

31 Most frequently asked questions about 4-H and 4-H clubs . . .



If you want to know how to:

Join

Organize

Sponsor or

Lead a 4-H club

Read the answers to these questions, and contact the Platte County University of Missouri Extension Center.

4-H BASICS

1 WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a volunteer-led organization that reaches boys and girls through small groups called clubs. 4-H members decide which of more than 40 projects they want to learn more about. Most projects use hands-on learning experiences to teach subject matter and life-skills such as cooperation, leadership, and decision-making — skills that can be applied over and over for a lifetime.

2 WHAT DO THE H's STAND FOR?

Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

This is the 4-H Pledge - -

"I pledge . . .

My head to clearer

My heart to greater loyalty

My hands to larger service

My health to better living

For my club, my community,

My country and my world."

3 WHAT IS THE 4-H EMBLEM?



A green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each cloverleaf.

4 WHY DO YOUTH LIKE 4-H?

They have FUN with friends at meetings, social activities, tours, trips, camps, and fairs. They learn to do interesting things such as take care of animals, plants, redecorate their rooms, fix their bikes, take pictures, practice cooking, and collect rocks. And, they help others to learn more about their 4-H projects, provide leadership to younger kids, as well as serve others through community service activities.

5 HOW DO I JOIN?

Attend a club meeting early in the fall and fill out an enrollment form. For full member benefits and opportunities, this must be done by December 31st. Choosing projects is one of the first decisions you and your family will make. A new club can be formed if there is interest of at least 5 families and 1 or more adults willing to serve as club leader(s).

6 WHO CAN JOIN 4-H?

4-H is for boys and girls who are between the ages of 8 and 18 by January 1st of the program year. It is open to everyone, regardless of race, religion, color, disability, gender, or place of residence. Clover Kids is for youth 5-7 years and is designed to introduce them to the 4-H program. It is a noncompetitive way for members to get involved.

7 WHO PROVIDES LEADERSHIP?

University of Missouri Extension sponsors 4-H in Missouri. County 4-H Councils are accountable to Extension Councils, who, along with county government provide local office and program support.

4-H CLUBS

8 WHO NAMES A CLUB?

The members of the club do, —with guidance from their leader and 4-H Youth Specialist.

9 HOW DO YOU ORGANIZE A 4-H CLUB?

Have a meeting with the young people who are interested and the adults who are willing to help. Publicize it through the school or any place where young people and their parents can be reached.

10 SHOULD 4-H CLUBS HAVE DUES?

Many 4-H clubs do charge minimal annual dues. Dues for the state are \$8. University Extension Council provides supplemental insurance. Any additional dues are used for club activities and community service projects. Clubs may conduct fundraisers to supplement their programming needs, but must be approved by the County Council. Dues cannot be used a barrier to keep someone from joining 4-H.

11 HOW BIG SHOULD A CLUB BE?

This depends on the age of the members, the space available for meetings, and the leadership available. The ideal club is big enough to have fun together, but small enough for everybody to feel a part of the group. The average club in Missouri has 10 to 20 members and two or three leaders. Platte County club enrollments range from 12 to 50.

12 WHO PLANS THE PROGRAM FOR THE CLUB?

Members of the club. This might be done at a meeting of the club or ideas are collected and a committee puts together a program.

13 WHAT ABOUT OFFICERS?

4-H clubs elect officers and whatever committees they need to conduct their business. 4-H has instructional materials available for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, news reporter, historian, and song/game leader. The club may have any number of officers, depending on its needs. It is a good idea to wait until the second or third meeting to elect officers so members know each other better.

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4-H MEETINGS

14 HOW OFTEN DO CLUBS MEET?

Most clubs meet every month year round. New clubs may meet more often. This depends on the needs and desires of the group. 4-H clubs organize between Sept. and Dec. each year.

15 WHEN DO CLUBS MEET AND HOW LONG DO MEETINGS LAST?

This depends on the group. Most clubs meet in the evening. The most important thing is to have a regular time to get together, one that can be remembered. Members should know when and where monthly meetings are held.

16 WHERE DO 4-H CLUBS MEET?

Any place is acceptable if it is large enough and is convenient for the members. Platte County clubs meet in homes, churches and community centers.

17 WHAT HAPPENS AT MEETINGS?

- Conduct business meeting
- Project work or reports
- Recreation or social activities
- Community service work
- Special interest programs



4-H LEADERS

18 WHAT IS A 4-H LEADER?

An adult who works voluntarily with a group of 4-H members. Parents who work with their child(ren)'s projects are called "home helpers."

19 ARE THERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEADERS?

Yes, Project Leaders teach members how to do things for the project. They usually have a special interest or skill such as photography or clothing or gardening. Adults who help a group get organized and run its meetings are called Club Leaders. Sometimes big clubs divide these jobs and have several project leaders and teen leaders to meet all the interests of 4-H members.

20 WHAT ARE YOUTH LEADERS?

Youth leaders are 4-H members who usually work under the direct supervision of an adult leader to assist with a project or special club activity.

21 HOW MANY LEADERS SHOULD A CLUB HAVE?

It depends on the club size and members' ages. 4-H guidelines suggest a minimum of two leaders per club and clubs with an enrollment of 40 or more members have three to five leaders to share the workload and give individual attention to the members.

22 WHERE DO I LEARN HOW TO BE A 4-H LEADER IN PLATTE COUNTY?

Your main help would come from the Platte County University of Missouri Extension Office. The 4-H Youth Specialist can discuss with you your interest in working with youth and your previous experience. The University supports recognized volunteers. Missouri 4-H provides safe environments for everyone involved in youth activities. Volunteers complete the Missouri 4-H Volunteer Enrollment Form (LG636) each year.

4-H PROJECTS

23 WHAT ARE 4-H PROJECTS?

A 4-H project is a series of learning experiences for members. More than 40 projects are available in the Missouri 4-H Program. Most projects have manuals to assist the 4-H leader and member with their project. These manuals are provided to approved volunteers, if requested, by the Extension Council with funds from Platte County Commission.

24 WHAT'S A PROJECT MANUAL?

A project manual contains help and direction needed to complete the project. Some projects have a manual for each division. Others have one manual, which is used for several years. 4-H'ers and volunteers can use other resources if they wish.

25 WHAT DOES A PROJECT COST?

It varies. It should be realistic to the family situation. Any pet supplies, animal health, and up-keep costs should be considered before purchasing.

26 ARE 4-H MEMBERS EXPECTED TO DO THEIR OWN PROJECT WORK?

Yes—with help. 4-H is a "learning by doing" program. Leaders, youth leaders, and parents may tell or show a member how, but members are expected to learn how to do things themselves.

27 WHAT IS AN EXHIBIT?

An exhibit is an object or display designed to help a member show what he or she has accomplished. Ideally it motivates a youth to learn and to have fun in a 4-H project. An exhibit is not an end in itself, nor does it measure all the learning that takes place from completing a project.

28 ARE PROJECTS DONE AS A GROUP OR INDIVIDUALLY?

Both. Some projects like Geology are more fun when done as a group. Others like making a dress or baking cookies will be done individually. Platte County has countywide leader opportunities where adults can volunteer to teach a project for members from throughout the county, rather than from just one club.

29 CAN CLUB MEMBERS WORK ON THE SAME PROJECT?

Clubs are encouraged and expected to work on health, safety, recreation, and community service projects. These club activities are planned by and for the entire club and are often done at meetings or special club projects.

4-H PARENTS

30 HOW DO PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

There are many jobs for each club. Examples: lead a project; help with club displays or community service projects.

31 AS A 4-H PARENT, HOW SHOULD I HELP MY CHILD?

Help your child select 4-H projects that are interesting and can be conveniently financed. Help your child understand how to carry out the various phases of the project, but don't do the project for them. Your job is to teach, not govern; to guide, not control. Learn to give increased freedom as your child develops.

