



Dear Potential 4-H Member,

4-H is a voluntary educational program designed to meet the needs and interests of all youth 8 to 19 years of age. The 4-H program in Ohio is under the guidance of The Ohio State University Extension and is open to all youth regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, or disability. 4-H is not an organization for exclusively "farm" or "rural" youth. 4-H members can be urban, suburban, or rural residents.

The main purpose of 4-H is to provide learning experiences and opportunities to boys and girls that will help them develop to their fullest potential. 4-H projects, along with club programs and activities, are the tools used to develop leadership, citizenship and character in 4-H members. The 4-H project, which is based on real life experiences, provides 4-Hers the opportunity to learn by doing. Ohio 4-Hers may choose from over 200 projects. Examples include fine arts, natural resources, first aid, photography, woodworking, veterinary science, horses, electricity, food and nutrition, companion animals, sewing clothing, rockets, livestock, and much more!

Youth enjoy 4-H because they have fun with their friends at 4-H meetings, social activities, conferences, tours, camps, and fairs. They join 4-H because they want to belong, to do things that have action, and to succeed at something. A mini democracy in action, 4-H members organize and run their club, elect their own officers, and select projects they wish to work on. Older 4-H members serve as Teen Leaders and assist younger members with their projects.

Adult advisors volunteer their time and talents to guide 4-H members in the development of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health - the four H's of 4-H work. 4-H programs are built around the enthusiasm, interest, and ambition of the 4-H members and adult leaders.

How to Join

The first thing you need to do is join a local club that best suits your and your family's needs. Contact the head advisor of the 4-H club you are interested in joining, or have a parent/guardian contact them for you. If you need assistance in finding a club, please contact the Fulton County OSU Extension Office.

Below is an approximate timeline for the 4-H year in Fulton County.

- November and December are good months to contact head advisors about joining their club for the next 4-H season. This can be done in January or February, too.
- Clubs usually begin to plan their new year and establish a meeting schedule in late January and February, with meetings starting shortly thereafter. Follow up with the head advisor you contacted earlier, asking for the first meeting date and location if they don't contact you.
- Fulton County 4-H enrollment deadline is April 1st each year. Your head advisor can assist you in getting enrolled at <http://v2.4honline.com> or contact the Extension Office. The head advisor turns in your membership dues, and orders project books for the entire club through the Extension Office. **Submit your dues to your club's head advisor.**
- 4-H clubs generally end their year in September. Clubs frequently have year-end parties, awards banquets, or wrap up meetings in October or November.

Preview the 4-H projects available next year at [Project Central](#) and become more familiar with 4-H by reading the **Family Guide to 4-H** which lists all the projects offered by the State of Ohio. (The Family Guide is also available at <https://ohio4h.org/familyguide>.)

The **Fulton County 4-H Handbook** provides more information about 4-H in Fulton County such as our county 4-H rules, our 4-H calendar, the county projects we offer (which are similar but not always the same as in the Family Guide), and judging requirements. This Handbook is available online at fulton.osu.edu under "4-H Youth Development."



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Fulton County 4-H Program invites you to be an active, enthusiastic, and motivated member or volunteer. We are excited about the abundance of learning opportunities we can offer the young people in our community and hope you will join! If you have questions or would like to discuss how you can get involved, please contact the Fulton County OSU Extension Office at 419-337-9210.

Sincerely,

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