

October

Promotion & Recruitment

4-H Focus

Welcome! You have just enrolled in one of the greatest youth development programs in the nation. We are glad to have your child involved in 4-H. When describing 4-H to someone new, we often use the analogy of a super department store. 4-H is like a “store” full of wonderful, fun, positive educational programs. It has all the workshops, projects, contests, trips and conferences, camps, or activities you could possibly want or need. The 4-H program is so large and the opportunities so vast that it can sometimes seem overwhelming when you are new. Just keep in mind that your family’s 4-H experience can be tailor-made to fit your goals, schedules, and interests.

New Members

Greet new members and make them feel part of your club meeting. Members may not know each other. Many children are shy and have a difficult time getting acquainted. Take the initiative of introducing them and their parents to the club and its activities. Regularly include group interaction activities at club meetings so all members can get to know each other better. Check out the 4-H Bracelet Activity to teach new and returning members about the meaning of our 4-H Pledge.

Set a Positive Example

Your club and its members must set a positive example. Your club and its members must practice what your promotion preaches. Do not oversell 4-H. Talk about the big picture of 4-H, but be honest about your club. Tell the story of what and how much members have learned from being in 4-H.

Quote

“And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that never were.”



Rainer Maria Rilke


Building Leaders

4-H meetings will affect the kind of experiences that youth will have in 4-H. This is especially true for the beginning members. That is why successful 4-H meetings are so important. Groups that plan carefully have a solid foundation for successful 4-H meetings. Check out this great tool from Ohio State Extension to take a club inventory and assess the effectiveness of your club’s meetings: [Make Meetings Matter](#)



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4-H members want to be active and learn. As a leader, you can help to make meetings both enjoyable and educational. Include activities that members find important to them. To stimulate continued interest, involve the group in planning meetings. As a result, meetings will be fun and provide learning experiences for the members.

Learning Life Skills

Thank-you notes have a significant role in relationship building and connecting with others personally and professionally. Recipients feel recognized and appreciated when they receive thank-you notes. Sending a thank you is seen as a courteous and thoughtful gesture and can influence the future of a relationship.

Teaching youth how to write thank-you notes will be especially useful in their personal and professional lives. As an example, youth will eventually thank potential employers for job interviews, use thank-you notes to be successful in their chosen field or send notes of gratitude for gifts and acts of kindness.

A good thank-you note includes:

1. A greeting to the recipient (example: Dear Mr. Smith, Dear Ms. Jones or Dear Clover County Farm Bureau).
2. An acknowledgement of the specific reason for your thanks – being a guest speaker at your club meeting. This is always important to do first!
3. The reason you appreciate the recipient or the business (example: the recipient or the business has supported you and/or the 4-H program, has been generous to 4-H, and took time out of the day to benefit youth, etc.)
4. How you plan to use the information received, or gift of money to the 4-H club (plan to construct a 4-H project, help pay for summer camp, etc.)
5. A comment or detail about yourself or an update on your life (explain what you love about 4-H and what you learned this year and enjoyed the most this year; this can also include an opportunity for future partnerships).
6. A repeat of your thank-you (may be left out IF you sign “With thanks”).
7. A closing and signature (With thanks, Your Name; or Sincerely, Your Name, etc.)

An example:

Dear Mr. Jolly Roger (1),

Thank you for being a guest speaker at our 4-H club meeting (2). I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to highlight your profession (3). I was so fascinated by what I learned that I plan to create 4-H project highlighting career opportunities in electrical engineering (4). I graduate from high school and 4-H this year. I plan to study electrical engineering at college (5). Thanks again for your time and support for the 4-H program! (6)

Sincerely, (7)
(Your signed name)

Your note should:

- Be handwritten by you.
- Be neat and legible.
- Be on a note card or a nice piece of paper (lined paper or index cards are not a good choice).
- Be in blue or black ink.

(Reference: Michigan State University Extension)

4-H Spotlight

Now that you have completed your enrollment on 4H Online you will start receiving notifications and county updates. Make sure you read any correspondence like newsletters, weekly updates, or social media posts to ensure you do not miss any important deadlines or opportunities. You should expect contact from your club leader within four weeks of joining.

Over its 110-year history, 4-H has developed traditions that help define its culture and identity, such as the recitation of the 4-H pledge. This pledge is said at the beginning of each 4-H club meeting.

4-H Pledge

I pledge ...

my **head** to clearer thinking,
my **heart** to greater loyalty,
my **hands** to larger service,
my **health** to better living,
for my club,
my community,
my country and my world.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH