

4-H Family Guide



Your Guide To 4-H In Scott County

All persons shall have equal opportunity and access to our programs and facilities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or disability. If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in any extension event, please contact the Scott County Extension Office at 812-752-8450.

Revised 10/2021

What is 4-H?

4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program.

4-H is for boys and girls in grades 3 through 12. Mini 4-H is for youth Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Grade level is based on what grade you are in on Jan. 1 of the current school year.

4-H is for all youth, from cities and towns as well as rural areas and farms.

4-H prepares young people to be leaders in their communities and around the world through hands-on experiences alongside their peers and caring adults.

4-H helps young people develop life skills. A life skill is an ability that one can use in everyday life. The basic life skills are:

1. Building self-confidence.
2. Developing an inquiring mind and making decisions.
3. Setting and meeting goals.
4. Relating to other people.
5. Developing a concern for the community.
6. Developing leadership skills.

4-H MOTTO

"To make the best better."

EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The "H's" stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.



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COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

More than 6 million youth are 4-H members throughout the United States. In Indiana, there are over 284,000 4-H members. Scott County had a 4-H enrollment of 207 in 4-H in 2025.

4-H YEAR

A new 4-H year starts in October each year. Enrollment opens on October 1st each year. Enrollment fee is \$15 and is online at 4honline.com.

WHO'S WHO IN 4-H

4-H member	Any child currently in grade 3 through grade 12 who enrolls online, pays their enrollment fee and meets the project requirements.
Mini 4-H member	Any child currently Kindergarten through grade 2 who enrolls online and meets the projects requirements.
Club Leader	A screened and approved adult volunteer who has enrolled online and who is responsible for the organizational aspects of the club.
Barn Superintendent	A volunteer who answers questions a 4-H member may have about a specific animal project. This person is often a 4-H parent with special expertise in a particular subject area.

Junior Leader A 4-H member who is in the 7th grade through 12th grade and selects the project. The Junior Leader year runs from November through November. The group has monthly meetings, performs community service projects, and sponsors various events.

Parents Important to the success of the child in 4-H. Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend county-wide events with their child.

COUNTY LEVEL

All 4-H volunteers go through a stringent screening process which includes a background check before being allowed to work with 4-H members.

4-H Council This is the abbreviated name for the Scott County 4-H Council. The 4-H Council meets bi-monthly and is the policy-making organization for Scott County 4-H. There are up to 15 volunteers on this board, including youth representatives who are in grades 7-12.

Extension Educators Professionals who help to carry out the 4-H program and serve as a source of research-based information. Our county has 3 educators - a Health and Human Services Educator, 4-H Youth Development Educator and an Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator. The Extension Office is located in the Scott County Courthouse, 1 E. McClain Ave, Suite G-30. The telephone number is 752-8450. Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The office is closed on county holidays and lightly staffed at lunch time.

Hannah Pollert, Scott County 4-H Youth Development Educator
hkerkho@purdue.edu

STATE LEVEL

Purdue University	Purdue is a land grant university that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of Indiana. The 4-H program is part of that directive in the Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication Department.
State 4-H Program Leader	The State 4-H Program Leader has the responsibility for 4-H programming at the State Level. The 4-H Program Leader is based at Purdue University, Department of Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication.
State Specialist	State Specialists have responsibility for the 4-H program on a statewide basis. Each one has a specific part of the total 4-H program. They are based at Purdue University and are under the direction of the State 4-H Program Leader.
Indiana 4-H Foundation	This nonprofit organization works to provide additional resources for the 4-H program. They sponsor scholarships, funding for county and state programs, finance the State 4-H Leaders recognition, trips for outstanding youth to National 4-H Congress, as well as underwrite the cost of many 4-H trips offered on the state level. They also sponsor the 4-H license plate program. Contact the Extension Office for information about license plates for your vehicles.

4-H CLUBS

There are 8 4-H Clubs in Scott County. Each club has at least one leader. The names of the clubs and the leaders are:

Finley Fantastics

Leaders: Stacey Niccum
staceymniccum@gmail.com

Vienna Fighting Farmers

Leaders: Sue Smith 812-752-4361
neeneesue1@hotmail.com
Tonia Richey 812-752-0130
latoniarichey@gmail.com

Rough Riders (Horse & Pony)

Leader: Kathy Watson
dkw270w@aol.com

Junior Leaders

Leader: Hannah Pollert
hkerkho@purdue.edu
812-752-8450

Happy Humming Alpaca Club

Leader: Andie Myers
ajm8252004@gmail.com

Dog Obedience

Leader: Cheryl Foster
cheryl61315@gmail.com

Hare & Feathers Small Animal 4-H Club

Leaders: Ron White 812-871-2074
farmer.ron.99@gmail.com

Future of 4-H Club

Leader: Amanda Reardon
reardon2010@gmail.com

Troy Leep 812-820-6166

Chestina Green
creno48@aol.com

4-H clubs meet once or more each month, usually from February or March until the Fair but some clubs such as Rough Riders and Junior Leaders meet year-round.

4-H members may belong to any 4-H Club in the county; however, most 4-H members belong to the club closest to where they live or attend school. You have to select a club during the online enrollment process.

Each club elects officers from the club membership. The officers conduct the business portion of the club meeting.

4-H NEWSLETTER

This monthly newsletter is emailed to every 4-H home in Scott County. Read your newsletter to find out about club meetings, project workshops, and other timely 4-H news!

4-H PROJECTS

4-H projects are learning experiences for the 4-H members. 4-H members are encouraged to sign up for at least one project each year and complete the records for that project. A member is encouraged to exhibit at the fair as part of their project completion.

Some projects are divided by grade, while others are divided by the number of years of participation in that project. Grade is determined by the grade the member was in as of Jan. 1 of the current school year.

4-H HANDBOOK

A copy of the current 4-H Hand Book is posted online on the Scott County Extension office website (<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/scott/>). A copy may also be obtained at the Extension Office for a fee. **It is important to read this hand book as there are updates each year.**

4-H PROJECT MANUALS AND RECORD SHEETS

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. There is a record sheet for each project. You may pick up project manuals and record sheets at the Scott County Extension Office located in the lower level of the Courthouse. These are also in the online version of the handbook on the Scott County 4-H website.

4-H records should be filled out as completely and accurately as possible. Parents may oversee the child's work, but we expect the child to do his or her own writing.

PROJECT SELECTION

In choosing a project, a member will consult with his or her parents and 4-H leader(s). After considering all the projects available and the requirements of each, he or she should select one based on:

1. Interest, needs, and capabilities
2. Family situation
3. Suitability of the area in which he or she lives

Members enrolling for the first time should only take 1 or 2 projects. As a member gains knowledge and experience, the scope of the project may be increased and additional projects selected. A brief explanation of each project is included in this 4-H Family Guide. Members may also ask the Extension Office as well as club leaders about the project and the requirements for that project.

Early in the 4-H career, a member needs to consider developing a tentative project plan to guide him or her until he/she is past 4-H age. Some projects should be continued each year, with increases in the size of the project when possible. Members should also try to enroll in additional projects which are related to his or her other project work. For example, an electric project member may want to enroll in home environment, woodworking,

safety, or small engine projects. If possible, an older member should consider expanding project work to develop a complete farm, ranch, business, or home management program.

The project work is the core of the 4-H member's experience. Successful project completion results in member satisfaction and expansion of future project work. The learning experiences one obtains through his or her project could even lead to career/vocation possibilities.

SUMMARY OF COUNTY PROJECTS

The following is a listing of the projects which you may take if you enroll in 4-H in Scott County. For additional information contact one of the 4-H Club leaders or the Scott County Extension Office.

Please note that the descriptions listed below are general descriptions of the beginning divisions and are not intended to serve as an overall description of the entire project.

AEROSPACE - Learn about aerodynamics, flight and rocketry. Your exhibit will be a model rocket or poster/display board on this topic.

ANIMAL EDUCATION - Create a poster about Cat, Dog, Llama/Alpaca, Poultry or Rabbits.

ARTS & CRAFTS - Make and exhibit an art or craft item in one of these areas: General, Construction & Architectural replica (which can include farm scenes, Legos, erector sets, etc.) Fine Arts, Needle Craft, or Model Craft.

BEEF-Learn how to care for your beef animal and to keep records. Exhibit your calf at the fair!

BEEKEEPING - Explore more about bees and beekeeping. Your exhibit will be a poster, educational display, honey, or honey products.

CAKE DECORATING - Learn how to decorate cakes. You will exhibit a decorated cake at the fair!

CAT: Show- Learn how to care for your cat. You will show your cat at the Cat Show.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT - Learn about developmental stages of infants, toddlers and young children. You will exhibit a poster, toy or game you made and a notebook.

COMMUNICATION:

Demonstration, Informative 4-H Presentation, Professional Persuasive Presentation, Public Speaking, Creative Writing -Learn about the process of communications. Exhibit will vary for age levels as well as type of activity chosen.

COMPUTER SCIENCE - Learn about computer operation and programming. Your exhibit will be a poster or computer program. (includes Robotics as well)

CONSUMER CLOTHING - Learn about clothing selection, wardrobe planning, care of clothing and personal grooming.

DAIRY - Learn to care for your dairy cow and keep records. Exhibit your dairy cow at the fair!

DOG: Show- Feed, train and care for your dog. Show your dog at the Dog Show.

ELECTRIC - Find out what electricity is and how to use it safely. You will exhibit something you have made.

ENTOMOLOGY - Collect different bugs, learn their names, and exhibit them at the Fair.

FLORICULTURE - Learn all about growing indoor and outdoor flowers. Exhibit what you have grown or created at the fair.

FOODS - Find out about nutrition and how to make things your family will love to sample! Exhibit what you have baked and/or preserved.

FORESTRY - Learn all about trees, wood and its uses, and much more. Exhibit a poster.

GARDEN - Grow and exhibit vegetables from your garden.

GENEALOGY - Trace your family history and learn more about your ancestors. Your exhibit is a notebook.

GEOLOGY-Learn more about different rocks and minerals. Prepare a poster or collection for the fair!

GOAT -Learn how to care for your goat and to keep records. Exhibit your goat(s) at the fair.

HEALTH - Explore health practices and careers and make a poster, display board or item for the fair showing what you have learned.

HOME ENVIRONMENT - Explore ways to make your living area more attractive through color and texture. Exhibit something you have created or refurbished.

HORSE & PONY - Learn to care for your horse or pony and to keep records. Exhibit your horse or pony at the fair.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP - This is a club that concentrates on leadership projects, community service projects and instructs the 4-H'ers on how to be effective leaders.

LAWN AND GARDEN TRACTOR SAFETY & OPERATOR SKILLS - Learn all about your lawn and garden tractor and maintenance. Exhibit will be a poster or educational display of this topic. Operation Skills option is available to participate in Area driving contest.

LLAMAS & ALPACAS - Learn how to care for alpaca. Exhibit your alpaca at the fair.

PHOTOGRAPHY - Learn to take great pictures. Your exhibit will be a display of pictures you have taken.

POULTRY -Care for your chickens and learn to keep records. Exhibit your chicken(s) at the fair

- RABBIT** -Care for your rabbits and learn to keep records. Exhibit your rabbit(s) at the fair!
- SEWING** - Learn to Sew! Make something to wear or for your room.
- SHEEP** - Care for your sheep and learn to keep records. Exhibit your sheep at the fair.
- SHOOTING SPORTS** - Learn about outdoor skills and how to safely handle firearms and archery. Prepare an exhibit for the fair.
- SMALL ENGINES** - Learn how to care for and repair 2-, and 4-cycle engines. Your exhibit will be a poster or display.
- SOIL & WATER SCIENCE** - Learn about problems and conservation of our (soil & water) natural resources.
- SPORT FISHING** - Look at different aspects of fishing such as choosing a lure and casting. Display a poster or educational display for the fair.
- SWINE** - Care for your swine and learn to keep records. Exhibit your hog(s) at the fair!
- TRACTOR SAFETY & OPERATOR SKILLS** - Learn about engine operation, hydraulic systems, electrical systems and safe operation skills. Exhibit will be a poster or educational display of this topic. Operation Skills option is available to participate in Area driving contest.
- VETERINARY SCIENCE** - Learn about animal health and disease. Your exhibit will be a poster or educational display.
- WEATHER & CLIMATE SCIENCE** - Learn how to observe the weather and record what you observe. Your exhibit will be a poster.
- WILDLIFE** - Learn about animals, their habitat and diet. Exhibit a poster.
- WOODWORKING** - Learn to build things with wood while using the tools safely. You will exhibit an item you have made.
- ZERO TURN RADIUS MOWER OPERATOR SKILLS** - Learn about engine operation, hydraulic systems, electrical systems and safe operation skills. Exhibit will be a poster or educational display of this topic. Operation Skills option is available to participate in Area driving contest.

FAIR JUDGING

Projects exhibited at the 4-H Fair will be judged. Please consult your Scott County Extension Office as to when each project will be checked in at the fair building. Some projects will have closed judging. Others such as foods & cake decorating have open judging. It is not mandatory that the youth be there, but it is to the 4-H'ers advantage to talk to the judge and answer any questions.

Open judging means that your fair exhibits will be judged in your presence, as you check in. Here are some questions that you may be asked in a conference judging setting.

- ✓ What new things did you learn?
- ✓ Have you taken this project before?
- ✓ How much time did you spend on this project?
- ✓ What were your goals for this project?
- ✓ What would you like to change about your exhibit?
- ✓ Tell me something about this exhibit that you want me to know.
- ✓ What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- ✓ Did you do this exhibit at school or was it in a workshop setting?
- ✓ Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit or do you have any questions that I may be able to answer?

RIBBONS

4-H uses the Danish system of ribbon awards. In this system, the ribbon placings are defined as follows:

Grand Champion (purple).....Best Overall in a particular project
Reserve Grand Champion (pink).....Second Best Overall in a particular project
Champion (Purple) Best in project division
Reserve Champion (Pink)Second Best in project division
Blue Above the average of the group
Red Average
White..... Below the average of the group
Green Completed, but did not meet requirements/participation
Yellow Showmanship/participation
Mini 4-H Ribbons.....not judged in competition with others, all mini 4-H'ers receive a ribbon for completion of project

AWARDS & TRIPS

Some 4-H members are eligible to apply for trips taken the following summer. Most of the trips take place between June and July. The trip and award application is available at the Extension Office. Eligibility information is included in the trip and award application.

Some of the trips include 4-H Academy at Purdue and Round Up at Purdue (a workshop where youth experience campus residence living and learn about different careers).

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Each club will have special activities for their club members throughout the year. In addition, there are county-wide events in which a 4-H member may participate.

Project Workshops- A variety of workshops in different project areas are offered each year. Be sure to read your newsletter to know what workshops are offered.

Share-the-Fun- This annual talent show, held at the Area level, is an event of fun and learning for 4-H Clubs as well as individual 4-H members.

Tractor Driving Contest- This Area level event is usually held in June. This is when 4-H members, who are enrolled in tractor driving, display their skills in driving various kinds and sizes of tractors through a course laid out for them.

4-H Camp

This three-day, two-night camp takes place each summer and is open to 4-H members in grades 3-8. The 4-H members participate in many outdoor activities as they learn by doing. We camp at Country Lake Christian Retreat Center in Henryville with 4-H members from Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Lawrence, Orange, Scott and Washington. 4-H members in grades 9 - 12 may apply to be Camp Counselors.

WAYS THAT 4-H PARENTS CAN HELP:

1. Learn about 4-H: what it stands for, how it operates, how it is funded.
2. Help your child enroll in 4-H and select one or more suitable 4-H projects to complete.
3. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Find out what is suggested for the members to do and learn.
4. Teach your child responsibility. See that when a project is started, it is also completed.
5. Encourage your 4-H member when he/she succeeds and provide even more encouragement when he/she fails.
6. Be an example! Help your 4-H member to be a good sport, and appreciate the successes of others.
7. Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family.

8. Make 4-H club work FAMILY work, but, let the boys and girls do their work and carry their own jobs to completion. Be their guide only.
9. Provide transportation to local meetings and county events in which your child and others of the club are interested. Or, provide refreshments for meetings or special functions. Don't wait to be asked; just volunteer this help!
10. Make sure your child attends the 4-H club meetings and other special events.
11. Help your child to complete any 4-H responsibilities he or she may have volunteered for, been elected to, or selected for.
12. Help your 4-H member find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, camps, fairs, displays, or shows.
13. Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
14. Help with at least one 4-H club activity during the 4-H year. Volunteer, don't wait to be asked.
15. If the need arises, help find local leaders for your 4-H Club. Several kinds of leaders are needed: organization, project, and activity leaders. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Volunteer applications are available in the Extension Office.
16. Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop your sons and daughters into better leaders and outstanding citizens. The way they work on projects, participate in meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.

