

Welcome to Allen County 4-H Family Guide



Allen County 4-H Clubs
Purdue Cooperative Extension Service – Allen County
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<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/allen/allen-4h.html>

Allen County 4-H

About 4-H

PLEDGE:

4-H members should learn the 4-H pledge that is recited at the beginning of each 4-H meeting.

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.



EMBLEM: The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter “H” in each leaf. The emblem is federally protected and each state has their own branding.

SLOGAN:

“Learn by Doing.”

MOTTO:

The national 4-H motto, “To Make the Best Better,” should be the objective of every member and leader.

THE COLORS:

Green and White are the 4-H colors. The white background of the flag symbolizes purity; the green 4-H emblem is nature’s most common color in the great outdoors and is the color of springtime, life and youth.

4-H MISSION AND VISION:

4-H Mission: The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who positively impact their community and world.

4-H Vision: Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

4-H TERMS

Enrollment

Enrollment is through the 4-H On-line system located at <https://in.4honline.com>. The enrollment year is October 1 through September 30. Enrollment must be submitted every year as your child is not automatically re-enrolled. A \$15 annual state program fee will be charged per child in grades 3-12. Mini enrollment (K-2) is free. Allen County does not charge a county fee.

4-H online

Our online system where you register for 4-H as a member or adult volunteer. It tracks member participation in projects, events, and clubs throughout the years. Volunteers will also complete their trainings through this system. 4-H online also records tag numbers and other important information about live animal projects with the exception of cat, dog, rabbit, and poultry. All animals, except cat, dog, rabbit, and poultry, need to be entered into 4-H online by May 15th no exceptions! The state does not allow late entries. <https://in.4honline.com>

Fair Entry

This online system is used by numerous states to organize their county and state fairs. For our members, they are required to "RSVP" what projects they are bringing to our county fair by May 30th, 2026. Members must first have their projects and animals listed in 4-H online before they register on fair entry. Projects not entered in time will be ineligible to receive any ribbon above a blue. The system will become active in early April. More directions will follow.

4-H Grade

4-H Grade is determined by the school grade in which the youth is classified during the current exhibition year. For example: if you enroll October 25th, 2025 and you are in the 4th grade, you are considered to be in the 4th grade for the 4-H enrollment year (October 1st 2025 through September 30th 2026). You move to 5th grade once you re-enroll after October 1, 2026.

4-H Rules Book

The 4-H Rules Book lists the Allen County Project Rules and Indiana State Rules. It is available at the County Extension Office or can be downloaded from our website. This is updated yearly. They will be available to purchase from the Extension Office for \$5.00 after January. Please let the office know 2 days in advance before pickup.

Project Manuals and other materials

4-H Member and Leader Guides written by University Specialists serve as suggestions of areas to study for your 4-H projects. Manuals are optional but strongly suggested for certain projects. Manuals range from free to \$20.00 depending upon the project. We also sell poster sleeves, and some entomology and electric materials. To look through and/or purchase materials, please either come to the Extension office or order online at shop 4-H.

The Clover Chronicle

The Allen County 4-H newsletter is e-mailed to every 4-H household. This gives information about county-level 4-H meetings, workshops and activities offered to 4-H members, leaders and parents. For most events this will be your only source of information. Parents and 4-H'ers need to read this newsletter so please share within your household. We send a newsletter monthly. The most recent edition is also posted on the website.

4-H Blue Sheets

4-H'ers record their projects (ribbon placing/awards received) and activities each year on Blue Sheets. These are turned into the office annually. We will then have a record of every project and activity you have completed in 4-H. This is useful when applying for scholarships and awards. We also use the points to determine the top and honor achievers each year. These are the 4-Hers who have the most cumulative points for their entire 4-H experience and are highlighted at the fair.

Participation

Now that you are in 4-H you might be wondering what's next. The good news is that everyone's experience in 4-H is different and there are different types of involvement. We will go over the types of involvement below and discuss what completion means for this program.

1) **CLUB INVOLVEMENT:**

The purpose of a 4-H club is to provide youth with educational, fun learning experiences with their peers. Members do have to be in a club to be in 4-H, however they are not required to attend meetings. We strongly encourage members to attend meetings as it helps youth make friendships and gain lifelong skills like teamwork and leadership.

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 is led by two or more approved adult volunteer leaders. Youth enroll in subject matter areas of interest (projects), participate in 9-12 meetings during the year, select youth officers, carry out club responsibilities, participate in service to the community, and receive recognition for their work. Club meetings typically are held once a month in a location such as a school, community center, church, or other public meeting space. Project evaluation is often carried out during the county fair or at the end of the 4-H Youth Development Program year. The club often uses its meetings to develop group process skills, leadership ability, and communication skills. **(A list of our current clubs is provided at the back of this document)**

- **Organized Subject Matter (Project) Clubs**

These groups are organized around a specific subject matter (project) area (e.g. robotics, junior leaders, shooting sports, rabbits, dairy goats, tractor, horse and pony, dogs, or electricity, etc.). The youth and adult volunteers use club meetings to learn about their subject. They have lessons, participate in field trips, and teach each other about related concepts. They often prepare an exhibit for a county fair. 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. These clubs might meet once or twice to hold workshops or they might meet weekly for a few months like dog club.

***Currently Allen County has shooting sports disciplines, horse and pony, rabbit, llama, beef/dairy beef, dairy, swine, goat, poultry, and dog**

- **SPARK Clubs**

SPARKS Clubs are open to youth grades 3-12 to "spark" new interest in the Indiana 4-H program. 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. Most SPARK Clubs end their program with a culminating event or activity. This is a great opportunity for members to bring their friends!

*Do you have an interest in a specific subject or activity? We can form spark clubs around these interests to dive deeper into the material. Please let the extension educator know if you are interested in leading or attending a certain type of program.

2) PROJECTS (Grades 3-12)

Members have the opportunity to learn more about a subject matter that they choose to study through completing hands on activities. In 4-H, we refer to these as projects. Each project has optional manuals that guide the youth through the learning process as well as a set of guidelines that help them meet the project requirements. You may purchase manuals at the Extension office or online at shop 4-H. (It might help to go onto Indiana 4-H's website and go to the specific project to find the related manuals. There is a direct link to shop 4-H for that project manual.) Each project has a beginner, intermediate, and advanced level to allow youth to build on their knowledge each year and continue to challenge their skills. Projects are meant to be worked on over time, providing an educational opportunity for youth outside of the classroom setting. Often, youth will exhibit and display their project at a local county fair in order to show the community what they have learned. 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. (Note just because you complete a project this doesn't mean you have to put it in the County fair)

For a list of projects in Allen County, please visit <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/allen/allen-4h.html>

Mini 4-H (grades K-2)

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. Mini 4-H is a Purdue 4-H Youth Development Program that includes a curriculum that relates to many of the typical 4-H subject matter areas. Mini 4-H is typically led by adults who will involve children in activities that add effectively to the children's growth and development. Currently there is not a club specifically for minis, however they are welcome to attend any community club meeting and some project clubs. Activities in Mini 4-H are noncompetitive. Allen County currently has the following projects: Bicycle; Beef; Bugs; More Bugs; Collections; Crafts; Dairy; Dinosaurs; Dog; Farm Animals; Foods; Forestry; Gardening; Goat; Horse & Pony; Llama; Models; My Pet & Me; Plants & Flowers; Rabbits; Reading; Sewing; Sheep; Space; Sun, Stars & Space; Swine, Trees; Whales & Dolphins; Wildlife Adventures. Some project manuals are free on Indiana 4-H's website under mini. The rest of the manuals can be purchased at the office.

***If you would like to see a certain project in the future, please let us know and I will work on developing new manuals.**

3) WORKSHOPS:

Workshops are meant to supplement the time the youth spend working on a project and the activities or subject area they complete in the project manual. They are also used to help members try out a different project. For example, we might host a 2-hour workshop on gift wrapping. By the end of the workshop, participants will leave with more knowledge on the topic as well as a finished project to enter in the county fair if they so choose. Different workshops will be offered throughout the year. Keep your eye on Facebook (Allen County Indiana 4-H), the newsletters, and our website (Allen County 4-H) for upcoming workshops. Some workshops are open to the community and are not limited to 4-H enrollment.

4) TRIPS, CAMP, AND CONFERENCES

Many different 4-H Camps and Conferences are offered throughout the year to provide youth with additional positive youth development experiences. Some of these overnight experiences will take place in various counties near your home, while others take place overnight on Purdue's campus or other locations in Indiana and around the country. Please see the attached flyer for the different opportunities this year.

5) COUNTY FAIR

The Allen County Fair runs June 23-28, 2026. The county fair is a celebration of hard work and allows a community to come together in order to showcase the accomplishments of the youth. This gives youth the opportunity to have their project judged to gain feedback, earn points and awards, and display what they have worked so hard on. Buildings on the fairgrounds are lined with arts and crafts projects, sewn garments, photographs, and model rockets just to name a few. Barns will also house animals that the youth have worked to take care of and raise.

If you plan to show at fair, please ensure the following:

- 1. All projects are listed in 4-H online under that child's profile**
- 2. All projects are RSVPed on Fair Entry (note that Fair entry will not open until April)**
- 3. Ensure you read the rules for that project**

***What does completion mean and do I have to exhibit at fair to complete a year of 4H?**

Completion simply means participating and receiving credit for the current year. The completion of a 4-H experience may include a variety of options and must not be misinterpreted solely as exhibition of a project at a local, county, or state fair. There are a number of ways that a young person may participate in 4-H. Some examples of this participation include working as a team to develop a robot for a workshop or challenge; completing a Spark Club experience; participating in the State 4-H Band or Chorus; taking part in a science training or experiment; participating in an after school 4-H experience; etc.

4-H members are considered complete in their 4-H educational experience for the year when they have (1) completed the 4-H member enrollment process prior to the established and published date for enrolling; and (2) had an official recognized 4-H volunteer/Extension Educator verify the existence of the completed project/subject or the member's participation in a 4-H educational experience.

Though exhibiting in local, county, and state exhibits/fairs is not required for project completion, as it does not necessarily relate directly to content and skills learned in the development of the 4-H project, project exhibition is encouraged as a continuation of the educational experience.

***Note about family involvement:**

4-H Members have a better experience when they have parents, older siblings, grandparents, neighbors, or other adults who are able to encourage them throughout their learning experience. 4-H youth and their family are encouraged to attend club meetings and events together. Projects can be worked on around the kitchen table, in the backyard, or at a local community center. Parents can support their child by keeping track of important 4-H dates on the family calendar, keep their child organized, reinforce the importance of following directions, and above all, model the behavior they want their child to exhibit in public settings. It is important to note, the projects themselves are to be the work of the member, not that of a family member or anyone else. Engage as a whole family and learn together.

Allen County 4-H Clubs

*Please note we try to keep this information updated but it could change, if you reach out to a leader and do not receive a response, please let the office know.

Aboite Homesteaders

Erin Ley erin.ley124@gmail.com
Angie Wood cawood95@gmail.com
Meet January to end of fair- various locations (generally SW Fort Wayne area)

Blue Ribbons

Stephanie Bailey Ourmaletribe@aol.com
Diana Englehardt academyinfaith@gmail.com
Meet Dupont Library 1pm-3pm, 2nd Fridays of the Month, October through May

Cedar Creek Companions

Melissa Howard missdassy1@aol.com
Email for meeting dates

Clover Rovers

Stephanie Bailey ourmaletribe@aol.com
Stacy Milanowski oscarbug2001@yahoo.com
Alyssa Bornheimer stephenalyssa@gmail.com
[Meet Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory 6-7:30 pm, 4th Thursday of most months](#)

Dog Club

Peggy Nicola pmenicola@yahoo.com
Meets at the Allen County Fair Grounds, February through Fair (must be enrolled by January 31st)

Junior Leaders

Stacy Milanowski oscarbug2001@yahoo.com
Meets at the Extension Office on the last Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30-8, open to grades 7th-12th
**Not a club, this is a project that meets as a club

Marion BG's

Kay Brown kbrew926@yahoo.com
Cindy Berning ncberning@yahoo.com
Sarah Martin sarahmarie89@yahoo.com
Meets in the Hoagland area

Maumee Go Getters

Renee' Spieth srspieth@hotmail.com
Meets in Woodburn area

Monroe Hustlers

Rob Reider rwshowstock01@gmail.com

New Haven Clovers

Sharon Hoffman bio4hccd@gmail.com
Beth Shamo bashamo@live.com
Meets in New Haven

Perry Boosters

Traci King

gander04.tk@gmail.com

Meets Third Thursday of the Month, 6:30pm – 8pm at the Allen County Fair Grounds

Three Rivers Rabbit Raisers

Cheryl Smith

cmlhoppers@msn.com

Mindy Flesher

iimandmin@comcast.net

Jennifer Malcolm

jennifermalcolm31@gmail.com

Heather Brown

heather@webclutter.com

Megan Willson

meggnsam@yahoo.com

Rabbit workshops are held at the Allen County Extension office and occasionally at the fairgrounds

Unlimited Pawsibilities Dog Club

Sarah Kuntz

sarahbkuntz@gmail.com

Clare Wyss

cmw1416@gmail.com

Amelia Wyss

afw20merica@gmail.com

Grace Johnson

pinkiepower05@icloud.com

Meets monthly for club business meetings and guest speakers, weekly training sessions with dogs begin in February and continue through Allen County show. Registration is due by January 30.

Llama Lovers

Please contact Chair before contacting individual farms

Chair: Rita Simmons

rita3683@gmail.com

Roth Farm Group

Deb and Jim Roth

mamaroth5@gmail.com

15723 Klopfenstein Road, Grabill

Meets Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Starts the first Tuesday after Memorial Day (Kids attend on days that work for them)

Smith Farm Group

Tim and Amanda Smith

timothyjpn@aol.com

Heather Brown

heather@webclutter.com

2010 W Till Road, Fort Wayne 46818

Meets Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm and Sundays 2:00pm-3:00pm (varies) will probably start on Mondays

Kunkel Farm Group

Becci Kunkle- meets in Decatur (260)580-3756

Meets Sunday, 2:00pm-4:00pm starting in March. Extra practice during the week at Spring and Summer

Horse & Pony Clubs:

Saddle Bums

Gabby Larson

gabbygrace03@yahoo.com

Email for meeting schedule (Meets at Allen County Extension Office)

Sport Horse

Heather Scheiderer

Scheiderer@comcast.net

Email for meeting schedule (Meets at Allen County Extension Office)

ALLEN COUNTY 4-H BOARD MEMBERS 2026
(New Members Elected in December)

President	JT Brown	Directors	Liz Chaffee Aaron Clark Marijane Crowe Lisa Didion Lyle King Deb Roth Sarah Jane Pettigrew Mary Schroeder Kimberly Smith
Vice President	Joe Schoenemann		
Secretary	Jennifer Malcolm		
Treasurer	Donna Dafforn		
Junior Leader Rep			
Youth Directors			

The Purdue Extension - Allen County Office is located at 4001 Crescent Avenue on the east side of the PFW campus. The phone number is 260-481-6826.

Office Hours are:
Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Closed County Holidays

4-H Staff:

Gary Jones, 4-H Youth Educator
Stephenie Wooten, 4-H Project Assistant
Erin McBain, 4-H Support Staff
Kacy Flaugh, Support Staff

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