

4-H

FAMILY GUIDE



New Member
Guide To
4-H In
Wells County

What is 4-H?

4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program.

4-H is activities for boys and girls in grades 3 through 12. 4-H also offers activities to boys and girls in grades K-2. This group of youth is referred to as Mini 4-H members. The 4-H grade is determined by the grade they are in during the enrollment process.

4-H is for youths of all backgrounds regardless of color, race, national origin, sex, handicap, living space (rural, urban, etc.) sexual orientation, and more.

4-H helps young people develop life skills. A life skill is an ability that one can use in everyday life. The basic life skills are:

1. Building self-confidence.
2. Developing an inquiring mind and making decisions.
3. Setting and meeting goals.
4. Relating to other people.
5. Developing a concern for the community.
6. Developing leadership skills.

MOTTO

“To make the best better.”

EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf. The Hs stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The clover’s stem must point to the right. The 4-H emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety. No text or graphics may be superimposed over the top of one of the leaves nor may it appear as a watermark behind other information.

A 4-H member or volunteer is permitted to use the 4-H Name & Emblem once a program charter is issued to their recognized 4-H club or group. Commercial vendors, private organizations, or other entities need to contact the local Extension office to determine steps necessary to use the 4-H Name & Emblem.

Extensive penalties may be given for unauthorized use of the 4-H Name & Emblem



Fun Fact about the 4-H Emblem: The 4-H Emblem is federally protected under Section 18 US Code 707 and belongs to the Congress of the United States. The official emblem is green with white H’s – the 4-H Colors.

The 4-H Name & Emblem is a highly valued mark within our country’s history. It is in a category similar to the Presidential Seal and the Olympic Emblem. It has federal protection deemed higher than a trademark or copyright. The United States Secretary of Agriculture oversees usage of the 4-H Name & Emblem.

COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.

THE 4-H PLEDGE

The pledge tells what 4-H is all about. 4-H has as its goal, the four-fold development of its youth: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Saying the pledge has prominent places in 4-H activities, at regular 4-H meetings, achievement days, other club events, and country, state, and national events. Each part of the pledge has a corresponding action that is made while being said – denoted here in parentheses.

I pledge

My **head** to clearer thinking (*right hand points to head*)

My **heart** to greater loyalty (*right hand is placed over heart*)

My **hands** to larger service, and (*arms slightly bent to front with palms up*)

My **health** to better living (*arms moved down to side of the body*)

For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

MEMBERSHIP

More than 7 million boys and girls are 4-H members throughout the United States. Wells County 4-H has an enrollment of about 675-725 youth and 100-120 adult volunteers.

4-H YEAR

October – January	Enrollment Period
January/February	Pick up manuals/record sheets from 4-H leader at 4-H meetings
February – June	Attend 4-H meetings, work on completing manuals/record sheets, work on project to exhibit at the 4-H Fair, attend YQCA for livestock if needed
May 15	Add/Drop deadline for projects
Mid-June – July 1	Attend your club(s) book signing with completed manuals/record sheets and receive completion certificate
July 1 – Fair	Enter all the projects you will be bringing to the fair in the online Fair Entry program to streamline project check-in
Mid July	Check in 4-H projects at the 4-H Fair, volunteer to help with fair set-up, clean-up, rodeo, food service, etc.
August	Visit the Indiana State Fair
September	Volunteer in the 4-H Pancake & Sausage booth at the Bluffton Street Fair

AGE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Youth may become 4-H members when they enter the third grade and may continue their membership through the completion of grade 12. Each individual may continue membership for a maximum of ten consecutive years.

Exceptions:

1. Youth who enroll in grade three and are advanced academically (thus graduating early) may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.
2. Those youth who are academically advanced and “skip” 3rd grade, may begin the program as 4th graders and may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.
3. Those youth who enroll in grade three and are retained a grade in public school may continue to progress through the 4-H program by adding subsequent years of participation, but MAY NOT exceed 10 years of participation.
4. Those youth who enter the program in grade three and for one reason or another leave formal education prior to the completion of 12th grade may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.

An individual’s 4-H grade is determined by the school grade in which he or she is classified regardless of the time of year he or she enrolls in 4-H. A member does not advance in 4-H grade until he or she enrolls in 4-H for the subsequent school year.

All young persons in Kindergarten, first and second grades may participate in the Mini 4-H program in Wells County.

4-H PARENT (HOME HELPER)

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

Responsibilities:

1. Help your child enroll in the 4-H Club and meet the 4-H requirements.
2. Help your child select one or more suitable 4-H Projects to complete.
3. Make sure your child attends the 4-H Club meetings. Post and help your child use the calendar found in the 4-H Newsletter mailings. Provide or arrange for transportation.
4. Help your child to complete any 4-H responsibilities he or she may have volunteered for, been elected to, or selected for.
5. Attend a few meetings with your child, especially the first and last meeting of the year.
6. Help with at least one 4-H club activity during the 4-H year. Volunteer, don’t wait to be asked.
7. Support your child’s 4-H project work.
 - A. Make sure your child attends any project workshops. Provide or arrange for transportation.
 - B. Help your child gather any materials needed.
 - C. Help your child complete one or more articles for exhibit and make sure he/she can exhibit them at the County 4-H Fair. Provide transportation and encouragement.
 - D. Help your child complete, and turn in on time, 4-H project records.

Assistance Available:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. 4-H Club Organizational Leader | 5. 4-H Project Records |
| 2. 4-H Project Leader | 6. Purdue University Cooperative |
| 3. Experienced 4-H Parents | Extension Service Office – Wells County |
| 4. 4-H Project Manuals | 260-824-6412 |

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. A total of 15-30 hours per year is required.

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.

Qualifications:

- Interest in child's activities.
- Commitment of time and energy to 4-H members.
- Ability to assist, but still allow the member to do his/her own work.

OTHER WAYS THAT 4-H PARENTS CAN HELP:

1. Learn about 4-H: what it stands for, how it operates, how it is funded.
2. Advise your child in selecting 4-H projects.
3. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Find out what is suggested for the members to do and learn.
4. See that when a project is started, it is also completed.
5. Encourage your 4-Her when he/she succeeds and provide even more encouragement when he/she fails.
6. Be an example! Help your 4-Her to be a good sport, and appreciate the successes of others.
7. Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family. Be a 4-H booster in your community.
8. Make 4-H Club work FAMILY work, but, let the boys and girls do their work and carry their own jobs to completion. Be their guide only.
9. Provide transportation to local meetings and county events in which your child and others of the club are interested. Or, provide refreshments for meetings or special functions. If you are interested in giving your time to help out, become a Screened 4-H Volunteer by going through the 4-H screening process.
10. Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
11. Help your 4-Her find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, camps, Fairs, displays, or shows.
12. Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
13. Offer your services to assist the local leaders. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
14. 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.
15. Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop your sons and daughters into finer citizens. 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.

WHO'S WHO IN 4-H**LOCAL LEVEL****4-H Member**

Any child currently in grade 3 through grade 12 who completes the enrollment process and meets the club requirements.

Club Leader

An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational aspects of the club. All 4-H volunteers go through a screening process which includes a background check before being allowed to work with 4-H members.

Junior Leader A 4-H member who is in grade 6 through 12. The Junior Leader year runs from September through August. The group has monthly meetings, performs community service projects, and sponsors various events.

Parents Important to the success of the child in 4-H. Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend club meetings as well as county-wide events with their child.

COUNTY LEVEL

4-H Council This is the short name for the Wells County 4-H Council. The 4-H Council is responsible for rules & policy. Membership consists of township representatives, Junior Leader representatives, 4-H Club Leader representatives, and a 4-H Association representative.

4-H Association The Wells County 4-H Association plans and organizes the 4-H Fair, and raises funds for the 4-H program and the 4-H Park. This group meets monthly and is also responsible for the 4-H park upkeep and management.

Wells Co. 4-H Foundation This group raises funds for Wells County 4-H scholarships and various 4-H Park improvement projects.

Project Leader A volunteer who answers questions a 4-Her may have about a project. This person is often a 4-H parent with special expertise in a particular subject area. There are also Livestock Superintendents and committees who work with Livestock members throughout the year, assisting them with questions, grooming workshops, and 4-H Livestock Judging events.

Extension Educators They are professionals who help to carry out the 4-H program and serve as a source of research-based information. Our county has one 4-H Educator: Roger Sherer.

STATE LEVEL

Purdue University Purdue is a land grant college that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that directive in the Youth Development & Agricultural Education Department.

State 4-H Program The State 4-H Program Leader has the responsibility for 4-H Leader programming at the State Level. The 4-H Program Leader is based at Purdue University, Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education.

State Specialist State Specialists have responsibility for the 4-H program on a statewide basis. Each one has a specific part of the total 4-H program. They are based at Purdue University and are under the direction of the State 4-H Program Leader.

Indiana 4-H Foundation This nonprofit organization works to provide additional resources for the 4-H program. They sponsor scholarships, funding for county and state programs, finance the State 4-H Leaders recognition, trips for outstanding youth to National 4-H Congress, as well as underwrite the cost of many 4-H trips offered on the state level. Forms for donation are available at the County Extension Office. They also sponsor the 4-H license plate program. Contact the Extension Office for information about license plates for your vehicles.

4-H CLUBS

4-H clubs usually meet once a month from January until the fair in July. Some clubs meet once each month, year round. 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. There is a \$20 per member fee to join Wells County 4-H with a family cap of \$60. \$15 goes to Purdue to help fund 4-H insurance for events and to help cover the cost of 4-H manuals. \$5 goes to the 4-H club(s) your child is enrolled in. There is no fee presently for Mini 4-H members to join. 4-Hers may change membership to another club if they wish. It is important to notify the Extension Office (260-824-6412) and the leaders of both clubs (the one you are leaving and the one you are joining).

4-H NEWSLETTER

A 4-H Newsletter will be mailed to your home Please read your newsletter carefully and keep it handy for any future references to find out about club meetings, project workshops, and other timely 4-H news! The 4-H Newsletter can also be found on our Wells County Extension website. www.extension.purdue.edu/wells

4-H PROJECTS

4-H projects are learning experiences for the 4-H members. They give members experience in real life situations; they learn by doing. It is very important that parents help members select their projects carefully. 4-H members must sign up for at least one project each year and complete the records for that project. A member is encouraged to exhibit at the Fair as part of their project completion. Consider the following: What are the members' needs and interests? Parents and leaders should challenge and encourage members as they grow in experience and ability to do their best and to increase interests in projects.

Wells County offers more than 60 projects for youth to partake in. A complete list of Wells County 4-H projects can be found on our website or in our 4-H Rule Book. Some projects are divided by grade, while others are divided by the number of years of participation in that project. Grade is determined by the grade the member was in at the time of enrollment. There is no limit to the number of projects that a 4-H member may exhibit, however Mini 4-H members may only choose one project.

4-H members may add or drop projects until May 15. To add or drop a project, log in to your 4-H Online account and add or drop the projects you choose. If you add a project, you will need to contact the Extension Office and request your manuals/record sheets. We do not receive a notification of projects added or dropped.

4-H RULE BOOK

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

Members may also ask the project superintendent or project leader about the project and the completion and Fair exhibit requirements for that project.

4-H PROJECT MANUALS AND RECORD SHEETS

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. A record sheet and/or manual is available for all projects. Project manuals and record sheets can be obtained in various ways. Some manuals and record sheets can be downloaded from the Extension website, some Townships provide these materials, or you may pick them up from the Wells County Extension Office. Record sheets and manuals are required to verify completion in a project

MY RECORD OF 4-H ACHIEVEMENT

White cards labeled “My Record of 4-H Achievement” should be filled out completely each year. These are available from the Wells County Extension Office, or they too may be downloaded from the website. 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. The “My Record of 4-H Achievement” is to be kept in the front of your Record Book, with your project record sheets. Be sure to update your information every year.

4-H records should be filled out as completely and accurately as possible. Parents may oversee the child’s work, but we expect the child to do his or her own writing.

An example sheet on how to complete the “My Record of 4-H Achievement” can be picked up at the Wells County Extension Office.

PROJECT SELECTION

In choosing a project, a member will consult with his or her parents and 4-H leader(s). After considering all the projects available and the requirements of each, he or she should select one based on:

1. Interest, needs, and capabilities
2. Family situation
3. Suitability of the area in which he or she lives

Members enrolling for the first time will take a minimum of one project. As a member gains knowledge and experience, the scope of the project may be increased and additional projects selected. A brief explanation of each project is included in this 4-H Family Guide. Members may also ask the project superintendent or their 4-H leader about the project and the requirements for that project.

Early in the 4-H career, a member needs to consider developing a tentative project plan to guide him or her until he/she is past 4-H age. 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.

The project work is the core of the 4-H member’s experience. 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.

FAIR JUDGING

Projects exhibited at the 4-H Fair will be judged. Our County supports the “Open Judging” method which means that we encourage members to come and speak with the judge while their project(s) are being judged. Members acquire valuable knowledge of “do’s and don’ts” concerning their project.

PLEASE NOTE: Parents are discouraged from sitting with their child during the judging process, however once the judging is complete, the parent is free to pose questions to the judge. REMEMBER THAT THE JUDGE’S DECISION IS FINAL. Some examples of questions a judge may ask are:

- ✓ What new things did you learn?
- ✓ Have you taken this project before?
- ✓ How much time did you spend on this project?
- ✓ What were your goals for this project?
- ✓ What would you like to change about your exhibit?
- ✓ Tell me something about this exhibit that you want me to know.
- ✓ What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- ✓ Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit or do you have any questions that I may be able to answer?

PROJECT EXHIBIT TAG

You will need an exhibit tag when you check in your project. This tag will be attached to your exhibit so that your name, club, project and division will be clearly displayed. Those completing poster projects should leave room for this tag at the bottom right-hand corner of their project (5.5” high x 4.5” wide). Please see the Wells County 4-H Rule Book for poster guidelines. Posters and sleeves may be purchased from the Wells County Extension Office.

RIBBONS

4-H uses the Danish system of ribbon awards. In this system, the ribbon placing’s are defined as follows:

Ribbon	Meaning
State Fair Selected	Projects selected to go to State Fair will go to the Indiana State Fair in August. The amount of state fair entries differs depending on the project. All livestock animals are eligible (for the most part) for State Fair regardless of what they place in their category.
Grand Champion	Best overall award for a particular project.
Reserve Grand Champion	Second best overall award for a particular project
Division Champion	Best overall project in a particular project division (i.e. beginner, intermediate, advanced, etc.). Each division champion in a particular project then competes for Grand Champion.
Division Reserve Champion	Second best overall project in a particular project division (i.e. beginner, intermediate, advanced, etc.). Once the Grand Champion is chosen out of the Division Champions for a certain project, the Division reserve champion moves up to compete with the remaining division champions for the title of Reserve Grand Champion.

Blue Honor	This ribbon marks projects that are above excellent. Blue Honor ribbons within a certain division of a project compete to receive the title of Division Champion.
Blue	A blue ribbon is Excellent
Red	A red ribbon is Good
White	A white ribbon is Fair
Participation	A green participation may be awarded if the project is late, wrong type for the project or does not meet the project requirements.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Wells County 4-H is active on social media. In fact, it is one way we communicate with our volunteers, 4-Hers, and 4-H parents. Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook at Wells County 4-H.

AWARDS

Special project awards are given to 4-H members at the local club achievement programs held in the fall. Pins are presented to all members upon completion of a 4-H year.

TRIPS & EVENTS

Some 4-H members are eligible to apply for trips that usually take place in June and July. Many of these are educational workshops at Purdue University. The trip and award information is mailed to all eligible 4-H members and found in the 4-H newsletter. In addition, trip information can be located in the Wells County Rule Book.

Web Site: 4-H information is provided on-line at Wells County Extension's web site. Visit www.extension.purdue.edu/wells for updated calendars, newsletters, project information and forms.

Our office is located at the Wells County 4-H Park.

Wells County Extension Office
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