

Why 4-H Still Matters in 2025

Leadership. Service. Responsibility. Timeless Values in a Changing World.

In a world where trends change overnight and screens dominate our attention, some may wonder: *Does a 120-year-old youth program still have a place in kids' lives today?*

The answer, especially in 2025, is a resounding **yes**.

4-H Is More Than a Fair Project

While many people associate 4-H with livestock and ribbons, it's really about **growing leaders who are ready to meet the world head-on**. From robotics clubs to community service initiatives, today's 4-H members are tackling real-world challenges with confidence, curiosity, and compassion.

Youth Need 4-H More Than Ever

According to recent national studies on youth development:

- Only **46%** of teens say they feel prepared for the real world.
- Rates of anxiety and disconnection are at an all-time high among youth.
- Employers report a **skills gap** in communication, responsibility, and problem-solving.

That's where 4-H steps in—not just to teach “how to” skills, but to build **resilience, responsibility, and relationships**.

Real Kids. Real Growth.

Take Ella, a 5th grader who used to freeze up when asked to speak in front of a group. After a year of 4-H demonstrations and showing her goat at the fair, she now confidently speaks to large groups—and even led her club's community clean-up project.

Or Jamal, a quiet high schooler who never thought of himself as a leader. Through 4-H Junior Leaders, he planned a service day, mentored younger members, and discovered a passion for public service.

These stories aren't rare—they're the **heartbeat of 4-H** in every county across the country.

The Values Still Matter

In a fast-moving world, **4-H teaches what endures**:

- **Leadership** that starts with listening and lifts others up.
- **Service** that reminds youth they can make a difference now—not just “someday.”
- **Responsibility** that's learned in the barn, at the meeting table, or behind the scenes of a project.

These values never go out of style. In fact, they're more critical now than ever before.

The Bottom Line?

4-H isn't about recreating the past. It's about **equipping youth for the future**—with purpose, passion, and the kind of confidence that can't be downloaded from an app.

So yes, 4-H still matters in 2025. And for every young person who finds their voice, builds their skills, or learns to lead with kindness, it matters more than ever.

