

# **Welcome to Wisconsin**

## **4-H**



# **First Year Member Handbook**

# Welcome to Wisconsin 4-H!



We are glad you have decided to join 4-H. You will join other youth from your community to have fun, meet others, learn new things and make a difference. You are joining 4-H youth from across the county, state, nation, and world in one of the largest youth organizations.

The purpose of this booklet is to help you, as new 4-H member, learn more about 4-H and how to make the most out of being a 4-H member. It will be handy source for answers to questions new members may have.

In this book, you will find:

- A form to record club information (pg. 3)
- History of the 4-H pledge, motto, 4-H colors (pg. 4)
- 4-H Pledge (pg. 5)
- 4-H Club Officer Autograph Page (pg. 6)
- Commonly used 4-H terms and definitions (pg. 7)
- Exhibiting at the County Fair (pg. 8)
- Roles of 4-H members (pg. 9)
- Youth Leadership Inventory (pg. 10)
- The Four Essential Elements (pg. 11)
- Record Keeping (pg. 12)

## What You Can Expect From Being a 4-H Member:

Wisconsin has adopted the **4-H Green Guarantee**.

### **4-H Clubs Guarantee Youth Opportunities To...**

- ... develop positive relationships with peers and adults
- ... be actively involved in their own learning
- ... contribute as active citizens through community service and leadership
- ... develop skills that will help them succeed
- ... recognize, understand and appreciate others
- ... have fun

**This means as a 4-H member, you can expect to**

- Have fun
- Meet and work together with other kids from many different age groups
- Meet and work together with adults
- Give back to your community
- Have opportunities to take leadership for activities, events and the club
- Decide the projects and things you want to learn about, set goals for your self and make a plan to reach those goals
- Be recognized for what you have learned or accomplished

So let's get started!

# Hi!

## Welcome to Wisconsin 4-H!



My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

General Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Club Members who can help me during my 1st year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The 4-H Pledge

Otis Hall, State 4-H Leader of Kansas was responsible for the original wording of the 4-H pledge. When the Executive Committee of the Land Grant College Association requested Dr. R.A. Peterson, President of Iowa State College, and Dr. A.C. True of the Federal Extension Service to write a pledge for 4-H, they submitted a pledge substantially as written by Hall. At the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927, the 4-H pledge was officially adopted by the state 4-H leaders.

The pledge remained unchanged until 1973 when, in response to requests from a number of states (including a recommendation from 4-H members attending National 4-H Conference), the pledge was changed to include "my world." This change was officially approved in 1973 by the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy and now reads:

*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.*



## The 4-H Motto

The 4-H motto, "To make the best better," was originally proposed by Miss Carrie Harrison, a botanist in the Bureau of Plant Industry. It was officially adopted by leaders who attended the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927. It has remained the same throughout the years.

## The 4-H Colors

Green and White are the 4-H colors. The white is found as the background on the flag with a green clover with an H on each leaf.

## The Pledge of Allegiance

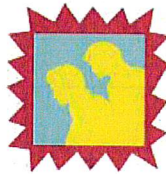
*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*



# 4-H Pledge

I pledge:

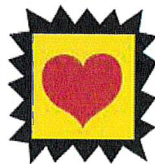
**Head**



My Head to Clearer Thinking

(right hand points to forehead).

**Heart**



My Heart to Greater Loyalty

(right hand over heart)

**Hands**



My Hands to Larger Service

(Arms slightly bent, palms up)

**Health**



And my Health to Better Living for My Club,  
My Community, My Country and My World

(Arms at sides)

# 4-H Autographs



Introduce yourself to each officer listed below. Ask them to tell you what they do as an officer and have them sign their name.

Club President: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Reporter: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Leader (s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Autographs

Another 1st year member: \_\_\_\_\_

A person you've never met before: \_\_\_\_\_

Cloverbud/Exploring Leader or other adult leader (s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Commonly Used Terms and Definitions

The 4-H program has many words that may be unfamiliar to a new 4-H member. Complete the matching exercise to see how many 4-H words you already know!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. UW-Extension                           | a. From fall enrollment through summer programs.   |
| 2. Current 4-H Information and Happenings | b. Members who complete their 4-H career.  |
| 3. 4-H Year                               | c. University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service is responsible for the administration of the 4-H program in Wisconsin.  |
| 4. 4-H Members                            | d. Completing all of the membership requirements for the 4-H club during the year.   |
| 5. Enrollment Forms                       | e. 4-H members in grades K-2.  |
| 6. Club Rules and Bylaws                  | f. 4-H member and leader guides written by University specialists to help you learn more about your 4-H projects. Clubs will determine how to handle the costs of these materials. |
| 7. Year in Review                         | g. Must be completed by members at the beginning of each 4-H year. It includes the projects you are going to take and contact information.   |
| 8. Project Literature                     | h. A process you complete for 4-H leadership trips and educational experiences you are interested in participating in.   |
| 9. Trip/Award Experience                  | i. Youth in grades K-13 that enroll in 4-H.  |
| 10. Awards at the Club Level              | j. Written rules or guidelines for the operation of your club.   |
| 11. 4-H Graduate                          | k. A report of your 4-H accomplishments in projects or activities throughout the year.   |
| 12. Cloverbud                             | l. Newsletters, websites, blogs or other methods that are used to keep each member and family informed of upcoming educational events and opportunities.                           |

# ✓4-H Projects



A 4-H project is an area that you want to learn more about during the year. There are projects on just about any topic you would like to study and explore, from art to woodworking, from computers to rabbits, from clothing to small engines.

So how do you know what projects are available to you? Your club organizational leader or enrollment coordinator can tell you what projects and resources are offered in your county.

Don't forget to check out the Wisconsin 4-H project website [www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/onlinpro/index.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/onlinpro/index.cfm). Here you will find descriptions for statewide projects, Internet resources and links of interest, county fair exhibit suggestions, state specialist contacts, and other suggested 4-H resources.

And remember, you'll learn more than "subject matter" as you complete your projects. You'll learn many "life" skills that you'll use every day of your life, such as, understanding yourself, communicating better, solving problems, making decisions, and working with others. Good luck in your project selections. Have a great 4-H year!

## How to Select 4-H Projects

- ✓ Make a list of the things you like to do or want to learn more about.
- ✓ Talk over your list with your parents, leaders and friends. They may recognize some special things you are good at that you don't even realize you do well.
- ✓ Compare your list with the projects described on this website and other project guide list you may receive from your county.
- ✓ Ask yourself if you have the equipment, money and time to do the projects that sound interesting.
- ✓ Your club organizational leader or enrollment coordinator will give you a form when you're ready to sign up for projects.
- ✓ If you've had a lot of experience in an area, you may want to skip the first or beginning level of a project. Many projects also have grade recommendations. These are only recommendations.



- ✓ For your first year in 4-H, concentrate on doing only two or three projects well. Usually you can spend more than one year in a project unit because here are enough ideas there to span two or three years.



# County Fair

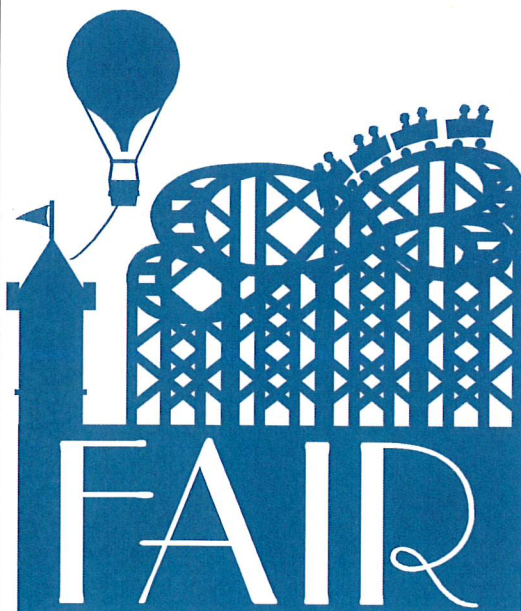
The county fair provides an opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit and display the items that demonstrate what they have learned through their project meetings and experiences over the enrollment year. This is a major event where many people see what 4-H members accomplish.

The exhibits are evaluated by state certified judges. The process is designed to extend the learning the member has done in their project. Members share how they completed the exhibit that demonstrates their project goals. The judges are more than willing to spend time with members providing valuable feedback on how to improve their project.

## Judging Systems

**Danish:** Traditional system whereby all exhibits of the same lot are presented simultaneously to the judge. The judge evaluates each project by itself and is permitted to give a maximum of 25% blue, red, white, and pink ribbons within each lot in the class of projects.

**Face to Face or Conference:** This form of judging allows more communication directly between the judge and exhibitor. In a face-to-face judging, an allotted time is established for the exhibitor to meet with the judge. Exhibitors bring their projects to the judge at their convenience within the allotted time and talk to the judge about their project. Exhibitors are asked questions and encouraged to ask questions of the judge as well. In conference judging, the entire lot is present at the same time for judging. The judge then, based on all discussions, may award the ribbon and premium which he/she believes is appropriate without regard to percentages.



## Questions you might be asked:

- What kind of things did you do in your project this year?
- How did you make it...grow it...build it...paint it...?
- Where did you learn how to...?
- What did you like doing best?
- What are you going to do with your item?
- What would you change the next time you do this?

# So Now That You Are a 4-H Member, What is Your Part?

Think about a group that you belong to. This could be at your school, the 4-H club, or other community group. Circle all of the items below that you think are important for everyone in the group to do.

**Listen to Others**

**Help Set Up the Room for Meetings or Activities**

**Share Your Ideas**

**Help Clean Up After Activities**

**Try to Do Your Best**

**Have Fun**

**Invite Others to Attend**

**Do What you Say You Will Do**

**Volunteer To Help**

**Bring Information Home to Your Parent/Guardian**

**Turn Reports in on Time**

**Teach or Demonstrate to Others a New Skill**

**Work Together**

**Try Something New**

Think about all of the items you have circled. Are you doing all of the things you have circled?

What can you do to be a better member in your 4-H club?

# Youth Leadership-Inventory

Circle the clover that best fits your response to each item. If you have questions, please contact your county 4-H Youth Development staff or your club leader.

I already do this

I plan to do this

I might do this

Teach other members in my club



Teach 4-H adult leaders in my club



Lead an activity in my club



Serve on a club committee



Be a club officer



Teach at a county project meeting



Be a camp counselor



Be an officer for a county program



Serve on the County Leader's Board



Participate in the county speaking contest



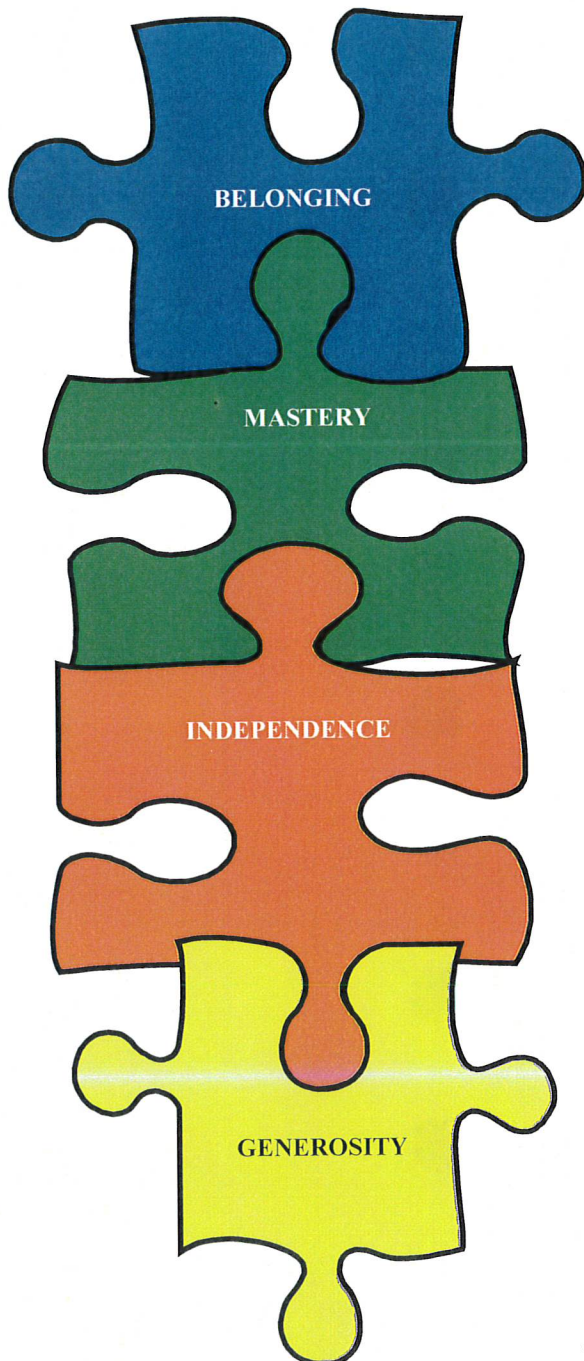
Lead an activity at the County Fair



# The Four Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development

## How Are You Connecting the Essential Elements for Your Development?

You are the key to your own growth and development as a person, family member and citizen. 4-H is there to help you in your journey. Check out the four essential elements and see where you are now and where you can go in your personal journey.



### **Belonging:**

- Do you have caring adults in your life that advise, guide and mentor you?
- Do you feel like you belong to a group and others are positive and encouraging?
- Do you feel safe from physical or emotional harm?

### **Mastery:**

- Are you learning new things and skills?
- Do you have opportunities to practice new skills?
- Are you able to find new resources and learn on your own?

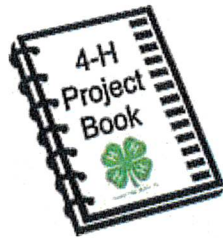
### **Independence:**

- Are you able to make your own decisions?
- Do you set your goals and then work to reach them?
- Do you see many choices for yourself in the future?

### **Generosity:**

- Are you able to teach others?
- Are you giving back to members in your family, 4-H club, or community?

# Keeping Track of What You Have Done and Learned - A Year in Review



All people, young and old, keep records of one thing or another. Think of the things that you must record—the meeting next week, doctor appointments, homework assignments, money you plan to save or spend. Record keeping is simply a way of remembering something for the future. As a 4-H member, you will need to keep track of what you have done and learned. 4-H record keeping prepares you for remembering for the future.

**Record books, scrapbooks, memory books, blogs or portfolios are just some of the tools for keeping 4-H records for you as a 4-H member. Those tools include the following information:**

- Identify your leadership and project goals and set priorities
- Establish good organizational and planning skills
- Develop responsibility in record keeping
- Learn if money is made or lost
- Explore careers and goals
- Learn to compare and evaluate success or failure
- Experience personal satisfaction and growth through completion of worthwhile task
- Tell a complete story of the projects you took, leadership positions you held and activities you participated in.

**A traditional record book or portfolio may contain the following sections:**

1. **Title Page:** This is a place to share information about you and your club.
2. **Activity Section:** This includes information that lists the activities you participated in and possibly pictures or newspaper clippings that show your participation.
3. **Project Section:** Include information for each project you are involved in. This includes the name of the project, specific project goals you have, activities and events you participated in and pictures or newspaper clippings that show your participation. You should record specifics about your project including the money you invested, the steps you took to complete the project, outcomes from exhibiting the project and what you learned.

**Your club or county program may have some recommended ways for you to share what you have learned and how you have reached your goals.**



Developed By: Jackie Johnson, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Chippewa County and Sue Pleskac, 4-H Volunteer Leadership Specialist, November 2009.

Adapted from Dunn County 1st Year Member Guide developed by Chris Viau, Dunn County 4-H Youth Development Educator and Columbia County 1st Year Member Guide developed by Karen Nelson, Columbia County 4-H Youth Educator.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that the proper arrangements can be made. Requests will be kept confidential. Contact your local Extension Office.



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