

PURDUE EXTENSION

LAPORTE COUNTY

New Family Guide



Welcome

Welcome to the LaPorte County 4-H Program and congratulations to your family for choosing to make 4-H a part of your life! We are excited to have you join us! We know it can be a little overwhelming at first but we are here to help! 4-H is a youth development program that is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture and administered in Indiana by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Locally, the LaPorte County office of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service administers the LaPorte County 4-H program, with input from the LaPorte County 4-H Council.

Included in this family guide is information we hope will be helpful and will provide the tools necessary for your family to have a positive start with your 4-H career. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this information after you have read it.

Meet your Educator

My name is Kelsey Guadarrama and I am a graduate from Purdue University! I participated in Lake County 4-H for ten years with my main focus as horse and pony. I did other projects as well such as scrapbooking, basketry, and dog! I am super excited for you to join us in LaPorte County and look forward to working with you!



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Office Hours & Location

The local 4-H Youth Development Extension Educators manage the county 4-H program on a daily basis. Feel free to use any of the means listed below to contact us with any questions that may arise throughout the year.

The Purdue Extension - LaPorte County Office:

2857 W. State Road 2, Suite A, LaPorte, IN 46350

Phone: 219-324-9407

There is also a drop box available on the outside of the office, next to the entrance doors.

Office Hours are:

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Closed County Government Holidays, Open until 6 PM on the Second Thursday of the Month

LaPorte County Extension web site:

www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte

Eligibility & Enrollment

Enrollment in Indiana 4-H is open to any youth enrolled in grades 3-12. Grade is defined as the school grade the child is enrolled on January 1 of the 4-H year. A child may enroll in only one 4-H program in Indiana, regardless of their place of residence. In other words, youth are not required to participate in their own county's program and may participate in a different county program provided they have properly enrolled. The only exception to this is if their county of primary 4-H enrollment does not offer a project or statewide activity they want to participate, then the child can enroll in a second county provided they meet Indiana 4-H policy requirements.

Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. 4-H Online enrollment starts October 1 at <https://v2.4honline.com/>. 4-H members may drop or add projects through 4-H Online until May 15. There is a \$15 state 4-H program fee, payable at the time of enrollment.

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

PURDUE EXTENSION LAPORTE COUNTY 4-H STAFF

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STAY CONNECTED

We have many ways to stay connected with you!

LaPorte County Noteable: This is our monthly newsletter. Be sure to read it completely as it has a lot of information about upcoming events and activities. This includes the mini 4-Her's as well!

Facebook: We have a Facebook page in case of changes and other announcements.

4HOnline: We will send emails and updates through your 4HOnline account. Please do not just delete these emails, make sure you are reading what we send. 4HOnline is designed as an enrollment and data management system for 4-H throughout Indiana. Members must enroll in 4-H and pay a \$15 program fee in order to be in 4-H in Indiana. The 4-HOnline website allows youth and parents to sign up for projects, change contact information, and receive access to any information from the Extension Office.

4-H Handbook: The 4-H Handbook is found on the LaPorte County Extension website. If you do not have access to a computer, you may get a copy at the LaPorte County Extension Office. The Handbook has all projects and requirements listed for the current year.

What Exactly is 4-H

4-H Mission: The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who will have a positive impact their communities 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 provides youth in grades 3-12 educational programs through their participation in project and club related activities. LaPorte County 4-H offers programming through more than 70 different projects and has eight community 4-H clubs. 4-H project workshops provide members with technical training that each member needs to be successful not only in discipline, but also with life-long technical skills. 4-H club work provides members with life-long leadership and social skills that will be of benefit to every member in career preparation.

4-H Traditions

4-H Emblem: Four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The emblem is federally protected. The Hs stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

Motto: "To make the best better."

Slogan: "Learn by Doing."

Colors: If you have not already guessed our colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.

4-H 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 club, my community, My country and my world.



Extension - 4-H Youth
Development





4-H Clubs

4-H clubs are groups of youth and adults who meet on a regular basis and together practice positive youth development and cooperative learning. Clubs usually meet once a month from fall until August. Each club elects officers from the club membership. The officers conduct the business portion of the club meeting.

4-Hers may belong to any 4-H Club in the county. Residence does not restrict club membership. However, most 4-Hers belong to the club closest to where they live or attend school. All Clubs should strive to create a quality learning environment for youth that give members a chance to be an active part of the club, to enhance life skills, and to promote positive youth development throughout all activities. All clubs also participate in community service projects throughout the year.

4-Hers may change membership to another club if they wish. It is important to change your club information on 4-HOnline and notify the leaders of both clubs (the one you are leaving and the one you are joining).

In LaPorte County, we have two main types of 4-H Clubs:

1. Community Club: A club that is usually hosted in a specific part of the county. Meetings in Community Clubs cover a broad range of topics within the 4-H Program
2. Project Club: A club focused more deeply on a specific subject matter related to 4-H Projects. Beef Club, Sheep Club, Shooting Sports, and Dog Club are all examples of Project Clubs. Meetings in Project Clubs usually focus on topic areas in that specific project.

Selecting a Club: Youth may participate in more than one club depending on their interests. It is recommended that if a youth is involved in a project that has a project-related club, they be involved with that club as well, since many of those club meetings will help the youth understand topics in that project. Other things to consider when selecting a club: location, dates of meetings, size of club you are comfortable with, and areas of interest.

Mini 4-H: Mini 4-H is a program designed to encourage positive development of children, Kindergarten through second grade in a non-competitive environment. The goal of Mini 4-H is to help young children explore friendships outside the family; explore the way in which things work; practice both small and large muscle control; and think about the ways people work together on projects. They are encouraged to join their local club and attend specially planned activities such as Mini Mondays.

STATE OPPORTUNITIES

State 4-H offers a variety of opportunities that usually take place in June and July. Many of these are educational workshops at Purdue University. The trip information is mailed to all 4-H members in late winter. Funding for trips varies depending on what the trip is and who sponsors. For trips press [here](#).

State scholarships are also available for youth starting as early as sophomore year. The office will host a scholarship night in early November. For more information about scholarships visit this [website](#).



Parent Roles

Purpose: Provide support to your child in 4-H.

How to Help your Child:

- Learn about 4-H: what it stands for, how it operates, how it is funded.
- Advise your child in selecting 4-H projects. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Find out what is suggested for the members to do and learn.
- Encourage your 4-Her when he/she succeeds and provide even more encouragement when he/she fails.
- Be an example! Help your 4-Her to be a good sport, and appreciate the successes of others.
- Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family. Visit your profile in 4H online regularly and read the LaPorte County Extension 4-H News and other mailings your 4-Her will receive.
- Be a 4-H booster in your community. Support 4-H by sponsoring awards for the 4-H Fair and Achievement program. Contact the Extension Office if you are willing to sponsor a 4-H Fair trophy or another award for 4-H.
- Make 4-H Club work FAMILY work, but let the kids do their work and carry their own jobs to completion.
- Provide transportation to local meetings and county events in which your child and others of the club are interested. On the other hand, provide refreshments for meetings or special functions. Do not wait to be asked; just volunteer this help!
- Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
- Help your 4-Her find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, camps, state trips, displays, or shows.
- Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
- Offer your services to assist the local leaders. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
- If the need arises, help find local leaders for your 4-H Club. Several kinds of leaders are needed: organization, project, and activity leaders. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Volunteer applications are available in the Extension Office.
- Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop your member into a responsible young adult. The way they work on projects, participate in meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.

PARENT HELP:

Assistance Available:

- 4-H Club Organizational Leader
- 4-H Project Leader
- Experienced 4-H Parents
- 4-H Project Manuals
- 4-H Project Records
- LaPorte County Extension Office

Time Commitment:

One 4-H year includes about 1.5 hours per month for club meetings and time each week for 4-H project work.

Benefits:

Help your child learn and grow, share experiences with your child, improve relationships with your child, make a contribution to youth in your community, and develop a sense of accomplishment.





4-H Projects

Members have the opportunity to learn more about a subject matter that they choose to study through completing hands on activities. We refer to these as projects. Projects are selected when you enroll through [4HOnline](#), you can add and drop projects until May 15th. Each project has a set of guidelines that helps them meet the project requirements.

There are adult volunteers (Project Superintendents) and staff who are knowledgeable on that particular subject who will often times provide workshops to allow the youth to learn about that topic in a social environment. Most projects have a beginner, intermediate, and advanced level. This allows youth to build on their knowledge each year and continue to challenge their skills.

There is no limit to the number of projects youth can sign up for with the exception of Mini 4-H, they are limited to three projects a year. We suggest starting out with one or two your first year to get started. There is a list of projects [regular projects](#) and [mini projects](#) on our website.

Poster Projects: Many projects must be completed on a 22" x 28" poster displayed horizontally. They must be covered in heavy plastic (not saran wrap) and have space in the lower right hand corner for an exhibit tag. You can purchase the correct size plastic sleeves at the Extension Office!

Record Keeping

4-H Project Manuals and Record Sheets: Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. There is a record sheet for each project. Project manuals and record sheets are available at the LaPorte County Extension Office. Some may be handed out by the 4-H Club Leaders. Record sheets are required to verify completion in a project.

My Record of 4-H Achievement: White sheets labeled "My Record of 4-H Achievement" should be filled out completely for the current year. These are available from 4-H Club Leaders and the County Extension Office. It is important that these be filled out accurately in order to remember what you have done in 4-H and to apply for trips, awards and scholarships throughout your 4-H career. Be sure to update your information every year.

Projection Selection:

In choosing a project, a member will consult with his or her parents/guardians and 4-H leader(s).

Early in the 4-H career, a member needs to consider developing a tentative project plan to guide him or her to be able to complete the project on time. Some projects should be continued each year, with increases in the size of the project when possible. Members may also want to try to enroll in additional projects which are related to his or her other project work. For example, a Wildlife member may want to enroll in Forestry or Soil & Water Conservation.

Successful project completion results in member satisfaction and expansion of future project work. The learning experiences one obtains through his or her project could even lead to career/vocation possibilities.

GENERAL CALENDAR

October

- Enrollment Begins
- National Youth Science Day
- National 4-H Week
- Enrollment Kickoff Event

November

- Indiana Youth Leadership Summit

December

- 4-H Scholarships Open

January

- January 15th - Enrollment Target Date
- 4-H Trip Applications Due

February

- Beef Tag In

March

- Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Program

April

- Volunteer Week

May

- Livestock Tag In
- May 15 Deadline for Drop/Add & Livestock ID in 4HOnline

June

- 4-H Camp (3-6th grade)
- 4-H Academy (9-12th grade)
- State Jr. Leader Conference
- 4-H Round-Up (7-9th grade)
- 4-H Chorus & Band
- Pre-Fair Judging

July

- LaPorte County Fair

August

- Indiana State Fair

September

- Preparation for New 4-H Year
- Promotional Events
- Awards & Recognition Banquet

Local Events & Camp

Each club will have special activities for their club members throughout the year. In addition, there are county or area wide events in which a 4-Her may participate.

Project Workshops: A variety of workshops in different project areas are offered each year. Be sure to read your monthly newsletter to know what workshops are offered.

4-H Camp: This three-day, two-night camp takes place each June and is open to 4-H members in grades 3-6. The 4-H members participate in many outdoor activities as they learn by doing. 4-Hers in grades 8-12 may apply to be Counselors.

4-H Demonstration and Public Speaking Contests:

Demonstrations are a “show-and-tell” presentation that gives members a chance to speak in front of a group and develop public speaking skills. For those who enjoy public speaking, there is a county public speaking/demonstrations contest, as well as the opportunity to speak at the Indiana State Fair.

SPARK Programs: Short term programs designed to “spark” interest of youth in a specific topic area. These vary in topics and have a minimum of six hours of education throughout a time period. The program ends with a culminating project where youth showcase what they learned. Exhibit at the Fair is not required.

Career Development Events (CDEs): Generally composed of a team but can also be done individually. These occur throughout the state during different times of the year. Many have area events that the team or individual must compete in first. These competitive events allow youth to showcase their knowledge on a specific topic. See what sparks your interest [here](#).



TERMS USED IN LAPORTE

The lingo may be confusing but this should help

Accomplishment Scholarship: Available through Indiana 4-H Foundation, this scholarship is available for 4-H members in grades 10-12 of high school and the year immediately following high school graduation.

Adult Leader: A person who volunteers their time to recruit, plan, organize, counsel, encourage, compliment, redirect, and whatever else it takes to make sure members have a great 4-H experience. These people are not paid, so please be considerate of their time and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Beef/Goat/Sheep ID Day: Beef, goats and sheep must be tagged with a county tag for identification purposes. Beef are done in early January, dairy feeder steers are done in April and goats & sheep are done in May. Each livestock project must have their animals identified on 4-HOnline. Make sure to pay attention to livestock deadlines.

Booster and Alumni Association: A group of dedicated volunteers who promote the 4-H program, plan fund raisers, and provide money for 4-H materials and programs.
Booster and Alumni Membership: Interested people who want to support the 4-H program through an annual membership of \$10.00 or \$100.00 lifetime.

Drop/Add Deadline: If you would like to add a project or delete one that you had signed up for by May 15. You may drop/add projects on 4-HOnline until May 15th. Dropping a project after this date, or not completing the project, will result in lost points on your 4-H record.

Fair Board: The LaPorte County Fairboard plans and organizes the entire fair such as the carnival and arena events. The 4-H Program is responsible for and in charge of those things associated with the 4-H part of the fair, but the Fairboard plans and runs the fair.

FairEntry: FairEntry is a secondary website to 4-HOnline. This website is used for 4-Hers to specify exactly what projects/livestock they are bringing to fair. This data-tracking system also keeps record of ribbon placements and other awards for the 4-Her.

Indiana 4-H Foundation: A statewide “4-H booster” association that provides funds for trips, scholarships, materials and grants for programs all over the state.

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Program: Training that must be completed yearly by 4-H members planning to exhibit a livestock animal at the LaPorte County 4-H Fair (except cats, dogs, horses, llamas/alpacas, and little critters). Trainings are offered in-person only and are \$3.

TERMS USED IN LAPORTE

The lingo may be confusing but this should help

Indiana State Fair: Held in Indianapolis at the State Fairgrounds. Projects eligible for the fair must be checked in ahead of time. Animal projects must be entered by June 1st and some are entered by July 1st make sure to check the [Indiana State Fair website](#). This is different than 4HOnline.

Judging Teams: These are usually livestock judging teams. Members learn to evaluate animals and defend their evaluations by giving oral reasons before an experienced judge. Contact the office to see what judging teams we have!

Junior Leaders: County wide project for members in grades 7 and above focusing on leadership, citizenship and fun.

LaPorte County 4-H Fair: The culmination of the 4-H year! Members display their projects, show livestock, and participate in special events throughout the week.

Open Judging: A style of judging where the 4-H member can talk directly with the judge while their project is being graded. Parents may attend open judging, but are not allowed to speak to the judge.

Premise ID: A number given by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health to identify locations where animals are housed. All livestock members will need to submit their premise ID number on the enrollment form. More information is available at www.in.gov/boah.

Premium Money: As an incentive for members to complete their projects and do their best, LaPorte County offers a “premium” for each “A” and “B” grade that a member received. Livestock projects offer premiums for placing in various classes as well. Premiums are paid by check and all checks need to be cashed before December 31 of the current year.

Project Exhibit Tag: A tag generated by FairEntry that is put on the bottom right corner of every 4-H project displayed during the LaPorte County 4-H Fair. This tag includes information such as your name, club, and a description of your project. It does not include personal identification information such as address or phone number.

4-H Council: Each township has someone who serves on the 4-H Youth Council. This group meets monthly and is the governing body of 4-H in LaPorte County. All rules, regulations, policies, and procedures are conducted through the 4-H Council.