

## Special Activities

District and regional events - many contests, such as judging and visual presentation, are conducted for juniors (age 8-13) in district or regional events.

State events - senior 4-H'ers (age 14-18) from every county participate in state 4-H contests during State 4-H Congress on the campus of Mississippi State University.

National events - many Mississippi 4-H'ers represent our state at national events, such as National 4-H Congress; National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C.; and national judging contests held in many different locations. 4-H'ers have many opportunities to travel and learn.

*Head  
Heart  
Hands  
Health*

Dear Parent,

As an Extension agent in your county, I look forward to working with you and your 4-H'er. This worldwide youth program offers many opportunities for your child. I hope your family will take advantage of them.

Sincerely,



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# *Congratulations!*



*You are  
the parents  
of a 4-H'er*

Your son or daughter can have rich, rewarding experiences in 4-H. 4-H offers practical, educational experiences that reinforce and supplement the teachings of the home, school, and community.

Your child needs your help to become a proud 4-H'er. Read on to find out about the many wonderful opportunities in 4-H and how you can help your child make the most of them.

## What is 4-H?

4-H is an educational program for youth from 5 through 18 years old.

## What do 4-H'ers do?

- belong to a club
- enroll in a project
- keep a project record of goals, plans, and progress
- give visual presentations, talks, and exhibits

## What are 4-H projects all about?

When your 4-H'er participates in a project, he or she

- learns facts and skills useful in everyday life
- builds on skills learned in school
- sets high personal standards for conduct, work, and health
- practices working and playing with others
- prepares to be a good citizen
- learns how to be a leader
- makes new acquaintances and friends
- might earn and save money for the future
- receives recognition for work well done
- learns more about educational and work opportunities

## Who will lead my child?

### LOCAL 4-H CLUB LEADERS

Volunteers from your community share their time, interests, and talents with 4-H'ers.

### COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS

4-H is a part of the Extension service, and Extension service professionals work in every county in Mississippi. The county Extension agent organizes, guides, and supervises the 4-H program and provides teaching material for the members and volunteers.

### STATE EXTENSION STAFF

Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSU-ES) staff work on the MSU campus to help with the 4-H program. Subject matter specialists provide project material and training and conduct 4-H activities. The State 4-H Youth Development staff provides overall leadership to the Mississippi 4-H program.

## What can I do to help?

As a parent, you can help your children thrive in 4-H. These are ways you can help 4-H'ers:

- help them select projects
- help them get materials for project work
- help them with project plans and processes, using the project manual as a guide
- encourage them to complete the project once started
- encourage them to attend and participate in local club meetings
- encourage them to participate in a variety of county or state activities, such as visual presentations, judging, exhibits, and fairs
- provide transportation to 4-H activities
- show approval of all 4-H accomplishments, no matter how small

- share your knowledge, special skills, and hobbies
- try to understand the 4-H program a bit better each month by reading about 4-H, checking out what's going on in 4-H online, or attending 4-H activities
- get acquainted with your county Extension agent and 4-H volunteers.

## What kinds of opportunities are available in 4-H?

### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Awards are used as incentives to encourage club members to do their best. 4-H offers many opportunities to be recognized, which helps fulfill the member's need to be noticed, to be important, to achieve, and to be praised. These opportunities may come through county, district, state, and national activities.

#### Recognition can include these:

- certificates for completing projects
- medals for outstanding project work
- ribbons for exhibits
- pictures and news releases sent to your local paper
- educational trips
- scholarships

The greatest reward will be the personal satisfaction of a job well done.

