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# Sheboygan County 4-H Family Guide



**LW**  
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University of Wisconsin-Extension



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# What is 4-H

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4-H is a youth organization that belongs to the members, their families and other interested adults who serve as volunteer leaders. Professional leadership is given by Cooperative Extension staff of the University of Wisconsin. Support for 4-H programs is a joint effort of local government, the University of Wisconsin and the United States Department of Agriculture.

In 4-H, young people share, grow and learn together from various projects, events, and activities in informal situations under the guidance of their families and other volunteer adult leaders. Members can choose projects that fit them and the places where they live. Group activities and events such as drama, trips, camps, fairs, shows, and conferences provide additional learning experiences and opportunities.

4-H is open to all youth and adults regardless of their ethnic background, race, creed, or disability. Most 4-H clubs have meetings for the entire membership once a month. During these meetings, decisions are made about group-sponsored activities such as community service efforts, project opportunities, and fund-raising efforts.

Regardless of the structure, a 4-H group may involve families, neighbors, relatives, and others. Participants have fun learning, working, and succeeding together in the home, neighborhood, and community.

## Purpose of 4-H

The purpose of 4-H is two-fold:

- To provide real life experiences for youth through fun, action-oriented, and practical programming.
- To provide opportunities for parents and other interested adults to work with youth in their positive development.

The major focus of 4-H is on activities of the local 4-H club. Volunteers serve as 4-H leaders who plan and carry out organized learning experiences with youths. The many county and state activities are considered secondary. Their purpose is one of supplementing and supporting local club programs. The 4-H Youth Development Educators are resources for parents and other adults in the 4-H program.

# How 4-H Will Benefit Your Children

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4-H members will:

- Learn, make and do things that appeal and are meaningful to them.
- Make friends, belong to a group and give and receive acceptance and affection.
- Have a good time thereby making learning appealing and enjoyable.
- Earn recognition and awards.

4-H members develop and practice important life skills such as:

- Developing an inquiring mind and desire to learn.
- Making decisions and solving problems.
- Relating to and working with different people.
- Developing a concern for their community and the people in it.
- Building self-confidence and self-reliance.
- Accepting responsibility.

Below is a list of the Dos and Don'ts of being a 4-H parent.

## DO

- DO take time to learn about 4-H, what it stands for and how it operates.
- DO advise your son/daughter in selecting 4-H projects. Help them select a project they are interested in, have the ability to accomplish and is one for which you can help furnish needed materials, facilities, financing and guidance.
- DO advise your son/daughter in selecting 4-H projects. Help them select a project they are interested in, have the ability to accomplish and is one for which you can help furnish needed materials, facilities, financing and guidance.
- DO encourage your child to participate in county and state events, such as public presentations, camp, fair, workshops and other activities.
- DO keep the purpose of the 4-H project in perspective. Realize that a project is simply a teaching tool and a method for involving boys and girls in a worthwhile activity.
- DO give encouragement when your 4-H'er succeeds and even more when he/she fails.
- DO keep in mind that the most important goal of 4-H is personal growth of the individual.
- DO volunteer to share your hobbies and talents with 4-H members.
- DO be tactful- with 4-H volunteers, educators, judges, and your child.
- Do remember that 4-H volunteers and judges are often volunteering their own time for the benefit of your child; don't forget to show them your appreciation.
- DO ask questions!

## DON'T

- DON'T do your child's project for them, even though you may be able to do it faster, better, simpler and with much less mess.
- DON'T discourage a child's enthusiasm by providing too much corrective influence or criticism.
- DON'T re-live your childhood experiences through your child.
- DON'T view your child as an extension of yourself. Don't view his/her success or failure as a reflection of your ability or worth.
- DON'T assume your child is always right (or always wrong.)

# 4-H Emblems and Symbols

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## **Emblem:**

The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf.

## **The Four H’s:**

The four H’s stand for **Head**, **Heart**, **Hands**, and **Health**. These four H’s represent the four-fold training and development in which members participate. This meaning of the four H’s is clearly given in the pledge below.

## **Pledge:**

4-H members should learn the national 4-H pledge.

I pledge	... My <b>H</b> ead to clearer thinking
	... My <b>H</b> ear <b>t</b> to greater loyalty
	... My <b>H</b> and to larger service, and
	... My <b>H</b> ealth to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

## **The Colors:**

Green and White are the 4-H colors. The white background of the flag symbolizes purity. The green 4-H emblem is nature’s most common color in the great outdoors, and green is also the color of springtime, life, and youth.

## **Motto:**

The national 4-H motto is: “*To Make the Best Better.*” It should be the objective of every member and leader.

## **Slogan:**

“*Learn By Doing*”



# 4-H Terms

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## Achievement

Achievement in 4-H means a member completes all the membership requirements of the 4-H club for the year.

## Camp Riversite

Camp Riversite is a 60-acre 4-H camp owned and maintained by the Sheboygan County 4-H Leaders Association. The camp features a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile self-guided trail, a weatherized cabin, a picnic shelter, a lighted baseball area, and playground equipment.

## Clover Award

An optional five-level county award program.

## Cloverbud

Sheboygan County 4-H Cloverbud membership is open to youth in Kindergarten (5K), first and second grade in 4-H clubs offering Cloverbud membership.

## Cloverleaf Crier

The monthly Sheboygan County 4-H newsletter distributed to every 4-H family. The *Cloverleaf Crier* gives information about county level 4-H meetings and activities offered to 4-H members, leaders, and parents. For most events, this will be the only source of information.

## Club Rules/Bylaws

Most 4-H clubs have a set of written rules for the operation of the club. Each member should become familiar with the club's rules early in the year.

## 4-H Enrollment

An online process each member completes at the beginning of the 4-H year to join a 4-H club. The individual 4-H projects the member selects for the year are chosen at this time.

## Exploring Project

An individual 4-H project recommended as a beginning 4-H project. The 4-H member can “explore” other 4-H projects and activities during the year to learn more about 4-H.

### Fair Entry Blank

A form where the member lists the specific classes for display of projects at the Sheboygan County Fair. (The Fair Premium Paper contains the listing of the possible classes). Entry blanks are usually due to the club's leader(s) in the month of June.

### Fair Paper

The paper which lists the Sheboygan County Fair entry classes and rules for entry. A new paper is published annually.

### 4-H Membership

Young people in Kindergarten through one year after high school are eligible to join 4-H. Some events require grade limits.

### 4-H Year

A new 4-H program year starts on October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup> the following year. Individual 4-H club's year may vary slightly. The 4-H fiscal year is July 1 – June 30.

### Graduation from 4-H

Graduating from 4-H signifies that a member has successfully completed their career as a 4-H member. Most 4-Hers graduate following their High School graduation. Optional graduation can extend one year beyond High School graduation.

### Project Literature

4-H Member and Leader Guides, written by University Specialists, serve as suggestion for areas of study in 4-H projects.

### Record Books

The record book is a complete record of the member's activities for the current 4-H year. All 4-H activities should be entered in the Record Book. Each member will hand in their record book to their club's general leader(s) at the end of the year according to the club's policy.

### UWEX

The University of Wisconsin-Extension. This abbreviation is often used in announcing meetings that take place at the UW-Extension Office, 5 University Drive, Sheboygan, WI. 4-H is the youth education program of UW-Extension.

# Who's Who in 4-H

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## Local Club Level

### Activity Leader

A volunteer who is responsible for organizing and conducting special activities. (Examples: Music & Drama, community service activities, softball coach, etc.)

### Cloverbud

Anyone in Kindergarten, first, or second grade who participates in a local 4-H group or activity. Cloverbuds are invited to participate in most county level 4-H events and activities.

### 4-H Member

Anyone Kindergarten through one year after High School who participates in a local 4-H group or activity. These members are invited to participate in all county level 4-H events and activities.

### General Leader/Organizational Leader

A volunteer who is responsible for the organization part of the club.

### Parents

Parents are very important to the success a child will have in the 4-H program. Parents are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and project meetings with their child. All countywide events are open and parents are encouraged to attend them with their children.

The parents' key roles are supporting the child's commitments, helping the child think through decisions, and seeing the child reach his/her goal.

There are several ways for parents to help:

- Attending 4-H meetings and other special events.
- Guiding project work and encouraging completion without doing the work for the 4-H'er.
- Supporting the local 4-H club leader by offering time and services.
- Making it possible for youth to participate in a variety of 4-H activities such as camps, fairs and contests.
- Being an example of a good sport so children will learn to appreciate the successes of others.

### Project Leader

A volunteer who helps 4-H members as they learn, make and/or create things. This person can be a 4-H parent who agrees to help with a project, a Youth Leader or a person from the community who has knowledge in a particular subject matter area.

### Youth Leader

A 4-H member of any age who is enrolled in the Youth Leadership Project. Youth Leaders take an active part in helping the younger members in the club. By being a Youth Leader, youth have an opportunity to grow, mature and develop leadership skills.

## **County Level**

### Fair Superintendent & Judging Assistants

Adult and youth volunteers who work with youth exhibits during Fair Judging and throughout the Sheboygan County Fair.

### 4-H Ambassadors

A team of 4-H adults and youth who promote the 4-H program throughout the county.

### 4-H Leaders Association

This organization for all 4-H volunteer leaders in Sheboygan County meets five times per year at All Parent and Leader Meetings. This is the 4-H policy making group, as well as the private funding source for a number of county level 4-H programs.

### 4-H Program Committees

There are approximately 40 county level volunteer program committees. These groups meet educational needs in the project or activity area and plan and conduct county level activities and meetings.

### 4-H Youth Association

This organization is for any 4-H member, seventh grade or older. The group plans social and educational events for members. The meetings of this group are in addition to participation in a local club.

### 4-H Youth Development Staff

They are the professionals who guide, teach and administer the 4-H Program. The educator is a faculty member of the University of Wisconsin. The Program Coordinator is an academic staff member of the University of Wisconsin.

### Resource Leader

A volunteer who is willing to answer project or activity questions for other volunteer leaders or 4-H members. A listing can be obtained from the UW-Extension Office.

# 4-H Projects

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A 4-H project is what a 4-H'er learns, makes or does; for example: learn to grow a vegetable garden, sew a dress or train a dog. Projects range from aerospace to woodworking, from birds to rabbits and from clothing to small engines.

4-H members should take at least one project each year and complete the records for that project. The recommended maximum number of projects a member should take during the 4-H year is:

- 1<sup>st</sup> year members ..... 1 project
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year members ..... 2 projects
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year members & above..... 5 projects

The recommended maximum number of projects is **THREE** projects for 4-H members who are actively involved in school, church or a job.

Each 4-H club will try to locate a Project Leader when there are three or more members enrolled in a project. The Project Leader will notify members when and where the project meetings will be held. Most projects will require at least three project meetings and often more are held. When there is no Project Leader, the member will be expected to work individually. As a family, you can use the 4-H project literature to guide your learning.

The family of a 4-H'er should take an active interest in the 4-H'ers projects. Assist, encourage, offer advice but remember, *the 4-H'er Learns By Doing!*



# 4-H Record Books

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The primary purpose of Record Books is to help the 4-H'er and the family measure progress and reflect on learning.

At the beginning of the first year, members will receive a green 4-H Record Book Cover. This cover will be kept as long as the member is in 4-H. Members will receive the Project Record Sheets from the club's leader(s) or may pick them up at the Extension Office.

The basic sections of a Record Book are:

(1) **Index and Identification Sheet**

Serves as an index to the Record Book. A new photo should be added every year.

(2) **Activities Diary**

Serves as a log of local, county, state and national 4-H activities and events.

(3) **Permanent Record**

This form is kept with the Record Book throughout the member's 4-H career. It provides space for leadership responsibility, in addition, it also provides space for trips, awards and contests above the club level.

(4) **Project Record(s)**

A Project Record Sheet should be completed for each individual project enrolled in. A new record should be prepared for each year.

(5) **Supplemental 4-H Forms** (if any) by project.

(6) **Clover Award Record** (optional by Club)

4-H Record Books should be filled out completely and accurately. Parents may oversee the member's work, but it is best if the member does their own writing. Parents should encourage each 4-H member to work on the Record Book throughout the year. 4-H Record Books will be due to the member's local 4-H club shortly after the Sheboygan County Fair. The books will be evaluated and returned to the member.

# 4-H Activities and Events

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Each club will have special activities throughout the year. In addition there are countywide activities and events that 4-H members may participate in. The listing below is only a partial listing. Many other project related activities and events are held annually. All events are listed in the [Cloverleaf Crier](#).

## Anything Goes

Anything Goes is guaranteed to be tons of fun! It's a great opportunity for 4-H members and Alumni members throughout the county to get to know one another in a safe, friendly and competitive environment. Anything Goes is all about relaxing and have a lot of 4-H FUN at the county fair!

## County 4-H Camp

Sheboygan County 4-H Camp is held in the summer. It is a five days and four nights camp. Base camp is offered to 4-H members third grade through seventh grade; Outpost Camp is available for 4-H members seventh grade and older. Older 4-H members serve as counselors for the cabins and activities. Camp staff and 4-H Youth Development Staff supervise the planning and camping experience.

## Communication Arts Festival

4-H members can explore the many ways of communicating – demonstrations, speeches, creative writing, drawing and painting, photography and more. Participating members will be evaluated by judges.

## Enchanted Forest

This is an “unscary” alternative for Halloween, when Sheboygan County 4-H transforms the grounds of Camp Riversite into an “Enchanted Forest”. Activities include short skits by 4-H clubs, games, hay rides, refreshments & much more!

## Music & Drama Festival

An annual day-long event featuring music and drama presentations from 4-H clubs throughout the county. Performances are critiqued by local 4-H judges and receive certificates, ribbons and special awards.

## National 4-H Week

A week is set aside each year to recognize and promote 4-H across the country. Each year a theme highlights the week. Many clubs have window displays or a special promotion of 4-H in their community.

### Officer's Training

This is held annually for club officers to give them ideas and helpful hints about their jobs and responsibilities.

### Sheboygan County Fair

The Sheboygan County Fair is annually held during the Labor Day weekend. The County Fair is a great opportunity for 4-H'ers to display things they made and/or to exhibit project animals. This is a major event where many people see what 4-H'ers can do.

All exhibits (except large animals) are judged by a "face-to-face" judging system at the Sheboygan County Fair. With this system, for every project exhibited each 4-H member talks directly with the judge. The member's age and experience are taken into consideration in the final placing.

Four ribbon categories are awarded:

- Blue – Excellent
- Red – Above Average
- White – Average
- Pink – Needs Improvement

"Merit Award" & "Special Blue" ribbons are presented to a selected number of outstanding exhibits. Merit Award exhibits are also named for the coming year's State Fair.

The Danish System of judging is used for large animal exhibits. In this system, the judge is directed to place exhibits as a class with 25% of the ribbons awarded in all four ribbon categories.



# 4-H Awards and Trips

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## Achieving & Non-achieving 4-H Members

To achieve in 4-H (successfully complete a 4-H year) a member must complete all the requirements of 4-H membership in Sheboygan County and the local 4-H club. One countywide policy is that all members must attend (or have an excused absence) for 75% of all regular club meetings. Each member should check with their club's General Leader(s) for other rules for achievement.

A non-achieving member receives no credit for the year of 4-H membership being completed. Members not achieving during their final year of 4-H are ineligible to graduate from 4-H or receive a 4-H scholarship.

## Awards

Overall Club Achievement Awards may be presented to members who have demonstrated outstanding project work and general club work for their age category. 4-H Project and Activity Awards can also be presented to one to two top members in a project.

## Citizenship-Washington Focus

A week long citizenship and educational experience held at the National 4-H Center near Washington, D.C.

## 4-H Key Award

The 4-H Key Award is the highest award available in 4-H.

## Project Awards

A county level program designed to recognize outstanding contributions in a variety of 4-H project areas. Awards are based on applications and interview.

## Scholarships

The Sheboygan County 4-H Leaders Association annually awards educational scholarships for educational experience beyond high school.

## State 4-H Youth Conference

A four day 4-H conference held annually on the UW-Madison campus in June.

# Sheboygan County 4-H

## Clover Award Recognition Program

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The Sheboygan County 4-H Clover Award is an optional recognition program offered to all 4-H members. The award has five (5) levels:

Green Clover Award

Bronze Clover Award

Silver Clover Award

Gold Clover Award

Emerald Clover Award

Members earn these awards by accumulating points for completing 4-H activities. For each step, there are five required activities:

- (1) Attendance at 80-100% of local club meetings for a year.
- (2) Attendance at 80-100% of local club project meetings for a year.
- (3) Give a speech, demonstration, or an illustrated talk.
- (4) Active participation on a committee.
- (5) Exhibit project work.

Optional points can be earned through a variety of 4-H activities listed in part two of each form.

In the fall of each year a countywide 4-H Award & Recognition Program will be held to present the awards to all members completing a new level during the past year.

# Why and When Did 4-H Originate

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4-H, as we know it, began around 1900 as a means of reaching parents with improved farm and home practices. American farmers had experienced poor economic times for 30 years. It was risky business for them to try a newly recommended farm practice. In 1902, a few Midwestern school teachers developed some crop demonstrations with their students who in turn shared their successes with their parents.

These school projects developed into small groups covering a single topic such as beef, corn, gardening or canning. By 1909 some of these groups were called 3-H clubs, and in 1911 the name of 4-H was finally adopted.

There were corn clubs in Wisconsin as early as 1904. The first county agents were hired about 1915 and the first Wisconsin State 4-H Leader was hired in 1914.

A plan of organizing boys' and girls' agricultural clubs in Wisconsin was later adopted. This plan called for definite organization with the usual club officers, an adult leader, regular meetings and a series of projects. Clubs were organized in schools and rural communities under the direction of the local teachers.

## ***Have 4-H objectives changed since its early days?***

**Yes!** Today the objective is the positive development of young people through a wide variety of learning opportunities in which all youth can participate. 4-H is for all youth, whether they live in the city or in the country.

## **Some 4-H Facts & Figures**

\*Nearly one of every five Wisconsin youth is involved in 4-H, making it the largest youth organization in the state. All 72 counties in Wisconsin are involved in 4-H.

\*Wisconsin 4-H reaches 155,000 youth from 50,000 families each year; there are 25,000 adult volunteers in Wisconsin.

\*Nationally, SIX million youth participate in 4-H.

# Examples of 4-H Members Achieving Leadership Positions

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**Luke Bryan**  
Country Western Music

**Reggie White**  
Pro Football/Green Bay Packers

**Albert Gore, Jr.**  
Former Vice President of the  
United States of America

**Harold A. Poling**  
Vice Chairman & Chief  
Operating Officer  
Ford Motor Company

**Sen. Sam Nunn**  
U.S. Senator (Georgia)

**Johnny Bench**  
Pro Baseball Player

**Florence Henderson**  
Actress

**Dolly Parton**  
Country Western Music

**Jimmy Carter**  
Former President of the  
United States of America

**Julia Roberts**  
Actress

**Howard Baker, Jr.**  
Chief of Staff during the  
Bush Administration

**Orville Redenbacher**  
Founder  
Orville Redenbacher  
Popcorn Company

**Jim Davis**  
Creator of “Garfield”

**Johnny Cash**  
Country Western Music

**Reba McEntire**  
Country Western Music

**Don Meredith**  
Pro Football/TV Sports

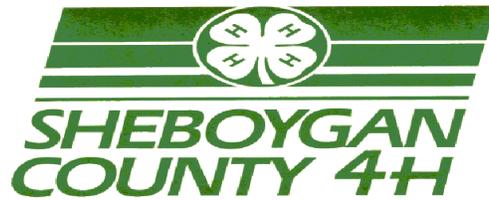
**Herschel Walker**  
Pro Football/  
Heismann Trophy Winner

“I was a 4-H member...and I know that 4-H influenced my career direction. One of my first experiences of competing and winning was the Scott County 4-H public speaking contest.”

**-Howard Baker, Jr.**  
Chief of Staff during the Bush Administration

# Sheboygan County 4-H Staff

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The Sheboygan County UW-Extension Office is located at:

5 University Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

## 4-H Youth Development Staff

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator  
Linda Lueder, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator  
Tina Kohlman, Dairy & Livestock Agent  
Don Mier, Dairy & Livestock Educator  
Nancy Meyer, 4-H Administrative Assistant  
Tammy Zorn, 4-H Administrative Assistant

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### Sheboygan County 4-H Web Site

<http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/>

4-H is



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Awesome