

4-H Volunteer Leaders' Series

The 4-H Mission in Arkansas

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4-H Youth Development

Goal of 4-H

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 . . .

4-H is one of the educational programs of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service involving youth and adults. It is a family-community effort supplementing and complementing the mission of the home, church and school for the development of youth. 4-H is:

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

4-H Methods

4-H uses knowledge as a means 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 democratic environment provides for the personal development process.

4-H Management

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

- 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.
- Professional Extension agents teach volunteers to use subject matter, educational methods and the democratic process to achieve human development objectives.

4-H 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.



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