



4-H Club Basics

4-H Motto

“To Make the Best Better” was the 4-H motto proposed by Carrie Harrison, a botanist with the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry. It was adopted in 1927 when the 4-H pledge was introduced. The goal of each 4-H member is improving knowledge and skills through 4-H project work and building better clubs and community through community service.

4-H Colors

The 4-H colors are green and white. The white symbolizes purity and high ideals. The green, nature’s most prominent color symbolizes springtime, life and youth.

4-H Name and Emblem



The 4-H Youth Development Program is represented by a popular, recognizable image. The official emblem of 4-H consists of a green 4-leaf clover with a right turned stem and the letter “H” in white or gold on each leaflet. The text, 18 U.S.C. 707, appears with the emblem. The Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture holds the name and emblem in trust for the educational and character-building purposes of the 4-H program. The 4-H name and emblem are created and protected by Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 707 (18 U.S.C. 707), similar to the White House and Presidential Seals. Therefore, it may only be used as authorized by the statute, regulations and guidelines, and according to the authorization of the Secretary of designated representative.

For more detailed information on the use of the name and emblem, see the section under Additional Forms and Information and contact your county 4-H Agent. The statute, regulations, guidelines and information can also be found at <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov>.



4-H Pledge

The 4-H Pledge summarizes 4-H as the 4-fold development of youth through the Head, Heart, Hands and Health. Delegates to the 1927 National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D.C. adopted the pledge. The phrase, “my World” was added to the pledge in 1973.

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.**

Head represents:

- Thinking, planning and reasoning.
- Gaining new and valuable knowledgeable.
- Understanding the whys.

Heart represents:

- Being concerned about the welfare of others.
- Accepting the responsibilities of citizenship.
- Determining the values and attitudes by which to live.
- Learning how to live and work with others.
- Developing positive attitudes.

Hands represent:

- Learning new skills.
- Improving skills already known.
- Being useful, helpful and skillful.
- Developing respect for work and pride in accomplishment.

Health represents:

- Practicing healthful living.
- Enjoying life.
- Using leisure time wisely.
- Protecting the well being of self and others.