



# 4-H Program Delivery Methods

## 4-H Council Handbook Tip Sheet

There are a number of ways that youth may participate in the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program. This tip sheet provides a brief description of some of these delivery methods.

### Club Membership

The purpose of a 4-H club is to provide youth with educational, fun learning experiences with their peers. 4-H Clubs may be organized in several forms.

### Organized Community Clubs

These groups include at least five members from at least three families ranging in grades from 3 to 12. The youth usually live in a geographic area they call their community or neighborhood. The club often uses its meetings to develop group process skills, leadership ability, and communication skills.

### Organized Subject Matter (Project) Clubs

These groups are organized around a specific subject matter (project) area. The youth and adult volunteers use club meetings to learn together about the subject around which they have organized. They develop leadership skills (club officers) and group process skills by working together and completing projects that are meaningful to each other or their community.

### Spark Clubs

SPARK Clubs are special interest groups designed to capture the attention of youth with single focus, "out of the box" interests that are likely different from state-recognized 4-H projects. These clubs are led by volunteers bringing their subject mastery to the club. SPARK Clubs include six hours of instructional time that can occur in one day or over a length of time.

### Mini 4-H

Mini 4-H Programs are specifically designed to involve children (grades K-2) in activities that are experiential, developmentally appropriate, and related to enhancing children's self-esteem. All Mini 4-H activities are noncompetitive.

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## **Projects**

Members have the opportunity to learn more about a subject matter that they choose to study through completing hands on activities. There is no limit to the number of projects youth can sign up for, however, we suggest starting out with one or two your first year.

## **Workshops**

Workshops are meant to supplement the time the youth spends working on a project and the activities or subject area they complete in the project manual. We encourage family members to attend these workshops with the 4-H member for the best educational outcome.

## **County Fairs**

Every county is different, but most counties will have a fair in the summer that showcases what the 4-H members have learned while taking their projects. This gives youth the opportunity to have their project judged in order to gain feedback and then display what they have worked so hard on in order for the public to view. The county fair is a celebration of hard work and allows a community to come together in order to showcase the accomplishments of their youth.

## **Camps & Conferences**

Many different 4-H Camps and Conferences are offered throughout the year to provide youth with additional positive youth development experiences. These are often out-of-county experiences.

## **After-School & School Enrichment Programs**

4-H Educators work with volunteers and leaders in the community to offer hands on educational 4-H experiences for youth during and after school. These groups can be formed wherever young people are likely to gather. The focus of the group may range from career exploration to community service or discussions about critical issues facing youth. Resources designed to supplement a specific learning topic in a school based setting are also available. Whether it is personal finance, living a healthy lifestyle, or STEM related topics, we have research-based curriculum that can help enhance the student's experience.

## **Special Interest Programs**

Youth join with an adult volunteer to study a particular subject or to participate in a specific activity. Youth and adults focus on a common interest and learn and teach together. These groups do not typically form a club and often do not continue beyond a single year. Participation in a special interest group may trigger a longer-term 4-H commitment.

## **Military Partnerships**

4-H Youth Development programs provide support to military connected youth, whether they live on or near an installation, in our communities, or on overseas installations. 4-H clubs and opportunities provide consistency in belonging and an opportunity to develop life skills through a positive youth development framework. As military families move frequently and experience the difficulties surrounding deployment and reintegration, 4-H provides predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment for military connected children and youth.

## **Collegiate 4-H**

Collegiate 4-H is a student-run organization at the college/university level that serves the local community, promotes leadership development, and assists the Indiana 4-H program.

*To learn more about the many types of 4-H Youth Development Involvement, please visit <http://bit.ly/4HDelivery>.*