

## 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.

4-H Motto:

“To make the best better”



# Newcomers Guide To 4-H



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**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**



**What Can Youth Do In 4-H?**

**Make Friends**

**Go on Trips**

**Go to Camp**

**Community Service**

**Make Projects**

**Attend Meetings**

**Leadership Opportunities**

**Learn Life Skills**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

# Table of Contents

What is 4-H?.....	4
4-H Pledge.....	4
What does the 4-H Symbol Mean? .....	4
4-H Motto.....	4
How old do you need to be to join 4-H? .....	4
Requirements to Complete for Awards in 4-H.....	5
What is the role of Parents and Volunteers? .....	6
Timeline .....	6
Enrollment Process.....	7
4-H Clubs.....	8
What is a Project? .....	9
Youth-In-Action .....	9
Other Youth Opportunities .....	10
Yankton 4-H Clubs .....	11



## What is 4-H?

4-H is a volunteer–led program that provides opportunities to all youth between the ages of 5-18 to participate in innovative, fun programs through which they can develop valuable life long skills. The 4-H year runs from Oct. 1—Sept. 30.



### What Does the 4-H Symbol Mean?

The 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the “H” on each leaf, standing for head, heart, hands and health.

The 4-H motto is  
**“To Make the Best Better.”**

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

## How old do you need to be to join 4-H?

To be a member in 4-H the child must be between 8 to 18 years old by January 1st of the current year, referred to as “4-H Age”. Upon completion of the year a member turns 18, they will be recognized as a 4-H graduate.

A child age 5 to 7 may join as a “Cloverbud”. They can take part in project areas but not the large livestock projects (horse, beef, swine, sheep/goat, dairy). Being a Cloverbud is a way for younger children to try out 4-H.





# What is the role of Parents and Volunteers?

## Parents

Support the 4-H program by being volunteers; participating in activities and events and assisting the 4-H leaders when necessary, because this is A FAMILY AFFAIR!

- Provide transportation for your child to club and project meetings.
- Know the 4-H meeting dates and help your child keep track of them on a calendar at the beginning of the year.
- Read the monthly newsletter with your child.
- Encourage your child in his/her project work, and guide, but do not do the work for him/her.
- Help your child to see that the experience is of more value than the ribbon placing.
- Encourage your child to participate in new things.

## Volunteers

As a volunteer you are required to complete the Registered Volunteer Process (contact 4-H Office) and assist 4-H leaders with the planning and organization of activities and events. A background check will be processed to ensure creditability. There is a yearly fee of \$10 to cover background checks.

## Timeline

This is just an example of a typical 4-H year: dates may vary

### October-

- National 4-H Week
- New 4-H year begins

### November-

- Recognition Event

### December-

### January-

### February-

- Fruit Sales

### March-

- Fruit Sales delivery
- County Fair T-shirt

### April-

- Summer Camp Registration Due

### May-

- Member Registration Deadline

### June-

- Animal Registration Deadline
- 4-H Camp
- TLC– Brookings
- County Horse show

### July-

- YLL (Youth Livestock Literacy) Deadline
- Special Foods Contest
- State Horse Show
- Fashion Revue & Public Presentations
- CDM & Horticulture Judging
- FairEntry registration for County Fair

### August-

- County Fair
- State Dog Show
- FairEntry Registration for State Fair

### September-

- State Fair (may begin in August)
- 4-H Record books due to leaders

## Enrollment Process

### Step One

It is quite easy to get involved in the 4-H program. Contact Katie at the 4-H Office for enrollment information. EVERY 4-H member must enroll or re-enroll on October 1st or after of every year.

### Step Two

**Enrolling Online**— <https://v2.4honline.com>. Help sheets are at the website or contact the Extension Office for assistance.

## Youth Horse Literacy



The Youth Horse Literacy (YHL) certification event is required each program year for youth interested in exhibiting in a county horse show or the State Horse Show. The YHL program will not only allow youth to ensure safe handling and minimize risk around horses, but also allow them to gain a more comprehensive knowledge of their equine project. The training must be completed by June 1 of each year.

## Youth Livestock Literacy

Youth Livestock Literacy (YLL): 4-H members involved in the Swine, Beef, Goat, Sheep, Dairy, Chicken, & Rabbit animal project area must complete a YLL approved event in order to exhibit an animal in SD 4-H. This must be completed prior to July 1.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA): Is an online training option to fulfill the YLL requirement.



## 4-H Clubs

The best first step anyone can make when starting 4-H is to go to a 4-H club meeting. In 4-H, youth join clubs. Each club usually meets once a month. At the club meetings youth will work on projects, community service, social activities, planning for County Fair, etc.

Each club is a little different, and youth may want to visit a couple different clubs before they decide which one to join. Club contact information can be found at the back of this packet or online at [yankton4h.com](http://yankton4h.com).

Youth can also be members of more than one 4-H club in Yankton County. Usually, youth dual-club when they are a member of both a specialty club (like Shooting Sports or Horse) and a general-interest club. In the specialty club they focus on a particular discipline, shooting or horseback riding. In the general club, they spend more time working on projects to take to County Fair.

Finally, youth have the option to be independent. This means they are not affiliated with any club in Yankton County. They still can do any and all of the project areas within 4-H, they just don't have the social aspect that comes with 4-H club meetings.





## What is a Project?

4-H projects are in-depth learning experiences for 4-H members. Training pets, making clothing, photography, growing plants, and building rockets are just a few examples of 4-H projects. These areas are listed in the **State Fair Book** that is available on the Yankton County 4-H website or in the 4-H Office.

## Youth in Action

Youth in Action events are 4-H contests and activities which provide the 4-H members with an opportunity for additional educational experiences at club, county and state levels.

As the name implies, these events involve the member as an active participant helping the 4-Her to develop “life skills,” including: effective communication, decision making, and time management. It is these Youth in Action events and the life skills that they foster that set 4-H apart from other youth organizations.

The following are youth-in-action events available at the County or State level. For more information on each one contact the 4-H office or visit our website at [yankton4h.com](http://yankton4h.com).

-Public Demonstrations

-Illustrated Talks

-Public Speaking

-Livestock Judging & Skill-A-Thon

-Consumer Decision Making

-Horticulture Skill-A-Thon

-Special Foods

-Fashion Revue

-Hippology and Horse Quiz Bowl

-4-H Performing Arts





## Other Youth Opportunities

### SkillsX by 4-H-

SkillsX, formerly Teen Leadership Conference (TLC), is held every June on the campus of SDSU in Brookings. 4-Hers and non 4-Hers age 13 and older are welcome to attend the 3 day Conference. They attend many workshops and listen to inspirational speakers. They also may apply to be a state ambassador.

### 4-H Camp-

Is held every June at Lake Poinsett near Arlington. The three-day, two-night camp is for 4-Hers and non-4-Hers ages 8 to 13. Every year a theme is chosen. The campers do workshops and projects relating to the theme. There is also swimming, games, dancing, singing, and campfires.

\*The 4-H Leaders Association does provide scholarships to help pay for these camps.\*

### Junior Leaders-

Any 4-H member between the ages of 13 and 18 is eligible to join the Junior Leaders. The 4-H junior leaders is a county-wide 4-H group designed to provide members with the opportunity to learn about the qualities and competencies needed to be a leader. Junior Leaders is a great opportunity to be a youth leader in Yankton County 4-H, while also having fun with your fellow 4-H friends. Being a Junior Leader builds leadership and communication skills which will be useful in building resumes and filling out scholarship applications.

The Junior Leaders meet once a month in a three month rotation. Every three months follows this rotation — 1st month: business meeting; 2nd month: community service, 3rd month: social activity.

The Junior Leaders decide on the activities in which they participate in throughout the year. In the past, the Junior Leaders have held a car wash; recorded PSA's at WNAX; helped clean a walking path; participated in a fundraiser at Pizza Ranch; created a float for the Riverboat Days parade; played Bingo with the residents at Majestic Bluffs; and more.

## Requirements to Complete the 4-H Year & Earn Awards

Awards and premium money can be earned in 4-H if 4-H members complete the necessary requirements.

### All 4-H Members:

- Must show and tell about a topic that interests them at the club or county level in order to receive club/project medal awards.
- Must turn in a completed 4-H Record Book in order to receive premiums or award money. Sheets for Record Books can be found at the office or by going to our website ([yankton4h.com](http://yankton4h.com))
- Are encouraged to participate in fundraising for the Yankton County 4-H organization through Fruit Sales, County Raffle, the 4-H Supper, the 4-H Food Stand, and set-up and clean-up for County Fair.
- Must pay \$10 dues to the 4-H Leaders Association. With this you receive a 4-H t-shirt. (Some clubs may pay these, just ask your club leader).

### 4-H Club Members:

- in order to be eligible for Grand, Reserve, or Best of Show awards at a County show you must attend at least **4** club meetings before participating in a Yankton County 4-H Show, including Dog Show, Horse Show, and County Fair.

### 4-H Independent Members (not a part of a club):

- Must participate in one or more community service activities and a demonstration or talk before participating in a Yankton County 4-H Show, including Dog Show, Horse Show, and County Fair in order to be eligible for Grand, Reserve, or Best of Show awards at that show. Signature from the supervisor of the activity should be presented to County Office as proof.



## Yankton County 4-H Clubs

### **Clever Clovers** — Gayville area —

Leader: Val Wuebben (605-660-8242)

Leader: Teresa Fairley (605-660-8022)

Meetings typically take place the second Sunday of the month at the Gayville Community Center at 3:00 p.m. The club meets in a three month rotation: club meeting, community service, and fun/project months.

### **Gayville Achievers** — Gayville area —

Leader: Paula Marshall (605-660-4950)

Leader: Kim Bennett (605-661-9535)

Meetings are usually the third Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. and take place at The Hay Shed. Meetings consist of community service projects, learning what 4-H has to offer, and more.

### **Get Up and Go** — Irene area —

Leader: Amanda Healy (605-661-8181)

Leader: Christine Kronaizl (605-660-2639)

All meetings take place the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at Broom Tree unless otherwise notified or indicated.

Meetings consist of club member demonstrations, discussing county news, seasonal activities.

### **Shooting Sports** — Yankton's specialty shooting sports club —

Leader: Kaycie Klimisch (605-655-4619)

October-May: Meetings held at the Easton Archery Center, Monday nights twice a month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

April– October: Meetings are held at James Valley Sporting Clays.

### **Mission Hill Hillers** — Yankton area —

Leaders: Randy & LeeAnn Freng (605-661-8515)

Leaders: Darrell & Michelle Nielson (605-660-5134)

Leader: Meghan Cummings (559-679-4911)

All meetings take place at 5:00 p.m. every third Sunday of the month at the Extension Office unless otherwise indicated. Meetings consist of business, demonstrations, crafts, and community service.

### **Yankton Clovers** — Yankton area —

Leader: Mary Fiedler (605-665-8250)

Leader: Laura Haberman (605-661-1893)

All meetings take place the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at the Yankton County Extension Office unless otherwise notified or indicated.

Meetings consist of business, demonstrations, community service, and club projects.

### **Yankton Wranglers** — Yankton's specialty horse club —

Leader: Lacey Johnson (605-391-5573)

Leader: Adam Haberman (605-661-1616)

Meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Yankton County Extension Office, unless otherwise notified.

April—July horse practice takes place.

For more information about any Yankton County 4-H Club contact Katie Doty, 4-H Youth Program Advisor, at [yankton.pa@sdstate.edu](mailto:yankton.pa@sdstate.edu) or 605-665-3387





# Join 4-H Today!

