Hennepin County 4-H

Family Handbook

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MISSION OF 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the 4-H Youth Development program is to engage youth, in partnership with adults, in quality learning opportunities that enable them to shape and reach their full potential as active citizens in a global community.

WHAT MAKES 4-H DIFFERENT?

4-H is unique because it is the only youth organization tied to the research base of our nation’s land-grant university system. This connection allows the University of Minnesota Extension staff, and the volunteers they work with, to receive training based on the most up-to-date research on youth development theory and practice.

WHO OWNS 4-H?

4-H is a public organization owned by the USDA - United States Department of Agriculture. 4-H is part of the University of Minnesota Extension. The University, USDA, the National 4-H Council and the county government sponsor it jointly. The University provides campus faculty, staff leadership and resources. Extension Educators and County 4-H Program Coordinators/Directors join with a strong corps of adult and teen volunteers to conduct local programs. Private support forms a partnership with public funds to support Minnesota 4-H.

WHAT IS A 4-H CLUB?

A 4-H Club is a group of youth and adults who meet on a regular basis and together practice positive youth development and cooperative learning.

4-H Clubs strive to create, within their group, a quality learning environment that gives members a chance to be an active part of the decision making process; values and respects the voices of all; provides members an opportunity to reflect on and demonstrate their learning; connects members to their community through service; encourages the development of positive relationships with peers and adults; is welcoming and accessible to all; celebrates individual and group achievements; challenges youth to establish and meet individual goals; and provides for the physical and emotional safety of all.

Four Types of Club Experiences Offered Through 4-H

- **4-H Community Club** is a program initiated and facilitated by youth and adult volunteers in the context of community (e.g., neighborhood).

- **4-H Project Club** is a program focused more deeply on a specific subject matter. Performing Arts Club, Horse Club, Photography Club, Shooting Sports and Wildlife Club, Computer Science Club, Spanish Club are all examples of 4-H Project Clubs.
- **4-H Afterschool Club** is a program offered to youth following the school day. 4-H Afterschool Clubs are often divided by age groups (e.g., grades 3-4, grades 5-6) and frequently meet in the school building or a site that provides care for children after school.

- **4-H Site-Based Club** is designed to reach underserved youth in the communities where they live. This could be a public housing site or neighborhood with a community center that can serve as the hosting location.

**HOW DO I ENROLL IN 4-H?**

1. The 4-H program year is October 1st - September 30th. New members are welcome to enroll anytime throughout the year by completing the enrollment steps through 4HOnline.com, by contacting their local County Extension Office, or by visiting http://www.4-h.umn.edu/4honline.

2. Re-enrollment is an annual process for members that begins September 1st and should be completed by January 15th. Members who wish to re-enroll must complete the re-enrollment steps at 4HOnline.com. If you are experiencing problems with re-enrollment, please contact your local County Extension Office for assistance.

3. A member is encouraged to enroll in at least one project per year. There is no maximum number of projects.

4. Cloverbuds is a special enrollment opportunity for youth in grades K-3. It is considered the member’s project. Cloverbuds is developmentally appropriate, non-competitive, and activity based.

**Questions to Ask Right Away When Joining a Club:**

- Who is the adult leader and how do I contact them?
- When, where and how frequently does the club meet? (Weekly, after school, monthly on a weeknight, every Sunday night at the neighborhood recreation center, etc.)
- Are there any dues? How much are they? What if I can’t pay?
- What are the club goals and planned activities for the year?

**Questions to Ask Yourself When Selecting Project(s) to Enroll in:**

- Is it a project I like or think I will like?
- How much is this project going to cost? Where will I get the money?
- Is the space and equipment I will need to complete this project available?
- How much time will it take?
- Is there someone who can help me if I need it?
WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A 4-H FAMILY?

4-H Youth...
- Complete your re-enrollment steps through 4HOnline.com as soon as possible; the deadline for re-enrollment is January 15th.
- Participate in club meetings, events, and service projects.
- Read the 4-H Clover Update and other communication from the County or Regional Extension Office when it arrives.
- Set and strive to complete 4-H project goals.
- Help to share your knowledge with other club members.

4-H Parents...
You are an important part of the 4-H Program. Here are some suggestions to help your child have an exciting and educational experience:
- Advise your child in the selection of projects.
- Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects he/she selected.
- Help guide your child with their projects, but do not do it for them.
- Assist your child in getting to meetings and other events. Parents are encouraged to attend local club meetings and county-wide events with their children.
- Be informed by reading the 4-H information sent to your family and asking questions when unclear.
- Volunteer to assist with club events and activities when possible.

HOW DO I BECOME AN ADULT VOLUNTEER?
Volunteers are the key to successful experiences for 4-H members. Adults who volunteer also reap the benefits of interacting with youth and other adults. There are many ways adults and older youth can participate as volunteers. Volunteers might share knowledge and skills gained through work or hobbies or chaperone at camps and retreats. Many opportunities arise throughout the year. Consult the newsletter or your County Extension Office for specific information.

Volunteer Screening:
All 4-H staff and volunteers are required to be screened for the protection of our youth and volunteers!

The screening process includes an application, a background check, and volunteer orientation. There is no cost to the volunteer to be screened. Screened and trained volunteers are covered under the University of Minnesota liability insurance, as long as they are acting within the scope of their duties as a volunteer. Volunteers must re-enroll every three years.
Rewards of Volunteering:

- Satisfaction of watching youth learn and grow.
- Satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference in the lives of others.
- Respect and friendship of club members and other volunteers.
- Respect and gratitude of parents and community members.
- Opportunity for continued personal growth and learning.
- Out-of-pocket expenses are deductible from income taxes.

HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN IN 4-H?

The 4-H Slogan: “Learn by Doing”

The 4-H slogan is the educational philosophy of the 4-H program. Since young people learn best when they are actively involved in the learning process, 4-H programs are designed to provide hands-on experiences that are reinforced through personal and group reflection and application “do - reflect - apply.” This research-based educational methodology is called “Experiential Learning.” The model below illustrates how 4-H experiences are intentionally developed to optimize learning.

Experiential Learning Model adapted from Pfeiffer, J.W., and Jones, J.E. (1985).
WHAT ARE 4-H PROJECTS?
The 4-H project is an important aspect of the 4-H experience. Projects are experiences that help 4-H'ers learning to make decisions. Projects are the “foundation tool” for helping young people develop life skills.

WHAT ARE LIFE SKILLS?
Life skills are the long-range benefits youth gain from participating in 4-H. The term “skill” here means more than physical abilities such as writing, sewing, and athletic achievement. It includes a combination of acting, telling, and thinking.

Remember:
When selecting a project, the member should talk it over with their parent(s) or guardian. Parents, do not decide for your children, but help them decide. Remember, decision making is one of many important life skills young people can develop in 4-H.

The following is the Targeting Life Skills Model, developed by Iowa State University.
TYPES OF PROJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM

Note: The 4-H Project Selection Guide contains additional information on the 4-H projects listed below and is available online at www.4-h.umn.edu, then click on Projects and resources.

Animal Science
Beef, Cat, Dairy, Dairy & Market Goat, Dog, Horse, Lama, Pets, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Swine, and Veterinary Science

Exploring Animals

Expressive & Communication Arts
Clowning, Crafts & Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Photography, Video

Family Consumer Science
Child & Family Development, Clothing & Textiles, Consumer Education, Food & Nutrition, Home Environment, Needle Arts, Quilting

Mechanical Sciences
Aerospace, Bicycle, Computer, Electric, Geospatial, Robotics, Shop (wood and/or metal), Small Engines, Tractor

Natural Resources

Personal Growth and Development
Citizenship, Global Connections, Health, Safety, Youth Leadership

Plant Sciences
Crop Sciences, Flower Gardening, Fruit, Indoor Gardening, Lawn & Landscape Design, Plant & Soil Science, Potatoes, Vegetable Gardening

Other Learning Opportunities
Self - determined

RECORD KEEPING AND REFLECTION

Keeping records, a journal, or portfolio of your 4-H experiences are ways of reflecting on and enhancing your learning. Reflection is a very important part of the Experiential Learning Model we use in 4-H. Reflection allows you to think about the how’s and why’s of an experience or activity to identify what you learned through the experience, enabling you to then apply that learning in other situations.
4-H record keeping is helpful in teaching important life skills, such as self-discipline, decision making, goal setting, wise use of resources, communication, sharing, etc. Accurate and up-to-date records and portfolios not only provide a history of your 4-H experience, they are also helpful in successfully completing applications to colleges and universities, scholarships, awards, and employment.

4-H records and other tools used to help young people reflect on their learning are available from your County Extension Office or your Club Leader. Policies and procedures around 4-H records often vary from county to county. Consult your local 4-H staff or Club Leader to learn about the process in your county.

HOW ARE FAIR EXHIBITS JUDGED?
County Fair provides many opportunities for youth involved in 4-H to learn and grow. While exhibiting 4-H projects at the fair is certainly not a requirement of membership, it is a wonderful way for young people to showcase and receive feedback and recognition for their work. Visit with 4-H staff or your Club Leader to learn more about 4-H opportunities at the fair in your county.

4-H General Projects are Judged in a Conference
Conference Judging is a conversation between the judge and the 4-H'er. It is a chance for you to explain to a judge what you have learned from your project experience. It allows time to ask a judge questions that you may have about your project.

What Can I Expect During Conference Judging?
- The interview is as important as the exhibit itself: an equal “weight” is given on the actual exhibit and on the conference—50/50.
- The judge, who is knowledgeable in the project area, determines the ribbon placing.
- Judges will observe, question, listen and challenge you.
- Judges offer encouraging and constructive feedback, as well as, suggestions on how to further explore the project area.

How are Cloverbuds Judged?
- You have a judge just for your projects.
- The judge may ask you to tell them about your project.
- The judge may ask you questions about the project and give you ideas for next year's project.
- You will receive a recognition ribbon for Cloverbuds.

Parents, the Cloverbud program provides opportunity to explore and actively learn in a noncompetitive environment. Developmental research supports noncompetitive activities and participation recognition.
HOW IS LIVESTOCK JUDGED?

Livestock and other animal projects are designed to allow youth to learn management practices such as nutrition, shelter, water, environment, breeding, care, etc. of their animal. The assessment of this knowledge, as it is applied to the project, can occur in one or all of the ways listed below.

1. Evaluation of the animal considering its physical characteristics and/or performance.
2. Showmanship and knowledge of the exhibitor as displayed in the show ring. How the animal is prepared, groomed and is presented at its optimal level.
3. Animal Science Interviews reveal the exhibitor's knowledge in the animal project area and ability to communicate in an interview setting.

Games and agility may be special classes to enter for your animal species. Read your County Fair Premium list carefully to see what you can enter.

WHAT DOES MY COLORED RIBBON MEAN?

- **Purple**: The exhibit meets all standards. The exhibitor has shown complete understanding of what, how and why the exhibit was done, and has a thorough knowledge of the subject. The exhibit and workmanship are extraordinary and need no improvement.
- **Blue**: The exhibit meets most standards. The exhibitor can explain what, how and why the exhibit was done and has good knowledge of the subject. The exhibit is well organized and well done.
- **Red**: The exhibit meets some standards. The exhibitor can somewhat explain what, how and why the exhibit was done and has a fair knowledge of the subject. Some improvements may be needed on the exhibit.
- **White**: The exhibit meets few standards and lacks the quality of other exhibits. The exhibitor cannot adequately explain the what, how and why of the exhibit. Possibly they have overlooked a safety flaw. Improvement is needed in either the exhibit, the knowledge of the subject, or both.
- **Special Ribbons**: Counties may award special ribbons to Cloverbud exhibitors and to recognize participation and achievement in a project area, event or activity. If you have questions about the judging system in your county, never hesitate to ask 4-H staff.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The 4 H’s

- The Head is to signify clearer thinking.
- The Heart is to signify greater loyalty.
- The Hands are to signify larger service.
- The Health is to signify better living.

4-H Pledge

“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 family, my club, my community, my country, and my world.”

4-H Motto

“To make the best better.”

WHO’S WHO AND WHAT THEY DO

Club Leader

- Gives guidance
- Works with youth to guide successful meetings
- Helps plan yearly club program
- Guides club officers with responsibilities
- Keeps club informed of general club matters
- Informs parents and youth of 4-H activities
- Attends leader meetings and training
- Assists in recruiting new members
- Assists with 4-H enrollment paperwork and processes
- Serves as a liaison to County Extension staff

Project Leader

- Plans, coordinates, publicizes, and conducts project trainings
- Assists county fair superintendents
- Evaluates project guidelines

Extension Staff

- Serve as a resource
- Help plan, conduct and evaluate the 4-H program
- Assist club contact and project leaders by providing training and resources
• Advise the public about 4-H opportunities
• Develop and disseminate the 4-H Clover Update and other communication
• Recruit, screen, and train volunteers
• Work with county and state decision-makers to build public support for 4-H
• Help secure and manage the financial support necessary to deliver a quality 4-H program

CLUB MEETINGS
Your 4-H Club will meet to plan and conduct the club’s 4-H activities. There are typically three parts to a 4-H Club meeting:

1. The business meeting is often led by the President. During this time, club activities, programs and events are discussed and acted upon.

2. Education is an important part of the club meeting. Various methods may be used to present subject matter, including: 4-H Demonstrations, project talks, speakers, project experiences, movies, etc.

3. Fellowship is part of the overall 4-H program and recreation is one way that this can be developed. Songs, games or skits make up this fun part of the meeting.

Perhaps the most important factor in a successful meeting is a wide level of participation from all club members. 4-H’ers are encouraged to participate in the 4-H meeting by:

• Keeping up-to-date on what's going on – read the newsletter, ask questions;
• Presenting ideas;
• Serving on committees;
• Giving demonstrations and project talks.

Club Offices and Roles
Club members are chosen by their peers to give leadership to the club by serving as:

• President – Presides at all 4-H meetings and appoints committees as needed.
• Vice President – Serves in the absence of the President.
• Secretary – Records minutes or actions of the meeting and handles correspondence.
• Treasurer – Keeps up-to-date financial records and pays bills as directed by club.
• Reporter – Writes reports of club meeting and events for local newspaper.
• Recreation/Song Leader – Plans and leads songs and games at 4-H meetings.
• Other Offices – Some clubs may also elect callers, historians, scrap booker, etc.

Demonstrations and Illustrated Presentations
Demonstrations and illustrated presentations are a lot like show and tell. Members are encouraged to demonstrate and present at club meetings and/or county events to share their
learning. Two 4-H members may work together as team presenters. Additional information on this topic is available from your County Extension Office or online at www.4-h.umn.edu.

**Presentation Formats**

- **Illustrated Presentation:** Oral presentation that presents an idea, concept, viewpoint or experience in an educational or informative format. Most often consists of interaction with supporting visuals (i.e. PowerPoint, models, and posters).
- **Demonstration:** Oral presentation that includes demonstrating the hands-on steps required to accomplish a task or process. Should be a finished product upon conclusion.
- **Youth In Action:** Interactive, continuous presentations. More time is allowed for audience involvement and interaction.

**Demonstration and Illustrated Presentation Tips**

1. **Introduction:** Interesting, short, complete, and attention-getting! It should include who you are, what your presentation is about, and why you feel it is important.
2. **Topic:** Related to a project, interest or activity.
3. **Appearance:** Dress appropriate; well-groomed; good posture; feet together; and smile!
4. **Presentation:** Voice natural; words distinct; poised; friendly; confident; convincing; well organized; originality shown.
5. **Subject Matter:** Emphasize important points. Information accurate, complete, usable.
6. **Workmanship:** Skillful; good teamwork, if a team; time and materials well used; work and speech coordinated; table neat and orderly with visuals easily viewable by audience.
7. **Equipment:** Suitable for demonstration or illustrated presentation. Good visual aids if needed.
8. **Conclusion:** Stress important points in summary. Show finished product if there is one. Definite closing (be creative, tie it in with the introduction); questions answered satisfactorily.
Glossary

4-H Adventures – 4-H Adventures are fun, short term learning experiences/activities designed to reach new youth audiences and families. Current 4-H members are often invited to participate as well.

4-H Clover Update – A monthly e-newsletter is sent out to each 4-H family via e-mail around the first of each month. This newsletter contains information about all the upcoming information regarding the 4-H program. Articles from the newsletter are posted online at www.extension.umn.edu/county/hennepin

4-H County Fair Premium Book – A publication that lists projects 4-H members may exhibit at the County Fair. It includes rules for entering your exhibits and the week’s schedule of 4-H events. Arrives via us mail in early June.

Adult Leader/Volunteer - Any adult who is interested and willing to give time to the 4-H Youth Development program to help with youth currently enrolled in the program. Adults who will be regularly volunteering with their club or county must also complete the 4-H volunteer screening process, which includes a brief application and a background check. More information about this important process can be found online at http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/volunteer/

County Ambassador – A group of 4-H youth leaders, grades 9-13 who promote 4-H and volunteer to support the program at the county level.

Animal ID Form – Special forms (also referred to as ownership affidavits) that members enrolled in sheep, swine, beef, dairy, horse, goat, dog, lama, poultry or rabbits are required to complete and submit by an established deadline if they desire to exhibit animals at a county or state event.

Arts-In – a performing arts showcase created and performed by 4-H members and volunteers during the week at the County Fair. Rehearsals are held prior to the fair.

Beef & Dairy Steer Identification Deadline – All market beer and dairy steers must be properly weighed and tagged with an official MN State 4-H ear tag by February 15th.

BLU (Building Leadership & Understanding) - The State 4-H Ambassadors offer an overnight leadership retreat for youth in grades 6-13 from multiple counties. Each retreat focuses on learning and development skills in leadership, communication and community service. Hennepin County offers partial scholarships for those who attend.

Camp

- Day – Day-long events held throughout the county during the summer. Participants learn through activities including educational sessions, recreation, food, fun, and crafts. Open to non-4-H members.
- **Residence** – Overnight camp experience for participants (grades 2-8). Held at the Sand Dunes State Forest. Open to non-4-H members.

**Camp Counselor** – A member 9th grade and up who receives training and works with youth at residence or day camps. A training session is held for interested youth. Youth learn what is expected of a camp counselor and meet other 4-H’ers from throughout the area.

**Citizenship** - One of the philosophies upon which 4-H was founded. Every 4-H’er does his/her part to be an active citizen and to be involved in the community.

**Citizenship Washington Focus** - 4-H members who have completed ninth grade are eligible to attend this week-long event in Washington, D.C. Seminars and workshops exploring current issues are held at the National 4-H Conference Center. This is an opportunity to learn about our government and how it works, while meeting other youth from across the country. Hennepin County offers partial scholarships to attend this event.

**Cloverbud** – Youth in grades K-2 enroll in the Cloverbud program. Cloverbuds is designed to be non-competitive with special activities & projects for younger members.

**Club Key Leader** – An adult from each club responsible for helping club officers run meetings, planning club activities, and serving as a liaison between club and county 4-H staff. Most clubs have two Key Leaders.

**Club Meeting** – 4-H Clubs hold regular meetings with most clubs holding them monthly. A meeting should consist of a business meeting, an educational program that might include demonstrations by members, recreation, and refreshments.

**Club Officer Training** – Training for newly elected club officer teams to learn their officer role. Club officer teams participate together and create goals for the year.

**Clover Forecast** – A monthly newsletter mailed out to 4-H’ers outlining program opportunities, deadlines, and things for 4-H members to be aware of in the next month.

**Community Pride/Service** – An activity that serves your community. A club identifies a community need, develops an action plan, carries it out, and reports on the progress.

**Conference Judging** – Conference-style judging provides an opportunity for fair exhibits to be evaluated through a discussion between the judge and the 4-H member. 4-H’ers and judges can discuss the learning and identify future goals.

**County Fair** - County Fair offers 4-H members the opportunity to exhibit the work they have done within their projects. Exhibits are conference-judged, which means the 4-H’er talks with the judge about the project. Each member receives a ribbon for each exhibit. Animal shows are held throughout the week. Exhibits in many project areas are chosen to go on to the State Fair. The
county fair is an exciting opportunity to highlight a 4-H member’s experiences during the year. County fair is a time to share what 4-H has to offer with members of the larger community. The Hennepin County Fairgrounds is located in Howard Lake, MN.

**Demonstrations/Illustrated Presentations** – Demonstrations/Illustrated Presentations are public presentations that give 4-H’ers an opportunity to share something they have learned with others. Demonstrations may include visual aids and hands-on learning by the audience. Members usually demonstrate at their club meetings. Members may also participate in the county-wide event where winners are selected to give their presentation at the Minnesota State Fair.

**Dog Training** – A county-wide dog-training program is available in Obedience, Showmanship, Rally, and Agility. Members who participate in dog training may choose to participate in the County Dog Show. Members who qualify at this show advance to the State Dog Show.

**Enrollment** – 4-H members must enroll on 4HOnline.com each year. Enrollment contains information for office use as well as the projects in which a member has selected to participate. Instructions for enrolling online can be found at [http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/join/#enroll](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/join/#enroll)

**Exchange Trip** – An opportunity for 4-H members to plan a trip and travel to other states to learn about different states and cultures.

**Extension Office** – The home office for Hennepin County 4-H is located in the Extension Office at the Hennepin County Extension Services, 479 Prairie Center Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Office Number: 612-624-7465

**Facebook** – Hennepin County 4-H is on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/HennepinCounty4H/](https://www.facebook.com/HennepinCounty4H/) Check here for photos, program updates, event information and more!

**Federation/Advisory Council** – Youth and adults representing each of the 4-H clubs in the county meet to discuss program direction, events, activities, and issues that will help to build and strengthen the county 4-H program. The Advisory Council is made up of the youth and adult officers that run the Federation meetings.

**Foodstand** – The 4-H Foodstand is a fundraising opportunity during the county fair. 4-H families and clubs run the full-service restaurant. Profits from the food stand support local 4-H events and activities

**Friday E-Blast** – A weekly e-newsletter that is sent out by Hennepin County 4-H featuring reminders about the events coming up in the next week and short-notice announcements.

**Horse Shows** – These shows are held at scheduled times during the Hennepin County Fair. Winners from the county horse show are selected to advance to the State 4-H Horse Show, held in September.

**Judging Teams** - Judging teams provide members the opportunity to use decision making skills by comparison. Livestock teams analyze the animal’s conformation and potential productivity.
Consumer judging teams determine which product is the “best buy,” given a certain set of criteria. Points are also given for oral reasons for the decisions. Possible judging teams include Horse, General Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Rabbit, and Consumer Decision Making.

**Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Training** – Training for 4-H members who are in the livestock projects. It is a training designed to educate the participants on proper handling techniques, animal nutrition, and showing ethics. This training is a requirement for any member wishing to exhibit livestock at the Hennepin County Fair.

**Member & Adult Volunteer Recognition Banquet (Awards Banquet)** – An event in the fall for all 4-H families to come together and join in the recognition of 4-H members, adults, and clubs who have done an outstanding job during the 4-H year.

**Minnesota 4-H Foundation** – The Foundation works to generate private funds to support 4-H through businesses, corporations, associations, foundations, and individual donors.

**Minnesota State 4-H Ambassadors** – A select group of youth leaders from across the state who conduct trainings and events for other youth. State Ambassadors provide leadership and assistance to the State 4-H Program during YELLO, BLU, and the State Fair and are available as a program resource across the state.

**Minnesota State 4-H Website** – Here you will find general information on 4-H, information and education about all project areas that MN 4-H supports with resources and learning opportunities, and more! Go here to learn about the 100+ projects available in 4-H and the supporting programs that exist. [www.fourh.umn.edu](http://www.fourh.umn.edu)

**National 4-H Week** – The first full week in October is recognized as National 4-H Week and marks the beginning of the 4-H year. Clubs may plan special activities and/or put up displays to increase awareness of the 4-H program.

**New 4-H Family Nights** – This is a night of fun and information for new 4-H members and their parents. It is held 2 times a year in Hennepin County.

**Official 4-H Ear Tag** – A special identification tag available at the Extension Office that must be inserted into the ear of certain livestock projects by ownership deadline if they are to be eligible for exhibition at county and state events.

**Project** – Projects are an interest area that 4-H members spend time learning more about. They do this by setting goals, independent investigation and working with adults or experts in their community. Each year when a new or returning 4-H member enrolls, they have the opportunity to sign up for projects they would like to participate in during the year. Project areas could include: Animals, Mechanical Sciences, Natural Resources, Clothing, Needle Arts, Foods, Creative Arts, Photography, Cloverbuds, Youth Leadership, and many more.
Project Bowls - Project Bowls are an exciting way for youth to explore a project area. Youth participate in a “game show”-type competition where teams of 3-6 youth are challenged on their knowledge of 4-H project areas and develop teamwork, self-confidence and decision making skills. There are regional and state contests in the spring. There are project bowls in dairy, dog, general livestock, horse, poultry, rabbit & wildlife. Youth in grades 3+ may participate.

Project Evaluation Sheets – These sheets are often used by judges at the county fair when evaluating project work. Members can access these sheets on-line to help them evaluate their own learning and skill development. http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/

Project Day – A workshops for members, offering hands-on learning in different project areas. Held throughout the year.

Project Bulletin/Curriculum - Curriculum of activities/ideas to correspond with 4-H project areas. Over 190 exciting, experientially based curriculum products for youth and volunteers are available on this site www.4-hmall.org, or by request at the Extension Office.

Project Development Committees (PDC) – Adult and youth from clubs work on the county level as a group to set the guidelines and plan educational events for members enrolled in certain project areas.

Project Meeting – A time when members, enrolled in a specific project, meet to work on their projects. Meetings may be planned and guided by project leaders on the club or county level. Members may also elect to work on their own or with the help of parents or others.

Project Record – At the beginning of each 4-H year, each member receives a record on which he/she plans, describes, and records the work that they accomplish and the knowledge they gain through their project. These records can be turned in at the end of the year for leaders to evaluate, give suggestions, and offer encouragement for the 4-H’ers’ demonstrated achievements. Records can also be submitted for county judging and awards. Records are available on our county website: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/youth-records/

Project Selection Guide – Booklet that describes Minnesota 4-H and all the projects available to 4-H members. http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/projects/

Share The Fun – A talent or skit performance opportunity. Clubs may enter small or large groups and learn about teamwork and performing arts. Annual performing arts showcase featuring club-designed skits and individual talent acts. First place club has the opportunity to perform their skit at the State Fair.

Shooting Sports – Opportunity for members in grades 3+ to learn about the responsible and safe operation of a firearm taught by certified instructors. Classes are available in Archery, Air Rifle & Pistol, BB, Shotgun, .22 rifle, Black Powder, and Wildlife.
State Arts-In – Teens who have completed 9th grade and up, have the opportunity to participate in a weeklong encounter with the visual and/or performing arts. Participants perform in a 30-minute musical, prepare sets, and do sound or sew costumes. After a week of preparing, the participants have a break and then return for 10 days of the State Fair to perform the show.

State 4-H Dog Show – An event held in September at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Participants and their dogs earn the opportunity as a result of their superior performance in county competition. Competition is open to members in grades 4+.

State 4-H Horse Show – An event held in September at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul that is open to 4-H Horse Project members grades 6+, who excelled in county-level competition, earning the chance to advance to the state show.

State Fair - Youth completing 6th grade and older may have the opportunity to advance their exhibit to the Minnesota State Fair, according to their placing at county fair. The 12-day fair is held in St. Paul, concluding on Labor Day.

State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational - An event held at a selected site in Minnesota which is open to 4-H members who have completed their required training hours in specific disciplines. Members compete in events such as Air Rifle and Air Pistol, Archery, BB Gun, .22, Shotgun and Black Powder, as well as a Wildlife Skillathon.

Volunteer
Activity - Volunteers who assist with special 4-H activities within the club or county.
Club Key - The adult(s) who is responsible for the general operation of each club.
Project - Volunteers who assist with special 4-H projects within the club or county.
Youth - Any youth, grade 6 and up, is considered a youth leader. These youth give assistance in club and county management, projects, events and activities. The youth also participate in county-wide activities held especially for youth leaders.

Hennepin County 4-H Website – Our County website is your spot for Hennepin County 4-H. Here we post general information, our monthly Clover Update, registration information for events, a master calendar of events, and more. Check back frequently to get info on the latest events and to view the interactive calendar of events. The monthly Clover Update gives a helpful snapshot of all available county programs. This might be a good place to start to understand the scope of county program offerings. http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/hennepin/4-h

YELLO – (Youth Exploring Leadership & Learning Out Loud) Youth, grades 7th-13 have the opportunity to experience a four-day leadership/personal development conference. Youth hear well-known speakers and meet 4-H’ers from across the state. (June)
COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM FUNDING

4-H MEMBERSHIP DUES
Club Dues - Each club determines if they will charge club dues and the amount per member. This money goes directly into each club treasury and is used by that club only.

County Dues - Money received goes directly into the county 4-H treasury to help pay for the costs of operating the county 4-H program. The dues are $8.50 per non-horse member or $14.50 per child enrolled in the horse program per year.

4-H FUNDRAISING
In order to supplement the cost of our 4-H program, activities, events, awards, scholarships and various other needs, extra funding is always necessary. We have various fundraising events throughout the 4-H year.

SCHOLARSHIPS – FULL OR PARTIAL
Adult – Registration scholarships are available for various 4-H trainings or workshops. Scholarship amount depends on the event.

Member – The 4-H Federation provides scholarships to 4-H members who participate in county, regional, state, or national events. The scholarship amount depends on the event.

Financial Assistance – Scholarships based on financial need are available for any 4-H program. Contact your leader or the Extension Office for information. These scholarships are completely confidential.
URBAN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (URBAN 4-H)
2017-2018 CALENDAR

* Please note, HC denotes Hennepin County specific events and RC denotes Ramsey County specific events.

Families who live in either county are welcome to attend all events.

OCTOBER

1-7 National 4-H Week
5 National Youth Science Day Event
7 Fall Leader Training
15 Ambassador Planning Com. Meeting
28 Pumpkins & Clovers 5K Fun Run

NOVEMBER

1 CLUB CHARTER FORMS DUE
4 Campus Visit
6 Hennepin County 4-H Awards Night
19 Ambassador Planning Com. Meeting
23-24 Office Closed
27 HC Federation Meeting

DECEMBER

17 Ambassador Planning Com. Meeting
25-26 Office Closed

JANUARY

1 Office Closed
15 MLK Jr. Day – Office Closed
18 RC Leader’s Council – STEM Workshop
State Horse Winter Round-up
19-21 Ambassador Planning Com. Meeting
21 RC Arts-In Leader Training
22 HC Federation Service Night Leader Training
27 Food Revue (with Washington County)

FEBRUARY

3-4 Central BLU
15 RC Leader’s Council - STEM Workshop: Rube Goldberg Session
17 HC Federation Fun Event
18 Ambassador Planning Committee Mtg
22 Urban Black History Month Celebration

MARCH

3 Metro Art Force
10 Regional Project Bowl, Hastings RC
Leader’s Council Meeting Workshop: Career Day
15 Office Closed – U of M Holiday
16 Ambassador Planning Com. Meeting
18

APRIL

12 RC Leader's Council Meeting Workshop: Animal Showcase – Bring Your Animal!
28 Urban 4-H Showcase/Share the Fun

MAY

15 Enrollment/Project Add/Drop Due
15 Animal IDs Due
TBD HC Fair Registration Due
17 RC Leader’s Council Meeting Workshop: DIY Slime
20 Ambassador Planning Com. Meeting
21 HC Federation Elections
28 Office Closed

JUNE

TBD HC Arts Alive Workshop

JULY

12-15 YELLO! Hennepin County Fair (tentative)
14-17 Ambassador Planning Com. Meeting
17 RC Arts-In Leadership Training

AUGUST

4 Office Closed
11-15 Ramsey County Fair
14 Raspberry Festival
TBD Campus Immersion Camp
28 HC Horse Show
29 Dog Show

SEPTEMBER

1 Urban Day at the State Fair (tentative)
1-3 Urban 4-H State Fair Encampment (tentative)