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Have **FUN**

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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HAVE FUN IN 4-H

Did you know that boys and girls in towns and cities belong to 4-H Clubs in Minnesota? 4-H Club work is over a half century old and many changes have taken place since it was first started.

Traditionally, 4-H has been regarded as a program for farm boys and girls. In recent years, however, in response to requests in urban areas, the 4-H program is being modified in order to interest more boys and girls in towns and cities. Today, 40 percent of America's 4-H members live in non-farm homes.

What Is 4-H Club Work?

4-H is a national organization chartered by the Congress of the United States. Nearly 50 other countries have an organized youth program patterned after our 4-H Clubs. In Minnesota alone approximately 50,000 boys and girls carry on 4-H projects. They belong to over 2,000 4-H Clubs.

4-H is an educational program carried on by the Cooperative Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, and the counties. The county 4-H program is under the direct supervision of the county Extension agents. Local 4-H Clubs are guided by volunteer local leaders.

What Are the Pledge and Emblem?

The term "4-H" refers to "head," "heart," "hands," and "health," which are emphasized in the 4-H Club 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 home,
my club, my community, and my country."



The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover, with a letter "H" on each leaf. Club colors are green and white. The white background of the 4-H flag symbolizes purity; the green of the emblem represents nature's most common color, and is also symbolic of youth, life, and growth.



Who May Join 4-H?

Any boy or girl from 9 to 21 years of age may join by agreeing to follow 4-H ideals and standards. (A member should have passed his 9th birthday—but not yet his 21st—by January 1 of the current year to enroll.) Those wishing to join should contact their local county Extension agents who will send an enrollment card and refer them to the club in their area. If there is no club in the community, they will assist in organizing clubs in areas where there is sufficient interest.

How Is a 4-H Club Organized?

In order to organize a 4-H Club there must be at least five members. In Minnesota, 4-H Clubs are organized on a community basis and include both boys and girls enrolled in the projects they choose. Occasionally, however, clubs are organized for girls or boys separately.

The club members elect officers, plan and conduct monthly meetings, and carry on individual projects. Each club has one or more adult leaders who serve as advisers in planning and conducting meetings and activities. Other adult voluntary leaders serve as project leaders or teachers for the various projects.

What Is Expected of a 4-H Member?

A 4-H member is expected to—

1. Enroll in at least one project and finish the minimum requirements.

2. Keep an accurate record of the project and club activities and turn in the record when it is requested.

3. Attend local club meetings regularly. When possible, attend county meetings.

4. Appear on the local 4-H Club program when asked to do so. Each member is encouraged to give one talk or demonstration each year at the club meeting.

5. Exhibit project work at the local or county show or on the local club tour.

What Projects Are Offered?

There are more than 25 projects from which to choose. A special leaflet, 4-H M21, "Minnesota 4-H Club Information," is available from the county Extension office which describes the different projects. Some of the projects are:

Food Preparation	Conservation—Beginners
Bread	Entomology
Food Preservation	Garden
Clothing	Home Yard Improvement
Home Improvement—	Electric
Family Living	Shop
Health	Safety
Rabbits	

A number of new projects especially suited for urban boys and girls are also being tried in some counties.



Boys and girls 14 years of age or older may enroll in the junior leadership project and assist adult leaders with the leadership responsibilities.

When selecting a project a member should ask himself these questions: Am I really interested in this project? Will it meet my own and my family's needs? Will my home conditions permit me to carry out the project? Are any other club members interested in it?

It's a good idea to start out with one or two projects and activities and gradually add more as time permits.

What Are Some of the Advantages of 4-H Club Work?

You can:

—Improve yourself through demonstrations and talks.

—Learn more by taking part in projects.

—Make new friends, share experiences with other 4-H boys and girls.

—Learn to work and play together.

—Develop a pride of ownership or workmanship.

—Learn self-discipline through project and club responsibilities.

—Develop leadership through experience at local meetings and county activities.

—Expand projects that may develop into a life career.

—Learn about opportunities offered to youth who desire to continue their education for career work.

—Be recognized for work accomplished—through medals, cash awards, and trips.

Other recognitions are in the form of self-satisfaction, public appearances, and achievements in local and county events.

What Can Parents Do?

The most successful 4-H members have the interest and support of their parents. Parents can:

—Learn what 4-H is about—its purposes and objectives.

—Learn what work is required of members.

—Attend club meetings and events.

—Serve as a leader or lend a hand whenever needed. Volunteer this help—don't wait to be asked.

—Help your child select a project that he will like, that he will have the ability to do, and one for which you can furnish the facilities and materials.



—Give encouragement and guidance in projects but place full responsibility for the actual work on the boy or girl.

—See that he has a way to go to club and project meetings.

—Give your child an opportunity to participate in local and county activities such as tours, Achievement Days, 4-H Camp, County Fair, and 4-H Sunday.

—Promote an attitude of good sportsmanship by being an example.

—Show appreciation to local leaders. Remember, they voluntarily give their time and talent so your children will have the same opportunities as those in other communities.

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

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