The mission of the Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Program is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who will have a positive impact in their communities and the world. 4-H carries out this mission through hands-on experiences for youth alongside their peers and caring adults. Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

4-H began over 100 years ago, and has since grown into the largest youth development program in the nation. Backed by a network of more than 6 million youth, 540,000 adult volunteers, 3,500 professionals, and more than 60 million alumni; 4-H delivers research-based programming around positive youth development. 4-H is delivered through America’s 109 land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension Service—reaching every corner of our nation. In Indiana, 4-H can be found in all 92 counties.

163,033

participants

youth in grades K-12

184,617

4-H projects

submitted at the county level

TOP 5 PROJECT AREAS:

- Animal Science
- Communications and Expressive Arts
- Environmental Education/Earth Sciences
- Technology and Engineering
- Foods and Nutrition

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**RESIDENCE**

- cities and suburbs <50k
- cities and towns 10-50k
- cities and towns <10k
- farms

**SCHOOL AGE**

- kindergarten-2nd grade
- 3rd-5th grade
- 6th-8th grade
- 9th-12th grade
4-H Educators work with caring adult volunteers and community partners to create opportunities for youth to grow and thrive. These opportunities might be provided through a community club or independent study with a culminating project displayed at a county fair, or through a short-term experience delivered at school or in partnership with local youth organizations. No matter where or how learning happens, 4-H prepares youth to lead, persistently pursue interests, and contribute to communities.

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4-H STEM efforts equip youth for twenty-first century careers in the areas of robotics, computer coding, agriscience, animal science, and more. Healthy Living programs develop skills in food and nutrition, mindfulness, and social-emotional learning. Civic Engagement programming prepares youth to contribute to their community, providing critical skills in communications and leadership.

In Indiana, 4-H Youth Development has been named as a preferred collaborator in the Graduation Pathways program. Graduation Pathways supplements standardized testing at the high school level, requiring students to pursue employability skills such as communication, professionalism, and punctuality in addition to traditional credits.

4-H participation provides opportunities to build employability skills through hands-on learning which is often project based and includes elements valued by Graduation Pathways such as teamwork, leadership training, goal setting, reflection on experience, service-based experiences, and civic engagement education.

Likewise, Purdue Extension's Work Ready curriculum can help Indiana students graduate on time and better prepare for next steps in employment, enlistment or education. Work Ready teaches skills necessary to increase the number of qualified applicants for U.S. job openings through lessons on money management, social media etiquette, teamwork skills, employment basics, and more.