

WELCOME TO

Mason County 4-H



A resource guide
for new and
returning families



Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

4-H Terms

4-H SLOGAN:
“Learn by doing.”

4-H EMBLEM: A green four-leaf clover with a letter “H” on each leaf. The four H’s stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

4-H CLUB: A group of at least 5 youth. They meet regularly throughout the year and have adult support and family involvement.

4-H NEWS BLAST: The county 4-H newsletter that is emailed to all 4-H families. This newsletter is published biweekly.

4-H PROGRAM YEAR: October 1 through September 30. Open year-round enrollment.

ACTIVITY & PROJECT COMMITTEES: These county committees are made up of adult and youth volunteers that meet with WSU staff members to determine needs, plan and evaluate county programs and events.

ENROLLMENT OR RE-ENROLLMENT: The yearly process of signing up to join 4-H.

CLUB LEADER(S): This individual or team provides overall club support by working with officers, parents, members and other leaders to plan a successful 4-H club.

What is 4-H

The 4-H program begins at the club level. Our 4-H members, parents and leaders meet monthly to have fun, learn and work together in project groups, club activities, special interest groups, and many events.

4-H belongs to the members, their families, and other interested adults who serve as volunteer leaders. Leadership is provided by the Washington State University Extension Service. The 4-H program is a joint effort of county government, Washington State University, and the United States Department of Agriculture.



4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

4-H is an informal educational program through which parents, other adults, and youth help young people develop confidence, social skills, decision-making abilities, and subject matter knowledge in a variety of project areas.

4-H and Washington State University Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental, arrest or conviction record or veteran status.

Why get involved?

Through 4-H, members develop and practice important life skills. Members will:

- Make **decisions** and solve problems
- Build **self-confidence**
- Accept **responsibility**
- Have a **good time** that makes learning fun
- Feel a sense of **belonging** by being a part of a 4-H club
- Develop **mastery** while learning and practicing skills in areas of interest
- Become **independent** as they are given choices of what to do
- Have a spirit of **generosity** as 4-H clubs give back to their communities through service

4-H Basics

4-H is for the whole family where youth and adults come together to learn new things, meet new friends and have fun. Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate and attend meetings with their children.

Adults help by volunteering time and sharing talents. For example: driving members to activities, supporting project learning, chaperoning and being a positive role model.

COMMON MYTH:

“You need to live on a farm and have animals to join 4-H.”

THE TRUTH IS:

You do NOT need to live on a farm or own an animal to be in 4-H. Members participate in projects such as arts and crafts, robotics, photography, shooting sports, and so much more!

Clubs 4-H clubs have five or more youth from three or more families who are supported by 4-H leaders. 4-H members, elected by their peers to officer roles, conduct club meetings.

Costs The Washington State 4-H program assesses an annual \$25 4-H enrollment fee for each youth member. Some 4-H clubs may have local dues. Costs associated with project material are minimal. Some projects and activities have specific costs associated with them. Fundraisers and scholarships help offset costs to keep programs affordable.

Meetings Club meetings include: getting to know other members, youth making decisions about activities, planning and doing community service projects, sharing ideas, recreation and having fun.

4-H Responsibilities

Member

- Attend club meetings
- Participate in club activities (fundraisers, community service, field trips, and project meetings)
- Work on projects throughout the year
- Prepare County and State Fair exhibits as appropriate
- Keep accurate records of project work and prepare a record book of their 4-H year
- Consider: demonstrating, speaking, and exhibiting
- Serve as an officer, committee member, or helper in club events
- Read the “4-H News Blast” newsletter

Parents / Adult Mentors

- Attend club meetings with your children
- Serve as a volunteer and share talents
- See that your children meet their responsibilities and complete them
- Encourage your son/daughter to complete their projects
- Help members reflect on their 4-H experience (e.g. record book)
- Read the “4-H News Blast” newsletter

Adult Leaders

- Club leaders provide support for a successful club experience
- Project leaders hold regular meetings to help members learn about specific projects
- Activity leaders work with youth and adults to plan and implement activities
- Attend county council meetings and workshops
- Assist members to get involved in 4-H events
- Read the “4-H News Blast” newsletter
- Encourage, encourage, encourage!!!



Mason County 4-H Program

The county 4-H program helps provide educational activities beyond 4-H clubs. We welcome you to join in!



Activities

Youth can be part of planning and teaching teams such as Summer Camp, Public Presentations, County and State Fairs, Fall Fair, and so much more!

Project Learning

Some projects have extended learning experiences and activities such as dog training, horse events, robotics, and shooting sports.

4-H Outreach Programs

Community outreach 4-H programs offer free, hands-on science based activities to youth in the Mason County community. Dates, times, and locations vary.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are operated by the leaders, members, and parents with 100% of the profit used to support and offset the cost of youth participation.

Clover Campaign: Twice each year the local Tractor Supply Company store holds a Paper Clover Event. 4-H clubs are invited to participate in store by greeting customers or providing a display.

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 Beyond the Club and County Level

4-H is a state and national program. As members mature in their 4-H experiences, state/national/international opportunities become available.

Ready to sign up? Check our website for a current list of 4-H Clubs in Mason County, or we'll help you start a club of your own.

Thinking About Starting a New 4-H Club?

- Have fun with kids
- Make new friends
- Develop new skills
- Become a leader in our community
- Discover new abilities
- Make a difference in a child's life



BECOME A 4-H VOLUNTEER

Your **time**, **knowledge** and **heart** for youth could make a big difference in our community.

We will provide the support and training you will need along the way. You will be a valued partner in helping grow kids!

We would love to help you get started on your 4-H journey.

New volunteers submit a volunteer application packet, will be screened by a national background check database, complete online training, and participate in a fun, interactive volunteer workshop.

4-H Terms

PROJECT: 4-H members select one or more subjects to learn about during the year. Projects may be taken one year to explore a subject, or if taken repeatedly can result in very high knowledge and skill level. Projects often entered as a fair exhibit.

RECORD BOOKS: Members reflect and record learning that happened during the 4-H year. Booklets and forms are provided to help members focus and organize their thoughts. Members may supplement their records with photos and other items.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL SPECIALIST: The professional who guides, teaches, and oversees the 4-H program in the county. This person is a faculty member of Washington State University-Extension.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR: The professional who provides program support including volunteer training and extensive communication throughout the county.

SHOWCASING OUR PROJECTS

Sharing our learning with the community

4-H members have an opportunity to showcase learning, exhibit animal and still life projects, give Public Presentations, participate in educational contests and share their 4-H pride with the community at the Grays Harbor County Fair in August and the State 4-H Fair in September. 4-H members love to share their skills and knowledge with the public.



**For more information contact the WSU Mason County Extension Office
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