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PARENTS

YOU'RE PARTNERS IN 4H

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Your child has joined a 4-H Club—an organization that will help him develop into a good citizen who can assume responsibilities. This folder discusses some things about the 4-H program, its leadership, projects, special features, and your responsibilities.

THE CLUB IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The 4-H Club in your community usually meets once a month in homes or at community centers. Members choose their own officers and plan meetings. These include a business session, programs, and recreation periods. Additional project meetings also are held locally.

Each local 4-H Club has volunteer adult leaders—people like you with a family and lots of work to do. They guide the general activities of the club and its members. Adult leaders receive assistance from county extension agents located at your county seat. Each county has one or more agents.

Generally, there is no charge for 4-H Club membership unless it is made by local clubs to support some activities or a special program.

SPECIAL FEATURES

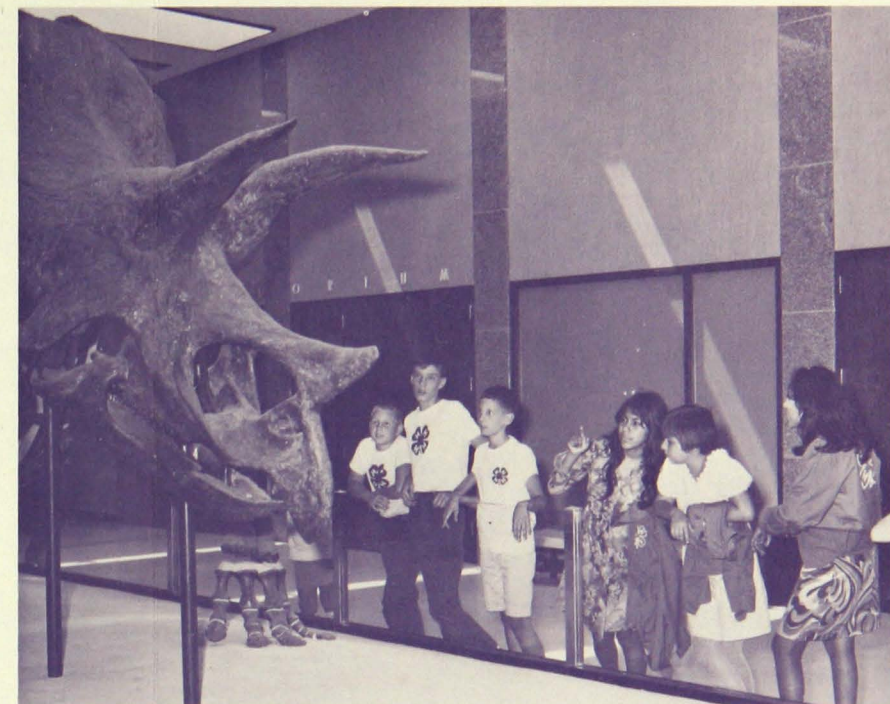
Local clubs plan a wide variety of activities, including social functions such as picnics, skating parties, and holiday parties. A club may encourage members to share the fun and develop their talent. There will be opportunities for public speaking and chances to enter sports events. Some special features may be held in the county and a few on the district or state level such as camps, retreats, tours, fairs, and project shows. Members also have opportunities to participate in national and international citizenship activities.

Encourage your child to take part if he is interested. In fact, help in every way to make the 4-H Club experience interesting and educational for your family. We hope you will enjoy your contacts with the program. Here is a summary of what you can do.

PROJECTS FOR EVERYONE

Each member selects a special activity or one or more projects that provide learning experiences out of school when he or she joins the club. Most projects are divided into three groups to suit different ages or abilities—beginner, junior, and advanced.

Projects help members learn how to make decisions and do tasks in the home, yard, on the farm, or in the community. Members also try to learn why they are doing certain things—to use their heads as well as their hands. Some older members may participate in discussion meetings on such topics as careers. Many times members work with others while learning about their project. Learning to work with others and understand-



Through 4-H, your son or daughter can: *Learn to appreciate what your community can offer. Contribute to community improvement.*

ing their points of view is an important part of 4-H. This also helps the member understand himself.

Each member keeps a project plan or record. It helps him determine the purpose and goals of his project. You might help your son or daughters set goals for themselves. The record provides an opportunity for the member to record what he has learned; it also helps him judge how much he has learned. In some projects the member may be asked to keep a record of costs. In the narrative section of the record he'll tell about interesting things he discovered.

Projects also provide many opportunities for a member to perfect his speaking, workmanship, and other skills. Members may give demonstrations—show and tell how and why to do something. The club may have tours to visit project sites or members may show their projects at a fair or 4-H achievement program.



YOUR PART AS A 4H PARENT

- Become acquainted with local leaders and other parents.
- Assist your child in selecting a project that will interest him and will fit into your home and family situation. Check on his progress and see that his plan helps him reach his goals. But remember, let him do the work.
- Attend club meetings and special events when possible.
- Lend a hand in the local club when your help is needed. You may be asked to serve as a leader in an area where you're competent or in which you're interested.
- Promote an attitude of cooperation and good sportsmanship. Remember children learn what they live.
- Help develop feelings of understanding of all ethnic groups.
- Give helpful suggestions.

4-H is a cooperative venture. Its success depends on the combined efforts of the members, parents, local leaders, and county extension agents.

4-H is international in scope, with over 6 million members. In Minnesota alone approximately 100,000 boys and girls participate in a variety of 4-H projects. About 55,000 belong to 2,200 4-H Clubs. Others are members of Clubs, and special interest 4-H groups. All are part of extension work in agriculture, home economics, and related fields carried on by the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, and the counties.

4-H gives boys and girls a pledge to live by:

*"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 home, my club, my community,
and my country."*

Your county extension agents or local 4-H leaders can tell you more about 4-H Clubs.

It is the policy of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.



Through 4-H, your son or daughter can:

*Learn to be an intelligent consumer.
Learn scientific principles.*



Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Roland H. Abraham, Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.
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