

Growing up in rural Missouri, 4H was around but I was not a part of it. We lived on the outskirts of town and didn't own livestock and I thought that was mostly what 4H was.

But I did meet an avid 4H'r in my husband. He lived on a ranch in Nebraska and 4H was BIG; mostly with livestock they sold at the fair, but he gained experience in many projects.

My girlfriend had joined our local club and encouraged me and our 4 kids to join. We had lots going on but it sounded like her kids were experiencing neat stuff, like interviewing skills, demonstrations to a group, and cooking. Few in the club even had any livestock and animals, so it seemed there was more to it than I remembered.

So, the next year, we signed up. Then we really signed up. This being our 2nd year, I'm now the leader of our club. There's a lot to 4H. Sometimes it seems overwhelming, yet, the opportunities for our kids are abundant. What parent doesn't want their child to have advantages in life? If your child gets to experience public speaking, even at the meetings, there's an advantage. Even knowing the basics of cake decorating, or electricity; there's an advantage. Learning to sit quietly at a meeting and offer input. Even adults need that!

There should be more community involvement. There are a variety of projects that the kids can be chose from, yet, if the parent can't teach it, then, ideally, there's is a project leader that can teach a class. Like bowling. Yes, I would love my kids to learn to bowl and keep score. I possibly could teach them to bowl and maybe keep score ! although my kids would learn 10 times faster if there were a project leader.

So as our 2nd year in 4H draws to a close with the fair just around the corner, we're feeling like we made a good decision. The advantages to such a generous program can be enormous, but 1st...you have to join!

4H.....

4H for you.	4H can be for you and your family. You just have to make the effort and join up.
4H for me	4H has been just the outlet I've needed
4H for Fun	4H is fun, fun to watch the kids learn and gain self confidence
4H for Life	4H skills can be an advantage in life; live it!

Karen, Farley Jolly Workers