

4-H Afterschool Defined

4-H Afterschool is a focused priority within the 4-H Youth Development Program that helps 4-H and other youth-serving organizations create and improve after-school programs in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the U.S. 4-H Afterschool is one of the various delivery methods through which 4-H programming is implemented, bringing community-based organizations access to the considerable resources of 4-H and the Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities and USDA.

The primary goals of 4 H Afterschool are to:

- Provide high quality youth development training to after-school program staff.
- Make hands-on curricula available to youth in after-school programs.
- Organize 4-H Clubs in after-school programs.

These goals are accomplished by increasing the capacity of 4-H professionals to work in after-school programs and to strengthen collaborations with other youth-serving organizations, thereby increasing the quality and availability of after-school programs in America's communities.

4-H Afterschool is defined as programs that are:

- Offered during the times children and youth are not in school and their parents are in need of safe, healthy, caring, and enriching environments for their children (including before- and after-school hours, teacher workdays, school holidays, summer months, and in some cases weekends).
- Designed for children and youth from kindergarten to twelfth grades.
- Designed to engage children and youth in long-term, structured, and sequentially planned learning experiences in partnerships with adults.
- Designed on principles of youth development to address the interests of children and youth and their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional needs.

By offering after-school program high quality training and resources 4-H Afterschool ensures safe, nurturing, and enriching learning environments for youth to grow and learn, thereby reaching their full potential.

Source: National 4-H Council, www.4hafterschool.org