

# The Michigan 4-H Club Mission and Outcomes



4-H is a fun, learn-by-doing, educational program for young people. Just as the mission of Michigan 4-H Youth Development is to create nonformal, educational opportunities to help youth thrive in a complex and changing world, so 4-H clubs are designed to foster relationships and offer learning experiences over an extended period of time. The unique opportunity for social and personal development provided through a 4-H club structure is the most effective and efficient way to achieve the mission of 4-H. Through their involvement with caring adult volunteers, 4-H members gain valuable knowledge and skills that contribute to their personal growth and development. The quality of the learning experiences depends, to a large extent, on the relationships built between and among the young people and adults.

## Outcomes

Active participation in a 4-H club helps young people develop their assets and life skills. We hope that young people will develop:

- Greater knowledge and appreciation of themselves and others.
- Decision-making skills.
- Public and interpersonal communication skills.
- Positive interactions with other young people and with adults.
- Responsibility for themselves.
- An ethic of service to group and community.
- An attitude of lifelong inquiry and application of information.
- An ability to relate to a constantly changing world.
- Strengthened family interactions.
- Career exploration and workforce preparation skills.
- Leadership skills.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team.

- Greater understanding of and appreciation for diversity.
- Practical knowledge and skills in project areas.
- Positive conflict resolution skills.

Adults involved in 4-H roles as volunteers often grow and develop in the same areas as the youth participants.

## 4-H Creed for Leaders

### I believe:

- The 4-H member is more important than the 4-H project.
- 4-H members should be their own best exhibit.
- No award is worth sacrificing the reputation of a member or a leader.
- Competition should be given no more emphasis than other fundamentals of 4-H work.
- Enthusiasm is caught, not taught.
- To learn by doing is fundamental in any sound educational program and is characteristic of the 4-H program.
- Generally speaking, there is more than one good way to do most things.
- Every 4-H member needs to be noticed, to feel important, to win and be praised. (Volunteers, too!)
- Our job as a 4-H volunteer leader is to teach 4-H members how to think, not what to think.

—Source Unknown