



# 4-H Volunteer Orientation Factsheet

## 4-H Structure

Montana 4-H is a partnership between Montana State University, Montana State University Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture and county governments

4-H is active in all fifty states and many countries throughout the world.

4-H members are involved in one of several ways:

- Community clubs
- Special interest groups
- School enrichment programs
- Summer, overnight or day camps
- Afterschool programs
- 4-H utilizes volunteers to expand the total youth development effort.

## MSU Extension Mission

Montana State University Extension is an educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities and agriculture enterprises.

## Montana 4-H Mission

To educate youth and adults for living in a global and ever-changing world by using the resources of the Land Grant Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## 4-H Guiding Principles

- Montana 4-H focuses on Positive Youth Development while teaching leadership, citizenship and life skills.
- 4-H is a family-centered program.
- 4-H program focus is determined locally to fit the specific needs of youth involved.
- 4-H provides programs that appeal to a diverse audience.

## 4-H Name and Emblem

The 4-H clover is the official emblem and the most widely recognized symbol of the program. It protected by Congress under federal statute 18 USC 707.

## 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”

## 4-H Colors

Green and white are the 4-H colors. Green symbolizes springtime, life and youth. White stands for high ideals.



## 4-H Membership

Youth ages 9-19 may enroll as a 4-H Member. Youth ages 6-8 may enroll in the Cloverbud Project. Participation in Montana 4-H and its programs is open to all interested youth regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual preference, religion, creed, political belief, marital or parental status or disability. There are over 20,000 youth enrolled in Montana 4-H.

## Extension Agent's Role

- **Planning** – Program development.
- **Organizing** – Resources development and coordination of program.
- **Staffing** – Recruit, train and advise volunteers.
- **Supervising** – Support, motivate and recognize volunteers.
- **Evaluating** – Access needs, evaluate program and communicate results.

## Volunteer's Role

4-H is a non-formal educational program delivered by volunteers trained and supervised by Extension Agents. Volunteers may work in various capacities through the guidance of Extension Faculty and Staff. Volunteers are responsible for a group, activity or event and its members and adults as assigned by Extension Faculty or Staff.

## Experiential Learning Model

Montana 4-H engages youth in events, activities, programs, meetings and projects through “learn by doing” hands-on activities. Montana 4-H utilizes the experiential learning model to facilitate youth engagement in learning and life skill development. The model contains three basic stages:

- **Do** - Youth participate in an activity, meeting or project.
- **Reflect** - Youth think about the experience and what was learned.
- **Apply** - Youth draw conclusions and apply knowledge.

## 4-H Essential Elements

1. A positive relationship with a caring adult.
2. A safe environment.
3. An inclusive environment.
4. Engagement in learning.
5. Opportunity for mastery.
6. Opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future.
7. Opportunity for self-determination.
8. Opportunity to value and practice service for others.

## Resources

[www.montana4h.org](http://www.montana4h.org)

[store.msuextension.org](http://store.msuextension.org)

The Clover - Montana 4-H Project Selection Guide

MSU Extension County Office