

my4-H Overview

Currently in the pilot phase, **my4-H** is a secure online community platform designed and developed specifically for 4-H youth, volunteers, staff, educators, alumni and parents. Beyond its ability to serve as a social communication tool, we created it to serve as an indispensable extension to the “real-world” 4-H experience, heavily relying on the pillars of positive youth development.

Privacy & Safety

At the forefront of *my4-H's* strategy and development is privacy and safety. We are making every effort to establish best practices that meet and even exceed privacy and safety expectations. As such, we are currently working with a 3rd party vendor who is helping us craft the safest experience for our members.

User Roles & Permissions

A user's role in 4-H (youth, volunteer, staff etc), dictates their unique capabilities in the *my4-H* platform (i.e. creating a community, adding events, assigning tasks to other members). *my4-H* was designed to be both an open environment and one in which private communities exist. National-level interest-based communities and projects will be open to all, while local 4-H clubs will have private community areas.

Current Features of my4-H

- **Status Feed** – friends' statuses and eventually other activity shown here
- **Friends** – ability to request and accept friendships
- **Profile Page** – user name, photo, city/state, about me, message board
- **Message Center** – send private messages to one or more friends
- **Science, Healthy Living and Citizenship Communities** – national-level interest-based communities which will naturally fall under the 3 mission mandate areas; currently we are piloting the *HealthRocks!* community
- **Communities – (Clubs and Groups)** – defined by data in the ACCESS Enrollment System, this information will be dynamically added when a user joins *my4-H*. Thus, a 4-H Club on *my4-H* will only be populated by the actual, current members of that Club. This is an example of a private community. Users, with required permissions, will be able to create additional communities that can be as public or private as the user intends.
- **Projects** – pulled directly from data in the ACCESS Enrollment System, users will have the ability to record and talk about current national projects areas in which they are currently involved.
- **Sub-Projects** – members will also be able to create a Sub-Project page for themselves wherein they can record their experience, add updates and otherwise manage individual projects. ***This can be used later to import into their online record book***
- **Photos/Videos** – ability to upload photos and share videos related to a particular community or project.
- **Documents** – within the context of Communities, users have the ability to upload and/or download Word, Excel, PowerPoint and .pdf documents
- **Discussions** – aside from a general updates board within each Community, there is an ability to create and respond to topics in a discussion forum allowing for more in-depth communication
- **Tasks** – within the context of Communities, users can assign themselves tasks or be assigned tasks by the Community leader (Club or Group leader)
- **Events** – within the context of Communities, users can add upcoming meetings and/or events

Possible Future Features of my4-H

- Online Record Books
- Integrated Online Learning Platform
- Virtual Clubs
- Virtual Competitions and Awards
- Interactive Games
- Podcasts
- Wikis
- Blogs/Journal
- Mobile App

States' Participation

Starting around June of 2011, we will begin to invite states like Maryland to participate in further pilot testing. We will welcome users to become acquainted with the platform, utilize any and all current features and to provide critical feedback that will enhance the site in the short- and long-term.