



4-H Frequently Asked Questions

What is 4-H?

4-H is an out-of-school, hands-on learning program for youth ages 8-18 (Cloverbuds are ages 5-7.). Youth choose a project that's interesting to them and explore it with peers and caring adults. Through hands-on learning, kids build not only confidence, creativity, and curiosity, but also life skills such as leadership and resiliency to help them thrive today and tomorrow.

What do the four H's on the 4-H emblem stand for?

The 4-H emblem is a green (representing youth, life and growth) four leaf-clover with a white (representing purity and high ideals) 'H' on each leaflet. The H's represent Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

Isn't 4-H just for people who live on a farm?

No! 4-H is for all youth, wherever they live. Some of the most popular project areas that 4-H members participate in are photography, visual arts, food and nutrition, clothing and textiles, and gardening. 4-H also offers activities in science, engineering and technology, citizenship and leadership, healthy living and natural resources.

What age must you be to join 4-H?

4-H serves youth ages 5-18 from all backgrounds and interests. Members who are ages 5 through 7 (as of January 1 of the current year) are enrolled as Cloverbuds. At this age, we introduce 4-H members to the experiential learning theory and structure age-appropriate activities and projects. There are some limitations that do not allow Cloverbuds to take part in all 4-H activities.

What is a 4-H club?

4-H clubs are groups of youth who meet regularly to work on 4-H projects, perform community service, develop leadership skills, and learn to work together. Guided by one or more adult volunteers, a club can be any size, from a small group of neighborhood kids to a large group from a school or county. Visit a club meeting in your area before joining and see what 4-H has to offer! Shop around. Visit as many clubs as you like until you find the right fit. When you choose a club, it's time to enroll at v2.4honline.com

How do I enroll in a 4-H club?

The easiest process is to complete a quick online enrollment at v2.4honline.com. You are welcome to attend a club meeting prior to enrollment to make sure it is a good fit.

Can I switch 4-H clubs?

Yes! We encourage people to find a club that meets their needs before enrolling online, but if life changes happen and if you need to move to a new club, contact the local Extension Office to change your online enrollment.

What does it cost?



There is no cost to enroll in Grant County 4-H. Some 4-H clubs have annual membership dues used for club activities and community service projects. Clubs may conduct fundraisers to supplement their programming needs.

I went to a 4-H meeting and felt overwhelmed, what do I do next?

It is normal for new members to feel a little overwhelmed at their first 4-H meeting. 4-H is a broad and diverse community organization with plenty of history and opportunities. We are constantly striving to make our 4-H clubs welcoming and supportive environments, especially for new members, but we are not perfect. We encourage you to keep attending and reach out by asking questions to a 4-H volunteer or Extension staff member. Families that ask questions and seek to learn more will benefit.

Is 4-H a safe place for my child to attend without me?

Yes! All our 4-H volunteers go through a screening process that includes an application, background check, orientation, and a focused youth development training. It is important if you are leaving your child for an extended period, that you communicate your expectations with the volunteers to make sure they are on the same page. While not always possible, it is beneficial for parents to sit through club meetings with their children so they can understand what the club is doing, know how to support their child and hear of opportunities where they can help.

How do I participate at 4-H Achievement Days?

4-H Achievement Days registration opens in June and usually closes in July and must be enrolled in 4-H by May 31 of the current year. Materials to register are available online or through the Grant County Extension Office. It is also important that any animals being shown have been properly ID'd by the June 1st deadline.

Why should I participate at 4-H Achievement Days?

4-H Achievement Days provides a great opportunity for youth to showcase some of the learning and projects they have done throughout the year. The 4-H Achievement Days provides a way of “wrapping up” their learning because each exhibit is exhibited before a judge. This is a great opportunity to gain confidence and public speaking skills. It is also a very fun time filled with great friends, fun events, and good food! Finally, each exhibit judged will learn a premium award from the Grant County 4-H Leaders Association depending on what ribbon they earn!

Who can I contact if I have questions?

4-H in Grant County is supported by over 50 volunteers. Many of them can answer common questions you have. Club leaders are also an excellent resource. If you need additional help, the Grant County Extension office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Stop in and visit us, give us a call or send us an email.

Who are the 4-H staff in Grant County you can contact at 605-432-9221?

Sara Koepke, SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor or by email at sara.koepke@sdstate.edu
Melissa Mueller, Office Support Staff or by email at grant.county@sdstate.edu