About 4-H Curriculum & Learning

National 4-H Curriculum focuses on positive youth development education through 4-H's three primary mission mandates: science, healthy living, and citizenship. Learn more at: 4-H.org/curriculum and 4-H.org/curriculum/development. While curriculum and learning products are created by the land-grant universities, 4-H National Headquarters leads efforts related to quality standards, the peer review process, and evaluation strategies, and National 4-H Council leads efforts related to marketing and sales.

National Contacts:

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Learning Working Group

The National 4-H Learning Work Group has as its focus understanding the facilitation of learning through the 4-H experience. The work group will serve the organization and system by evaluating learning theories, to include new and emerging theories, seeking ways to bridge learning practices and content, and sharing the framework for the 4-H learning experience. The framework will include resources and curricula, professional development, recruitment practices for 4-H youth, recruitment practices for 4-H educators and volunteer development, and key elements to provide continuity in the 4-H learning experience across the nation. This group expects to begin releasing parts of the framework in late 2015. Questions about this group can be directed to Amy McCune (amccune@nifa.usda.gov) at 4-H National Headquarters.

State Leader Directed Curriculum Sustainability Woking Group

The State Leader Directed Curriculum Sustainability Working Group is assessing and developing a long-term plan for curriculum development. This includes examining the format of materials, who develops the materials, and how to fund the systems for development and distribution. Questions about this group can be directed to Brad Cogdill (Brad.Cogdill@ndsu.edu) at North Dakota State University.

The Curriculum Affiliate Program

We are looking for your expertise to introduce more high quality educational materials that interest our broad audience. The Curriculum Affiliate program places the research-based curriculum of university professionals in front of 4-H Mall customers and gives the associated university a portion of each product sale.

If you are interested in submitting an application, please contact Tara Wheeler or submit here. The application process is now open through October 31, 2015.

Will you be attending NAE4-HA this year in Portland, Oregon? Tara Wheeler will be there at the exhibit hall. Please stop by to say hello and to talk about curriculum opportunities for our field!
**New Releases (2015):**

**Cooking 101-401**

A series of 4-H project manuals that develop life skills, mastery, and science abilities in the areas of:
- Food & Kitchen Safety
- Food Preparation
- Meal Planning
- Food Science
- Nutrition

Each manual successively builds on the skills learned in the previous level. Members complete project activities for each level in two to three years. All project recipes have been tested by Nutrition and Wellness Educators.

This curriculum was written by the University of Illinois and is part of the Curriculum Affiliate Program.

**Welcome to 4-H: New Member Guide**

In your 4-H club, you will work with other young people and adult volunteers to make new friends, learn new skills, practice being a leader, and give back to your community. You will learn about topics that interest you. As a 4-H member, you will choose one or more topics to learn about during the year. That includes everything from learning how to cook, build a robot, or care for the environment. These are referred to as members’ “projects.” Hundreds of projects are offered through 4-H so you can pick the ones that most interest you. Your first project will be doing the activities in this new member project guide.

This curriculum was written by the University of Illinois and is part of the Curriculum Affiliate Program.

**Horse Curriculum (Revised)**

This is a newly revised edition of the traditional 4-H Horse curriculum! It contains the same titles as the first set of Horse books, but with new content and improved ease of use.

**My Financial Future Curriculum**

From organizing finances to learning about savings, risk management, and consumer breadcrumbs, the My Financial Future curriculum helps middle and high school youth develop critical skills and knowledge in money management. Participants learn about financial literacy concepts through case studies and real-life scenarios. Additional concepts covered include career planning, setting up SMART goals, managing financial records, creating spending and savings plans, choosing payment methods, and managing credit. A digital download of a Risk Management guide is also available, sponsored by NY Life.
**Be SAFE Curriculum**

Be SAFE: Safe, Affirming and Fair Environments is designed to help young people aged 11 to 14 and adults work in partnership to create environments that are physically and emotionally safe. It draws from extensive research from a variety of key disciplines – as well as evidence-based bullying prevention programs.

This curriculum was written by Michigan State University and is part of the Curriculum Affiliate Program.

**Communications (Revised, Digital Download)**

In today’s world communication is so important— from interpersonal relationships, to cultural understanding, speech making, safety in online spaces, and job interviews this curriculum covers critical topics for today's young people. Experiential activities in this new and revised Communications curriculum provide opportunities for youth to practice and gain confidence in communicating in a variety of situations.

**Youth Advocates for Health (YA4-H!)**

The Youth Advocates for Health (YA4-H!) program equips and empowers teens, researchers, and advocates to address critical health-related concerns. The Building Successful Youth-Adult Partnerships and Teens as Teachers curriculum materials are the first 2 (of 3) units of the YA4-H! program.

This curriculum was written by Oregon State University and is part of the Curriculum Affiliate Program.

**EDUCATIONAL KITS:**

**NEW! Junk Drawer Robotics Level 2 Materials Kit**

The Robotics Level 2 Materials Kit contains all of the materials needed for completing the activities in the second level of the Junk Drawer Robotics curriculum. Just like its predecessor, this kit was put together in a way that would reduce the hours of shopping and searching for the needed items to complete the activities. Purchase this ready-made kit and get started on an exciting adventure with Robotics. This kit is designed to accommodate 10 youth. Curriculum must be purchased separately.

**NEW! Aerospace Levels 2 and 3 Materials Kit**

The Aerospace Materials Kit contains pieces and materials that are needed to complete the activities in Levels 2 and 3 of the Aerospace Adventures curriculum. Save hours of shopping for these uncommon items by purchasing this ready-to-use Aerospace Adventure kit! It is designed to accommodate ten (10) youth. Curriculum books must be purchased separately.
NEW! **Theatre Arts (All 3 Levels) Materials Kit**

The Theatre Arts Materials Kit is designed to assist facilitators with the activities in all the Theatre Arts curriculum Levels 1, 2, and 3. There are many items that are included within this kit allow youth to use their creativity as they explore concepts in the Theatre Arts curriculum. This ready-to-go kit is intended for ten (10) youth. This kit includes 10 youth journals. The curriculum books (levels 1, 2, and 3) need to be purchased separately.

NEW! **Marshmallow Catapult Challenge**

Introducing the first 4-H mini science activity kit -- the **Marshmallow Catapult Challenge**! Adapted from a popular activity in the Junk Drawer Robotics Level 1 curriculum, this hands-on challenge guides youth through engineering a catapult to launch a marshmallow 6+ feet. Youth design the catapult with basic materials using only weights and gravity as the power source. Suggested for grades 4-12 and groups of 2-5 kids, but can also be used by a youth-adult team.

NEW! **2015 National Youth Science Day Kit: Motion Commotion**

The 2015 National Youth Science Day Experiment, *Motion Commotion*, empowers youth to explore the physics of motion and distracted driving. Developed by Oregon State University Cooperative Extension, this exciting activity will combine a speeding car collision and a distracted driving demonstration in a simulated activity that investigates the physical and human factors of motion.