

Why 4-H?



People often ask what impact 4-H Youth Development has on its participants. We know from our experiences that 4-H changes lives, helping youth to become confident, mature adults ready to succeed in today's challenging world. Studies show that youth participating in 4-H do better in school, are more motivated to help others, feel safe to try new things, and develop lasting friendships.

In 2006 some 458,000 youth from urban, suburban, and rural communities across New York participated in 4-H experiences. 4-H programs are offered in a number of research-tested outreach strategies: through school-enrichment and after-school programs, in camp settings and in community clubs. Additionally, fairs and festivals offer youth an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and earn recognition for their best work.

The fundamental 4-H ideal of practical, learn-by-doing experiences encourages youth to experiment, innovate, and think independently. Youth learn leadership, citizenship, and life skills through more than 1,000 projects with topics as varied as rocketry, GPS mapping, DNA analysis, public speaking, photography, nutrition, and community service.

And finally, as the youth program of Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H's connection to Cornell University and other Land-grant institutions sets us apart from other youth serving organizations. Access to Cornell's resources gives young people an opportunity to make connections for college and beyond.

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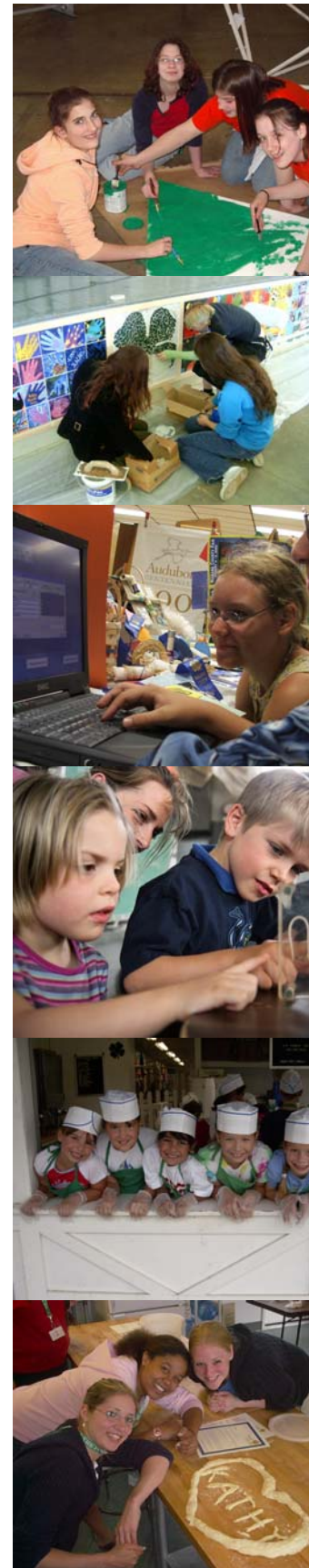
Connect
now to
great 4-H
resources



HOME SEARCH BROWSE ABOUT CONTACT HELP

A way for staff, leaders, volunteers, teachers and youth to find and order great 4-H Resources

<http://www.cerp.cornell.edu/4h/>



<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu>

4-H Youth Development is an American Idea—the world's largest dynamic, informal educational program for young people based on democratic principles. **The real essence of the 4-H movement is defined by three goals. These goals are to:**

1. Engage young people in the work of the Land-grant University
2. Teach knowledge and life skills which enhance quality of life
3. Create opportunity which promote positive youth development

So, why 4-H? Why *not* help our young people to lead, learn, serve and excel.

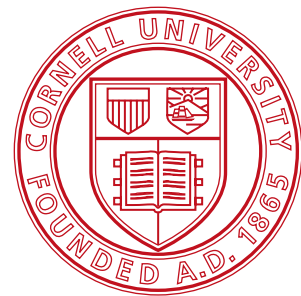
4-H Pledge

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.



Why 4-H?

- ▶▶ Studies confirm it. 4-H members are likely to excel in school, lead their peers and give to their communities. A connection to land grant Universities and proven strategies for outreach attract 458,000 youth annually in NYS and 7 million nationally.



**Cornell Cooperative Extension
4-H Youth Development**

<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu>