling are included in many projects. Each project is the responsibility of the member.

### 4-H Is Based on Science and Fact

The resources of the University of Nebraska, particularly the College of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics, are used to a great

extent to develop projects and teaching materials for 4-H and to support the activities of the total program.

### 4-H Is a Part of the Community

Each youngster is a "full-fledged" member of the community regardless of his age. In 4-H he not only learns from and about his community but becomes a concerned citizen by taking responsibility for helping make it a better place to live.

### 4-H Is "Learning by Doing"

4-H is an action program. Participants watch others, they study, they experiment, but they "do and practice" themselves.

## PARTICIPATION

4-H is available to all (4-H age) boys and girls on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, place of residence, socioeconomic situation or educational background.

An active 4-H member must have reached his ninth birthday during the current calendar year and must not have passed his 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current calendar year, and must be enrolled in a 4-H project.

Younger brothers and sisters of club members sometimes become very interested in what the club is doing. You may wish to include them in the club's activities if time and space allow. They will need to wait, however, until they reach the minimum age before they are enrolled as active members.

Each interested boy and girl should have a place. Each should progress at his own rate. Needs and interests of individuals will vary—the same as yours.

The 4-H program is organized on a county basis. County Extension Agents are responsible for administration of the 4-H program. The planning, recruiting of members and leaders, conducting 4-H events, all are coordinated through the County Extension Office. Each County has an elected, representative, 4-H Council or Committee. This group shares responsibility with the Extension Staff in determining and carrying out the county 4-H Program. *Therefore a youngster becomes officially enrolled in 4-H when the enrollment form, bearing his name and project, reaches the Extension Office.*

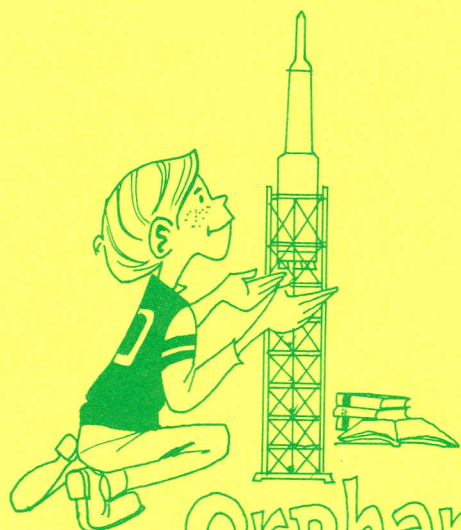


## Types of Participation

The 4-H program provides youth a variety of options for participation. He can be a 4-H member by participating:

1. As an *orphan member* where he carries a project without group affiliation.
2. In a *special interest group* which meets three or more times without club organization.
3. In viewing a series of special 4-H programs on television, individually or in a group.

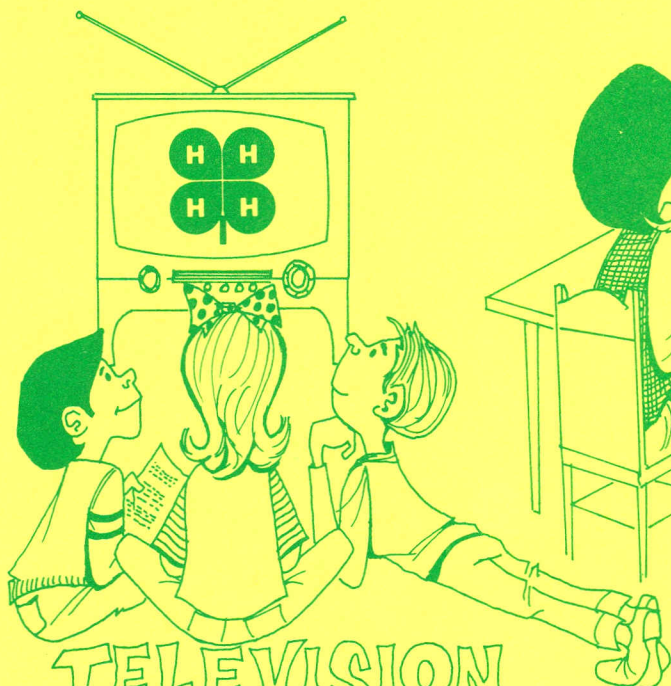
4. In an *organized 4-H club*: 4-H clubs should be organized to fit the community situation. All members may carry the same project. Organized clubs may also be made up of members who come from a specific community or neighborhood and have a variety of ages represented. The clubs may have an organizational leader who carries out all leader responsibilities, or a team of leaders (organizational, project, activity, etc.) who share responsibilities.



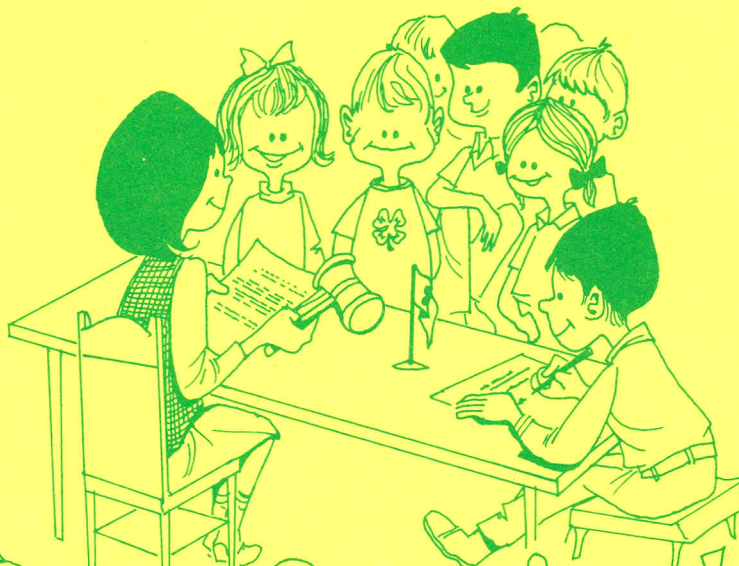
Orphan  
member



Special Interest  
group



TELEVISION



Organized  
Club



## 4-H Club Charters and Seals

A 4-H club when first organized is issued a charter by the United States Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Extension Service provided: (a) Five or more club members are enrolled. (b) Elected officers in charge. (c) Supervised by a local leader. (d) Planned program which includes the following:

1. At least six business meetings.
2. Demonstrations by members.
3. Judging.
4. Exhibiting
5. Achievement Day.

The club is then considered a standard club. Organized clubs may function without meeting all standard club requirements. A standard club, meeting the five requirements listed above by the end of the club year, and with at least 60% of the members completing a project, will receive a *seal* to be affixed to the charter.

## The Scope of 4-H Participation

Nebraska has more than 42,000 members of 4-H and 8,000 volunteer 4-H leaders. There are over 3 million 4-H members in the United States and 300,000 volunteer leaders. In addition, Extension serves 1 1/3 million youth not in 4-H, making a total of more than 4 1/3 million reached through 4-H Youth Development programs.



## 4-H Participation Around the World

A compliment to 4-H is the fact that more than 70 countries throughout the world have 4-H type programs. They may be called by different names (4-S in South America, 4-K in Turkey, Young Farmers Club in England and New Zealand) but they have the same goal—the growth and development of boys and girls to their greatest capacity.

The IFYE (International Farm Youth Exchange) and the Teen Caravan are two programs sponsored by the National 4-H Foundation that work to build international understanding. Living with families in another country is a most effective way to learn about their culture and way of life.

## NAME AND EMBLEM OF 4-H

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 brought the Extension Service into being for the purpose of "disseminating...useful information to the people." The 4-H program is the major youth program of the Extension Service and therefore the name and emblem of the 4-H is authorized and protected by Federal Law.

Public Law 772 of the 80th Congress is the act controlling the name and emblem of 4-H.

### Sec. 8.4 Basic Premises

(a) The 4-H club name and emblem are held in trust by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture for the Educational and Character building purposes of the 4-H club program and can be used only as authorized by statute and in accordance with the authorization of the Secretary or his designated representative.

(b) The 4-H club name and emblem may be used by authorized representatives of the United State Department of Agriculture, the Land-Grant Colleges and the Cooperative Extension Service, in accordance with these regulations, for serving the educational needs and interests of boys and girls enrolled in 4-H clubs.

(c) Any use of the 4-H club name and emblem is forbidden if it exploits the 4-H club program, its volunteer leaders or members of the United States Department of Agriculture, Land-Grant Colleges, Cooperative Extension Service, or their employees.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

4-H is primarily a tax-supported program. Federal, State and County tax funds provide most of the salary of Extension staff members, secretarial help, office equipment and supplies, travel support and most member-leader manuals.

Private funds from organizations, businesses and individuals further enhance the 4-H program by providing monies to finance activities, awards, recognition, incentives and supplemental educational material.



	<b>Tax support Authorized by</b>	<b>Private funds, collected and managed by</b>
County	County Commissioners or Board of Supervisors	County 4-H Council, 4-H Committee or County 4-H Foundation
State	Nebraska Legislature	Nebraska Assoc. for 4-H Development
National	The National Congress	National 4-H Service Committee and National 4-H Foundation

#### 4-H IN THE EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

