



# Who Leads 4-H Clubs and Programs?

The successful organization and operation of 4-H clubs and programs is the result of efforts by several groups of people, including adult volunteers, teen leaders, parents, and teachers and staff of cooperating organizations. These people work with 4-H members to create a positive experience that meets their interests and helps them develop essential life skills.

## 4-H Volunteers

Adults who have an interest in working with young people to make a positive difference in their lives serve as 4-H volunteers. They receive training from 4-H faculty and staff to organize and work with 4-H clubs. With their guidance and instruction, 4-H members learn project and life skills involving decision making, communication, problem solving, responsibility, cooperation, and more.

## 4-H Teen Leaders

Teenage 4-H'ers often assist adult volunteers and sometimes provide leadership for their own small 4-H club or group. These teen leaders have an interest in sharing their skills and knowledge with younger 4-H members, especially Clover 4-H'ers who, at ages 5 to 7, are just beginning their 4-H experience. Teen leaders also work as partners with adult volunteers to plan and carry out 4-H educational events at the county, city, regional, and state level.

## 4-H at a Glance



**The 4-H Emblem:** The H's on each leaf stand for the words Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

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**4-H Colors:** Green and White

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**4-H Slogan:** "Learn by Doing"

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**4-H Motto:** "To Make the Best Better"

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**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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There are 4-H programs in Baltimore City and in every county in Maryland.

## Family Members

4-H is a family program, and parents and other adult family members are encouraged to take an active role in 4-H clubs and at home. Many 4-H parents and grandparents volunteer as organizational, project, or special activity leaders. Others help in different ways, depending on their abilities, schedules, and available time.

## Teachers and Other Adults

Teachers and staff in schools, recreation centers, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other youth organizations can lead 4-H clubs as a part of their afterschool program, too!

## A Youth-Centered Approach

4-H uses a youth-centered approach to learning, which means that programs and activities in 4-H are focused on interests and needs identified by young people. For example, 4-H club members:

- name their club,
- set goals for the year,
- make plans to reach those goals,
- carry out their plans, and
- assess their progress.

- : Adult leaders and other volunteers are facilitators,
- : coaches, mentors, guides, teachers, partners,
- : and advisors whose guidance, encouragement,
- : understanding, and recognition helps members learn
- : how to set realistic goals and achieve them.



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