
The 4-H Mission in Arkansas

The goal of 4-H is to meet the basic needs of youth and help them acquire essential life skills through planned “learn by doing” experiences. A necessary outcome of the youth development goal is the development of volunteers as individuals and leaders in the 4-H program.



4-H is . . .

4H is one of the educational programs of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service involving youth and adults. It is an effort to supplement and complement the home and school's mission in the development of youth. 4-H is:

- An informal educational program.
- Community-based and locally determined.
- Primarily group-focused and family-oriented.
- Volunteer-operated.
- Coordinated by Extension professionals.

4H Methods

4-H uses knowledge to help individuals meet basic developmental needs and acquire essential life skills.

- 4-H emphasizes subject matter-related projects and activities using Extension and land-grant university resources.
- 4-H structures the learning environment using knowledge from the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities to promote the acquisition of life skills.

- The mix of subject matter and educational methods in a positive environment provides for the personal development process.

4H Management

4-H is operated by volunteers under the supervision of 4-H Extension professionals.

- Some volunteers use subject matter as a means of interacting with youth and adults in 4-H.
- Other volunteers structure groups and learning experiences for youth using the social and behavioral sciences.
- And, other volunteers render services to youth and adults in support of the 4-H program.
- 4-H Extension Professionals teach volunteers to use subject matter, educational methods, and the democratic process to achieve human development objectives.

4H Support

4-H is publicly supported by county, state, and federal governments. Private resources, both human and material, are used to enrich the learning experience of youth and adults.

See 4H.UADA.EDU for more information
