



Unit 1: Our History, Mission, Pledge, Motto and Slogan



Welcome to Indiana 4-H Volunteer Orientation. We are excited that you have chosen to pursue volunteer opportunities with the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program! Thank you for sharing your time and talents with the young people of 4-H.

This orientation includes a series of 6 units. The first unit begin with some history of 4-H. Let's get started!

4-H Past



4-H has been helping youth build skills for over 100 years. The 4-H club movement began in 1902 when corn clubs were organized to give farm boys and girls experiences in "learning by doing."

4-H Today



Over the years 4-H has grown and changed. It has adapted, and will continue to adapt, to meet current needs and interests. As a result, today's 4-H looks much different than it did to its early members.



Indiana 4-H and Purdue Extension



4-H is a youth development program of the Land Grant University in each state. In Indiana, Extension is based at Purdue University.

4-H is unique because it is the only youth organization tied to the research base of our nation's land-grant university system and because it is the only federally-authorized youth-serving program in the nation.

All are 4-H Members!



4-H has something for everyone! Indiana 4-H offers programming for students in grades 3-12. Some counties also offer 4-H-related programs for students in grades K-2. 4-H members can participate in 4-H clubs, where groups meet regularly to work on projects, perform community service and develop leadership skills.

Indiana 4-H also offers youth leadership, conferences, camping, and other programs at various times throughout the year. Older youth can be involved as youth volunteers in their areas of interest.

Regardless of their method of participation, ALL are 4-H members!

The 4-H Mission & Vision



Before you begin your volunteer role, it is important to know a little bit more about what Indiana 4-H stands for, along with some of its symbols and sayings.

The purpose, or mission, of Indiana 4-H Youth Development is **“to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who positively impact their community and world.”**

Indiana 4-H's Vision statement reads: **“Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.”**



Out-of-School Education



This mission is accomplished by offering out-of-school educational programs that excite youth to learn in areas they are interested in; that engage youth in addressing community and youth-related issues; and that encourage youth to reach their full potential in an ever-changing world.

I Pledge...



The 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 club, my community, my country and my world.

4-H members often recite this pledge, along with the Pledge of Allegiance, at the beginning of 4-H Club meetings.



You have probably seen the 4-H symbol before, a green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each leaf representing the four H's: HEAD, HEART, HANDS and HEALTH.



To make the best better.



The 4-H motto, “To Make the Best Better,” is intended to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better by participating in educational experiences.

Finally, the 4-H slogan, “Learn by Doing,” sums up the educational design philosophy of the 4-H program. Young people learn best when they are involved in their learning. We will learn more about this in the next unit on learning in 4-H.

Learn by doing!



Knowing the “big picture” of Indiana 4-H, including its connection to Purdue University, and the mission & vision, pledge, motto and slogan, should help you focus your volunteer work in the 4-H program.

Purdue University would like to thank the University of Minnesota Extension for creating this 4-H Volunteer Orientation series and allowing it to be modified for use with the Indiana 4-H Youth Development program.



We gratefully acknowledge the University of Minnesota Extension for their willingness to share the 4-H Volunteer Orientation series they created. We have modified their original work to be used with 4-H Volunteers in the Indiana 4-H Program.

You’ll also notice the Purdue University Extension statement of inclusion at the bottom of the slide. It is the policy of Purdue University and the Indiana 4-H Program to be inclusive of youth and adults from all backgrounds.

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action Institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.



Order or download materials from Purdue Extension - The Education Store www.the-education-store.com

This concludes unit one of the 4-H volunteer orientation series. Please continue on to unit two to learn how we help young people learn in 4-H.