

Conclusion

Starting 4-H clubs is a time- and energy-intensive process. A club that is founded on the needs and interests of youth – that has committed adult leadership and community support – has the greatest potential for providing meaningful experiences over an extended period of time. When time is invested early in building a strong club, the tendency of a club to “die” within a year – or not start a second year – is reduced.

It is important to realize that each club will be different from all others in some way. Differences are due to different leadership styles, personalities, community needs, individual needs and available resources. This diversity and the flexibility it requires helps to keep 4-H relevant. You have the challenge of creating and guiding clubs to provide experiences that will most effectively achieve the 4-H mission.

Acknowledgments

This document is a compilation and expansion of several publications which were developed for Michigan 4-H Youth Development over the past 10 to 20 years.

- *The 4-H Club Development Club Mentor Handbook* was published by Michigan 4-H Youth Development. It is a compilation of resources from Michigan and Iowa related to 4-H club work.
- *Recommendations for Starting and Supporting 4-H Clubs in Michigan 4-H Youth Development* was originally developed by the Michigan 4-H Club Development Task Force and distributed to counties in 1986. The original task force, established in May 1985, included campus-based staff, 4-H agents, program assistants, county Extension directors and Extension alumni. The document was reviewed and redistributed by the 4-H Club Development Programming Committee in 1993-94. As a part of its work in 1998-99, the Michigan 4-H Volunteer and Club Development Programming Committee again reviewed and revised the document.
- In 1988, Michigan 4-H Youth Development published *4-H Club Development: Starting 4-H Clubs* written by Ruth Eggert, a state 4-H program staff member and Allegan County Extension 4-H Youth Agent Larry Johnson. Other Michigan Extension staff and the 4-H Club Development Task Force contributed to its development.
- *Step-by-Step Guidelines for Staff in the Development of a 4-H Community Club* was published in 1990. Its publication followed two or three years of work by Sharon Fritz, district Extension leader, to develop a process for establishing and nurturing community clubs. Staff from several northern counties formed part of her pilot project.
- Special thanks goes to the members of the 2000-2002 and 2008-2009 Michigan 4-H Club Development Programming Committees for their assistance in revising and developing this publication.
- A thank you also is expressed to Priscilla Martin, editor, and Marian Reiter, graphic designer, State 4-H Office, for their assistance with the editing and layout of this document in 2006. The revised 2009 version was edited by Patricia Adams, editor, and designed by Marian Reiter, graphic designer.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas G. Coon, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

The name “4-H” and the emblem consisting of a four-leaf clover with stem and the “H” on each leaflet are protected under Title 18 U.S.C. 707.