

Starting a 4-H Club



CANADA
4-H British Columbia

The 4-H Motto

“Learn to Do by Doing”

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge

My Head to clearer thinking

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service,

My Health to better living,

For my club, my community, and my country.

The 4-H Grace

(Tune of Auld Lang Syne)

*We thank thee, Lord, for blessings great
on this, our own fair land.*

*Teach us to serve thee joyfully,
with head, heart, health and hand.*

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CANADA

4-H British Columbia

4-H BC Provincial Council

2743 – 30th Street

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Toll Free: 1-866-776-0373

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The 4-H Vision

A high profile youth organization with 4-H members and volunteers exhibiting leadership and personal pride in the British Columbia 4-H Program and working together with a variety of partner organizations in an environment of increased self reliance.



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The 4-H Mission

The 4-H BC Program will strive to develop the skills in our youth and volunteers to achieve personal development, leadership, awareness, citizenship and a sense of community in an exciting and challenging environment.

WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a community based organization dedicated to the personal growth and development of youth and volunteer adult leaders.

The 4-H program provides young people with an opportunity to learn how to become productive, self-assured adults who can make their community and country a good place in which to live. This is fostered through project and program work, experiences with their 4-H club members and leaders and their participation in district, regional and provincial programs.

The name 4-H is derived from the first letter of the four words, Head, Heart, Hands and Health; the significance of which is expressed in the 4-H pledge.

THE 4-H PROGRAM

The 4-H BC program develops 4-H members in such a way that they become effective and responsible members of society. 4-H project work and programs help members to:

- Increase their knowledge and develop skills in subject matter areas which are of interest and value to the individual.
- Acquire a positive attitude towards learning and develop the ability to make wise decisions.
- Learn how to work effectively in groups.
- Enlarge their horizons by participating in new experiences.
- Acquire a responsible attitude toward community service.
- Develop physically through healthful living and active recreation.



BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR STARTING A CLUB

CLUB

A 4-H Club consists of not less than **six** members between the ages of 6 – 21 and has one or more registered 4-H Leaders. As well each club should have an official 4-H club sponsor.

4-H MEMBERS

1. To be eligible for membership a youth must be between the ages of 6 – 21.
2. A 4-H member will be registered in and participate for the entire membership year in one of the following categories:
 - a) CloverBud – members are between the ages of six and eight years old.
 - b) Junior – members are between the ages of 9 -12 years old. After a member turns 13, they can write the Junior Proficiency Exam, which proves that they are ready to continue in a project as a senior 4-H member.
 - c) Senior – members are between the ages of 13 and 19 years old. As a senior they can apply for many 4-H opportunities, including 4-H conferences and travel. For senior 4-H members who wish to continue in 4-H past the age of 19, a special program has been created for 20 & 21 year olds.

4-H LEADERS

Volunteer 4-H leaders help run the club and/or teach a project. An effective 4-H leader has an enthusiasm for working with young people and adults alike, has an interest or some skills in a project area, has an eagerness to learn new skills and a willingness to find and/or use resources.

1. The minimum age of a registered 4-H leader is 21 years as of December 31 of the previous year.
2. All leaders must register on a leader enrolment form each year and pay an annual fee.
3. All leaders are required to complete 3 courses of 4-H leader training in the first 2 years of leadership.
4. New leaders or those leaders returning after an absence of more than one year must complete a criminal record search, reference check, interview with registration committee and a Code of Ethics form.

4-H PROJECT

Every 4-H member must choose a 4-H project to work on. 4-H project manuals can be ordered from the 4-H BC Office. The manuals give a step by step way of learning new skills. The volunteer 4-H leader helps teach these skills. There is a vast variety of project topics to

choose from. In 4-H projects, each project consists of numerous "units" that a member may take. Some are progressive in nature; others are specific to the animal or skill being learned. Additionally there is the option of a self-organized project on First Nations Culture. The variety of units means there's lots to learn and lots of challenge for both younger and older members. As part of each project, 4-H members keep records of their work throughout the year. Clubs also plan activities such as demonstrations, judging, building educational displays, public speaking, camping, fund-raising or just having fun!

WHY JOIN 4-H?

4-H is a real life experience – It is learning how to do jobs, how to make decisions similar to those that are important in adult life.

4-H can be a family affair – There is a place for others in the family group if they want to participate. Sometimes you can reach and teach others (friends, parents, brothers, and sisters) through “your” boys and girls

4-H is adaptable – Programs can and should be made to fit any individual, any home, any community. That’s part of the fun. You can help your club shape and fit so that everyone gains from the experience.

4-H is decision making – Learning to stand on one’s own feet and learning to work with a group is important to each person. Early practice in making both personal and group decisions builds for the future. You help members find possible answers, you encourage them to explore and decide which they will follow.

4-H provides for ownership – Making, buying, selling are included. Each project belongs to the member for the duration of the 4-H year.

4-H is a part of the community – A club becomes involved with improving economic and social conditions where the members live. They learn how to be good citizens by taking community responsibility.

4-H is “learning by doing” – It’s an action program. Participants watch others, they study, they experiment, but they also “do and practice” themselves. It is said that people remember 20% of they are told, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they see and hear, 70% of what they say, 90% of what they do and think.

4-H offers much doing and thinking!

Boys and girls with a desire to “do”, leaders with a desire to guide – those are the most essential features of 4-H!



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