

Marion County 4-H Family Guidebook



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The Indiana 4-H Youth Development **mission** is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who will have a positive impact in their communities and the world.

Our **vision** is to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.



What is 4-H?

In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us.



4-H HISTORY

4-H began over 100 years ago and has grown into the largest youth development program in the nation. 4-H prepares young people to be leaders in their communities and around the world through hands-on learning.

4-H focuses on research-based programming that is delivered by the U.S.'s 109 land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension Service - reaching every corner of our nation. Altogether, 4-H impacts over 6 million youth, 540,000 adult volunteers, 3,500 professionals, and 60 million alumni!

MARION COUNTY 4-H TODAY

In Indiana, 4-H is delivered in all 92 counties through Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service (Purdue Extension).

Marion County has a diverse 4-H program that meets the interests of our young people. We have about twenty 4-H clubs led by passionate 4-H adult volunteers. In addition to club and project activities, Marion County offers local, state, and national 4-H program opportunities.

Meet your Marion County 4-H Team

General Contact: marion4h@purdue.edu | 317-275-9305



ASHLEY SHUFFLEBARGER

MARION COUNTY 4-H EDUCATOR

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Ashley is a longtime Marion County resident who loves hands-on learning, reading, nature, and poetry. Her focus in Marion County 4-H is volunteer recruitment, communications, agriculture, and civic engagement.

RACHAEL SMITH

MARION COUNTY 4-H EDUCATOR

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Rachael is a scientist-turned-youth-worker in Marion County. She loves crafting, musicals, and going on adventures with her family. Her focus in Marion County 4-H is healthy living, summer camp, and college and career readiness.



SARA HAAG

MARION COUNTY 4-H EDUCATOR

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Before coming to Marion County, Sara was a 4-H educator in Vigo County for eight years. Some of her favorite 4-H programs are vet science, holiday cookie baking, teen leadership, bicycle, and 4-H Camp.

RITA BLYTHE

MARION COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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Rita handles many of the day-to-day operations of the 4-H program, including enrollment, volunteer onboarding, program support, reporting, and communications.





4-H TERMS TO KNOW

4-H CLUB

A 4-H Club is a group of young people that meet regularly, usually once a month, to learn together and build friendships. Clubs are organized by adult volunteer club leaders and typically include some parent/guardian involvement throughout the year.

4-H PROJECT

4-H members can learn more about different subjects by working on hands-on activities, called projects. Projects give young people the opportunity to dive into something that interests them. Each project has a beginner, intermediate, and advanced level, allowing youth to build on their knowledge each year and continue to challenge their skills.

PROJECT MANUAL

4-H project manuals are activity guides written by university specialists to help young people learn more about a project. Manuals typically contain a record sheet with a set of questions for members to record their experiences in the project. Young people do not have to use a project manual, but they can provide helpful information about a topic.

You can purchase project manuals here: extension.purdue.edu/county/marion/4-h/projects.html. Many manuals are available in the Marion County Extension office, and older editions are free. Contact us to check availability!

PROJECT/EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

If you want to exhibit a project at the 4-H Showcase or State Fair, there are guidelines to help you! Every 4-H project has guidelines with suggestions about what to exhibit and how to best showcase your work. All project guidelines can be found on the Marion County 4-H project handbook web page.

RECORD SHEET

A record sheet is a form for 4-H members to record their projects and describe their experiences and knowledge gained during a 4-H year. Members also record the activities, meetings, and committees they have participated in during the year. Completing record sheets is optional, but it can be a good way to keep track of all of your 4-H experiences for future scholarships and college applications. Record sheets can be downloaded from the Marion County 4-H project handbook web pages.



4-H TERMS TO KNOW

PROJECT JUDGING

At the end of the 4-H program year, 4-H members can exhibit their completed projects at the 4-H Showcase to share what they have learned. Helpful and caring project judges talk with young people about their learning process and provide feedback.

Open judging is when a 4-H member presents their project to a judge before the 4-H Showcase and has the opportunity to explain what they have learned. **Closed judging** is when a 4-H member drops off their project before the 4-H Showcase and does *not* talk with the judge.

Marion County 4-H offers open judging on almost all projects and encourages 4-H members to take advantage of the opportunity to speak with judges. At the State Fair level, most projects are judged through closed judging.

PROJECT WORKSHOPS

Through the year, 4-H members can participate in workshops to learn about different projects. Workshops help young people learn more about topics, skills, or activities that interest them. Workshops can be coordinated by county 4-H educators and/or 4-H clubs and are taught by knowledgeable adult volunteers.

MARION COUNTY SHOWCASE

The Marion County Showcase is our annual celebration of the work 4-H members complete through the year. Members exhibit their projects or posters to show what they have learned and receive feedback from judges. Some projects can advance to be judged and exhibited at the Indiana State Fair!

ENROLLMENT & 4-H PROGRAM YEAR

The **4-H program year** runs from October 1 to September 30 every year. You may join 4-H at any time during the program year by enrolling through [4-H Online](#). All members, Cloverbuds, and volunteers must re-enroll in 4-H Online each year, starting on October 1.

4-H Online is the website 4-H uses for program enrollment, event registrations, and communication. When you join 4-H, you will create an account for your family in 4-H Online. You will then add individual profiles for each family member who participates in 4-H.



PEOPLE IN 4-H

4-H MEMBER

Anyone in grades 3-12 who participates in a 4-H group or activity is considered a 4-H member.

4-H CLOVERBUD

Cloverbuds are 4-H members in grades K-2. The 4-H Cloverbud program is geared toward age-appropriate, non-competitive, activity-based learning.

4-H CLUB LEADER

A 4-H club leader is an adult volunteer who is responsible for organizing and directing a local 4-H club.

4-H PROJECT VOLUNTEER

A 4-H project volunteer helps 4-H members as they learn, make, or do something. Project volunteers are usually experts in a skill or specialize in a topic.

Project volunteers can also coordinate a short-term (6-hour+) experience for 4-H members based on a topic of interest!

JUNIOR LEADER

A Junior Leader is a 4-H member in grades 7-12 who is willing to assume additional leadership and mentoring responsibilities within the 4-H program.

FAMILY MEMBERS

Family members are very important to the success their young people will have in the 4-H program. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and project meetings with their young people. All county 4-H events are open for families to attend!

COUNTY 4-H EDUCATORS

The Marion County 4-H Educators represent Purdue University Extension as the county-based professionals responsible for oversight and direction of the county 4-H program. They help interpret 4-H policies and work directly with 4-H volunteers.

COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

County Extension Staff are the administrative professionals who handle the day to day operations of the 4-H Program. They are staff members of Purdue University and Marion County Government.

4-H ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is the 4-H policy-making group, as well as the private funding source for a number of county-level 4-H programs, including the Marion County 4-H Showcase.

Find Volunteer Opportunities



Find Marion County 4-H volunteer opportunities at extension.purdue.edu/county/marion/4-h/volunteer.html

A YEAR IN 4-H



November
4-H Holiday
Bake-off Event,
club meetings
and county-wide
events

January
4-H Scholarship applications
are due January 25th; club
meetings and county-wide
events are held



March
Club meetings
and county-wide
events are held

May
Club meetings
and county-wide
events are held



July
Marion County
4-H Showcase

September
Some clubs still meet this month,
but most take a break until October

October

Enrollment opens for youth and
volunteers, annual Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner, and most club
meetings begin

December

Club meetings
and county-wide
events are held



February

Club meetings
and county-wide
events are held

April

Club meetings
and county-
wide events
are held



June

State 4-H Events occur such as Round-
up, Academy, Summer Camp, 4-H Band,
4-H Chorus, and more! Club meetings
and county-wide events continue

August

Indiana
State
Fair



How do I join 4-H?

ENROLL AT 4HONLINE.COM

4-H enrollment opens in October each year.

You can join 4-H by enrolling in the program through 4-H Online. Enrollments are accepted year-round for new members. Existing members and volunteers must re-enroll in the program each year.

When you go to 4-H Online, you will create an account for your family. You will then add individual profiles for each family member who participates in 4-H. During enrollment, you will choose your 4-H club or can request help picking a club that is right for you!

You can find step-by-step instructions for new and/or returning members, volunteers, or participants by following the links below:

- **NEW Youth Member or Cloverbud**
- **Returning Youth Member or Cloverbud**
- **NEW Adult Volunteer**
- **Returning Adult Volunteer**
- **Participant**. You can register in 4-H Online as a “participant” if you are new to 4-H and want to sign up for an event right away and then complete enrollment later.

Enrollment Fees

New and returning youth members in grades 3-12 will submit a \$15 enrollment fee. (There are no fees for Cloverbud enrollment.) You can pay by:

- **Credit/Debit Card:** Submit payment through 4-H Online using a credit card.
- **Check:** Mail a check to the Marion County Extension office. Make checks payable to “Trustees of Purdue University”.
- **Cash:** Can be dropped off at the Marion County Extension office.
- **Scholarship:** Contact us to request financial assistance if needed.

Once you submit your enrollment(s), your information and payment will be sent to the county 4-H office for review. You will be notified when it has been approved.

Which 4-H Club(s) is right for me?



A **4-H Club** is a group of young people that meet regularly, usually once a month, to learn together and build friendships. Clubs are organized by adult volunteer club leaders and include family involvement throughout the year. Clubs provide a safe space for young people to learn, grow, and thrive through hands-on activities and projects, community service events, leadership opportunities, and more! Club meeting attendance is not required to be in 4-H, but we encourage our members to attend their club meetings.

4-H members can be in one or as many clubs as they wish! Marion County has **general community-based clubs** and **special interest clubs** (clubs that focus on specific projects as a group, such as dogs or gardening).

Families can choose clubs near them by using the map of club locations on the next page.

**PICK A CLUB THAT FITS
YOUR SCHEDULE**

**PICK A CLUB THAT FITS
YOUR INTERESTS**

**PICK A CLUB THAT IS
CLOSE TO YOUR HOME
OR SCHOOL**





Marion County 4-H Clubs

bit.ly/indy4hclubs

Follow this link for an interactive version of this map that includes club meeting times and club leader contact information!



Marion County 4-H Projects



4-H SLOGAN
LEARN BY
DOING



4-H members learn more about a project or topic that interests them by completing hands-on activities! There is no limit to the number of projects youth can sign up for, but we suggest starting with one or two projects during your first year in 4-H.

Some projects are “county-only” projects. County-only projects are offered in Marion County but *not* at the state level. These projects are judged at the Marion County Showcase but are not eligible to advance to judging at the Indiana State Fair.

COUNTY-
ONLY
PROJECTS

bit.ly/indy4hprojects

Follow this link for complete project guidelines, forms, and resources.



Animal Science Projects



Animal Education

Learn about livestock/pets and showcase what you learned by creating a display, poster or notebook.



Cat

Learn about how to care for your cat through nutrition, housing, health care, and more.



Dog

Learn and participate in obedience, showmanship, and agility courses with others.



Poultry

Learn how to properly take care of your bird and showcase your animal for the judge.



Small Animals

Learn how to take care of a pet that lives in your home such as a lizard, cat, fish, hedgehog, or others.

COUNTY-
ONLY
PROJECT



Vet Science

Learn about what vets do and showcase what you learned by creating a display, poster, or notebook.

Marion County 4-H Projects

Communication & Expressive Arts Projects



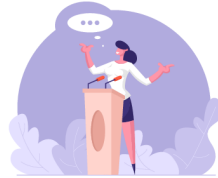
Arts & Crafts

Use your creativity to make something out of paint, clay, recycled items, Legos, yarn, and much more.



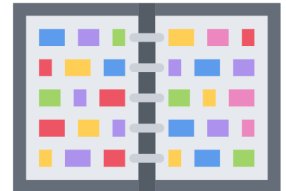
Cake Decorating

Learn the skills to decorate a cake with different tools and ingredients.



Communications

Show off your abilities in public speaking, presentations, demonstrations, and creative writing.



Collections & Hobbies

Showcase your skills and passions through things you collect and hobbies you love to do.

COUNTY-ONLY PROJECT



Consumer Clothing

Learn about clothing selection, outfit planning, taking care of clothes, and personal grooming.



Home Environment

Learn about home design, decoration, and taking care of the things in your home.



Photography

Learn how to take quality photos using anything from a professional camera to your smart phone.



Sewing & Fashion Revue

Learn how to sew wearable and non-wearable items, then take to the runway to showcase what you made.

Engineering & Technological Science Projects



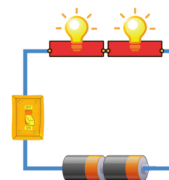
Aerospace

Learn about flight, model rockets, drones and more.



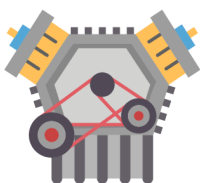
Computer Science

Learn all about computers - how they work and programs to exploring connections and managing networks.



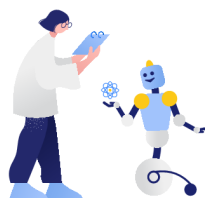
Electric

Learn about circuits, breakers, wiring techniques and more.



Small Engine

Learn about the engines in smaller machines and all of the knowledge needed to build and fix them.



STEM

Learn about topics like robotics, chemistry, 3D printing, hydroponics, careers, and more.

COUNTY-ONLY PROJECT



Woodworking

Learn about the skills and knowledge required to construct anything out of wood.

Marion County 4-H Projects

Healthy Living Projects



Bicycle

Learn about bicycle maintenance, operation, safety, and more.



Child Development

Learn about how children learn at different ages.



Foods

Learn about smart food purchasing, food science, food preparation, careers, and more.



Health

Learn about many parts of our health like first aid, hygiene, nutrition, physical fitness, and more.



Shooting Sports

Learn about the safe operation of firearms and archery equipment.



Sportfishing

Learn about fish, fishing, and the habitats that fish live in like lakes and streams.



Sports

Learn all about safety, sports equipment, and the value of exercise.

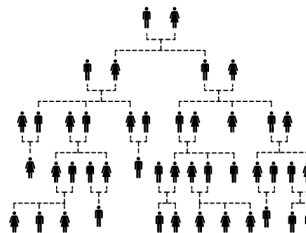
Leadership & Citizenship Projects



Civic Engagement & Education

Learn about local government, communities, decision-making, and how to be a well-informed citizen.

COUNTY-ONLY PROJECT



Genealogy

Learn about your heritage, ancestors, and find out where your family lived, traveled, and more.



Leadership

Learn about the skills needed to be an effective leader of yourself and others.

Marion County 4-H Projects

Plant & Environmental Science Projects



Beekeeping

Learn about beekeeping, honey, plants that attract bees, the equipment a beekeeper needs, and more.



Entomology

Learn how to collect, preserve, and identify insects, plus their relationship with humans.



Floriculture

Learn how to grow healthy plants like flowers and turn them into beautiful arrangements.



Forestry

Learn how to identify trees, the benefits of trees, the importance of our woodlands, and more.



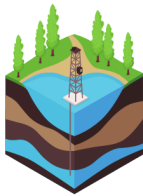
Garden

Learn about planning a vegetable garden, planting, fertilizing, harvesting, careers, and more.



Geology

Learn about the Earth's crust, Indiana rocks and minerals, fossils, and more.



Soil & Water Science

Learn about soil and water quality, how they interact, and how we can protect and preserve them.



Weather & Climate Science

Learn about what causes weather, why we have different climates on Earth, and more.



Wildlife

Learn how to identify wildlife, their habitats, how they interact with others and humans, and more.

Other Projects



Self-Determined

Have something you want to learn about and showcase, but can't figure out where it fits? This project is for anything else!

COUNTY-
ONLY
PROJECT



4-H SHOWCASE

WHAT IS THE MARION COUNTY 4-H SHOWCASE?

The Marion County 4-H Showcase is a way to celebrate the many skills 4-H members have learned and the projects they have completed through the year.

The Marion County 4-H Showcase is held during the summer on the Indiana State Fairgrounds. During the Showcase, members exhibit their projects to show what they have learned and receive feedback from judges. Projects are then put up for display so other 4-H families can walk through and view them. Showcase includes:

- Registering what projects you would like to exhibit on FairEntry
- Receiving ribbons and feedback from judges for your projects
- Attending 4-H Showcase to see all of the projects on display, plus participating in all of the fun activities with other 4-H members across the county

FAIRENTRY

FairEntry is the online program used to organize all projects exhibited in Marion County and at the Indiana State Fair. FairEntry is connected to 4-H Online. Before showcase, county Educators will remind you to register your projects in FairEntry and enter some basic information about what will be exhibited.

JUDGING AND RIBBONS

Judging happens before Showcase and is a chance for 4-H members to talk to a judge and receive feedback on projects. Families will bring completed project(s) to the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Young people talk with a judge, who is an expert in a specific project or category. Judges can be someone who works in a specialized field (for example, a local bakery owner may judge the cake decorating project or a local creative writing professor may judge the communications projects) or have expertise in the area through their hobbies (for example, a Master Gardener may judge the garden projects or someone who loves to sew may judge the sewing projects).

Once judges speak to 4-H members, they will choose the projects they think did the best job. They consider the technical skills used in each project as well as what they learned from 4-H members after speaking with them. Once the judge is finished, 4-H volunteers and the 4-H Extension Educators organize the projects and attach ribbons to each. Then when the doors open on the day of Showcase, young people can see what ribbons they were awarded!



THE DAY OF SHOWCASE!

The Marion County 4-H Showcase typically happens on a Saturday in mid-July at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Activities and events are hosted at 4-H Exhibit Hall. Here are some of the events and activities that happen during the showcase:

FASHION REVUE



FOODS DEMONSTRATIONS



PUBLIC SPEAKING



LEATHER CRAFTING



POULTRY SHOW



CRAFTED! COMPETITION



BICYCLE RODEO



SILENT AUCTION



DOG SHOW



CLOSING CEREMONY



After the Closing Ceremony, families are welcome to take their projects home. If the judge decides that a project will move on to the Indiana State Fair in August, the Marion County 4-H Educators will help families to prepare their winning projects for state exhibit!

4-H CLOVERBUDS

**YOUTH
GRADES K-2**

WHO CAN BE IN CLOVERBUDS?

Youth in grades K-2 are eligible for Cloverbuds (AKA Mini 4-H). A Cloverbud must be in Kindergarten, grade 1, or grade 2 for the enrollment period of October 1 - May 15 of the current 4-H program year.

WHAT IS CLOVERBUDS?

The 4-H Cloverbud program is geared toward activity-based learning. Curriculum is based on age-appropriate research and involves cooperative, experiential, and non-competitive activities. Cloverbuds have the opportunity to attend club meetings with other young people their age.

HOW DO I JOIN CLOVERBUDS?

You can enroll in Cloverbuds via 4-H online at 4honline.com. The enrollment period for Cloverbuds begins in October of each program year. There is no registration fee.

WHEN DO CLOVERBUDS MEET?

Some clubs around the county host meetings specifically for Cloverbuds, and some welcome Cloverbuds to join their regular club meetings. See the page about clubs to find out more information about 4-H clubs in Marion County.

CAN CLOVERBUDS EXHIBIT AT SHOWCASE?

Yes, Cloverbuds are encouraged to exhibit projects at the Marion County Showcase. However, Cloverbud projects are for exhibition only (not judged). Cloverbuds may bring as many projects as they would like, but we encourage them to only exhibit a few of their favorites that they worked on during the year.

CLOVERBUD PROJECT IDEAS

Cloverbuds can participate in any Marion County 4-H project except shooting sports or live animal shows. All project guidelines found on our website have a special section for Cloverbuds. Below are some of the most popular Cloverbud project activities!



-ARTS & CRAFTS-

Learn about different crafts & art activities. Exhibit a craft you made.



-BUGS-

Learn what makes a bug a bug. Exhibit a poster, picture, scrapbook, mobile or diorama.



-COLLECTIONS-

Learn about collecting like items and how to display them. Several options for exhibits.



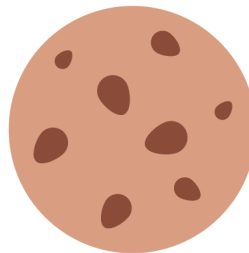
-DINOSAURS-

Learn about how dinosaurs lived long ago. Make a poster about your favorite dino or a dino diorama.



-FLOWERS-

Learn how to care for your garden. Exhibit a poster with photos of your garden or flowers cut in your garden.



-FOODS-

Learn kitchen basics and prepare simple foods. Several options for exhibits.



-LLAMA & ALPACA-

Learn about llamas and alpacas. Make an exhibit (poster, etc.) on something you learned.



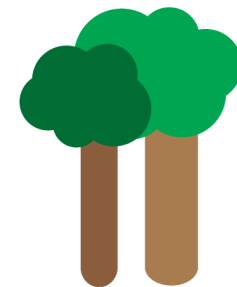
-SEWING-

Learn sewing concepts and practice sewing skills. Exhibit a scrapbook, group quilt, or activity.



-SPACE-

Learn what it would be like to be an astronaut. Make a poster, scrapbook, homemade rocket, star constellation, poem or activity.



-TREES-

Learn about the parts of trees and what they do. Several options for exhibits.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know which projects to choose?

- Each project has a set of guidelines on the 4-H website that lists recommendations and suggestions by grade/skill level.
- Project workshops provide time for hands-on learning and demonstration.
- Our club leaders are very knowledgeable in projects and can help answer questions.

How do I know what to do for my project?

How do I exhibit projects at the 4-H Showcase?

To exhibit at Marion County 4-H Showcase, enrollment in 4-H Online must be completed and approved with the projects you are exhibiting entered into FairEntry. Information about how to enter projects into FairEntry and when to bring projects to judging is sent out ahead of time by email.

Online: puext.in/indy4h - Our website contains all the project guidelines as well as links to additional resources and contact information for all of the Marion County 4-H club leaders.

Email: marion4h@purdue.edu

Phone: Call the Purdue Extension Marion County office at 317-275-9305. *We are all here to help!*

Where can I go for help?

**I PLEDGE
MY:**

HEAD

TO CLEARER THINKING

HEART

TO GREATER LOYALTY

HANDS

TO LARGER SERVICE

HEALTH

TO BETTER LIVING

**FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY,
MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD.**

connect, engage, and enroll



More Info

puext.in/indy4h



Facebook

[@marioncountyIN4H](https://www.facebook.com/marioncountyIN4H)



Instagram

[marion4hindy](https://www.instagram.com/marion4hindy)



Enroll

4honline.com



Extension - Marion County

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