



4-H COMMUNITY CLUBS

4-H Youth Development Programs

Revised December 2004

The 4-H Community Club is the heart of the 4-H program. In Wisconsin, some 2,000 4-H Clubs provide opportunities for 50,000 Wisconsin youth to participate in one of the nation's largest and oldest youth development and out-of-school education programs. Members range in age from kindergarteners to high school seniors.

Although adult volunteers provide support for these clubs, they are run by youth, letting them put citizenship and leadership skills into practice. 4-H Clubs provide a safe place for young people to learn to plan, organize and run events and activities, to teach as well as learn new skills, and to develop confidence and competence in a non-competitive environment. 4-H Clubs exist in rural areas, small towns, city neighborhood centers and afterschool programs.

Being in a 4-H Community Club Teaches Skills for a Lifetime

Because 4-H Clubs are lead by youth, members learn about citizenship, leadership, cooperation, compromise and teamwork. 4-H Club participation also instills important lessons about setting goals and priorities, taking responsibility, and being timely and accountable. 4-H members can choose from more than 50 activities, from art to natural resources, from foods to horses. Each project includes extensively tested educational materials developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension faculty. These activities start at the beginner level and continue through more advanced levels.

4-H Clubs also provide fertile ground for youth to grow and learn. In 4-H Clubs, kids can

- Develop and test practical living skills in a safe and supportive "real world" environment.
- Become actively engaged in their communities and better informed about local issues.
- Prepare for the world of work through direct experiences with projects and activities that correspond to future career opportunities.
- Experience success in a non-formal learning environment.
- Develop communication and problem solving skills through public presentations and group work.

In 2004, 50,000 Wisconsin youth were members of 4-H Community Clubs.



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