



# Ohio 4-H Youth Development

## Fact Sheet

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

- 4-H is a non-formal, educational, youth development program that is offered to children age 5 and in Kindergarten to age 19, regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, or handicap.
- Over 318,000 Ohio youth were enrolled in Ohio 4-H Youth Development programs and activities in 2006 through community clubs, school enrichment, special emphasis, and camping programs.
- One out of every six people in Ohio has been or is currently involved with 4-H as either as a member, parent, volunteer, or donor. There are currently 45 million 4-H alumni nationwide.
- Three types of learning experiences are emphasized in 4-H programs: hands-on (making, producing, practicing, observing, etc.); organized activities (demonstrations, workshops, field trips, camps, etc.); and leadership/citizenship (conducting, planning, assisting, informing, organizing, etc.)
- 4-H has three primary program areas: science, engineering and technology; healthy living; and citizenship.
- 4-H Projects and Programs
  - Ohio 4-H offers learning experiences in more than 200 subject matter areas. Some of these subject matter areas include: health, family life, photography, aerospace science, bicycles, natural resources, safety, horticulture and nutrition. A total of 375,997 projects were completed in 2006, including:
    - 3.7% Citizenship and Civic Education
    - 2.5% Communication and Expressive Arts
    - 5% Consumer and Family Sciences
    - 13.2% Environmental Education
    - 13.2% Healthy Lifestyle Education
    - 16.2% Personal Development and Leadership
    - 31.6% Plants and Animals
    - 11.6% Science and Technology
    - 6% Food and Nutrition
- 4-H programs have branched out into urban areas. Last year, 24 percent of all Ohio 4-H members were living in towns and cities with populations between 10,000 and 50,000. 17 percent were living in cities and suburbs with populations greater than 50,000.



- Approximately 31 scholarships totaling more than \$46,000 will be awarded through the Ohio 4-H Foundation in 2008. Countless other 4-H scholarships will be awarded in counties through the state. Ohio 4-H scholarships are the result of the generous contributions from individuals, families, and companies.
- Volunteers are an essential part of the overall 4-H program. 4-H volunteers have the opportunity to contribute their time, energies, talents, and knowledge to help develop 4-H youth in a positive, educational way.
  - In 2006, 21,998 adult volunteer leaders were actively involved in 4-H. A total of 12,155 youth volunteered their time for 4-H programs.
  - The average length of service for a 4-H volunteer is 4.28 years
  - In Ohio, 630 people have been volunteering for the 4-H program for 30 or more years.
- Ohio is proud to be the home of 4-H. In 1902, Mr. A.B. Graham, superintendent of the Springfield Township Schools, began a Boys and Girls Agricultural Club in Clark County. This concept quickly spread throughout Ohio and the United States and was the beginning of what is now 4-H Youth Development
- The Ohio 4-H program is coordinated by county, region and state 4-H Youth Development professionals, who are staff members of Ohio State University Extension. 4-H is represented by 4-H Youth Development Educators in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

**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”

**Ohio State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development**

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