



HOW TO...

Get Back to Basics in 4-H

The purpose of 4-H is for youth to learn, develop and practice life skills.

- * Youth in 4-H develop skills in leadership, communication, planning, decision making, problem solving, public speaking and self confidence, among others.
- * Life skill development occurs through involvement in meetings, activities, leadership roles and hands-on project experiences.

Youth are the primary decision-makers for the 4-H program.

- * All 4-H clubs are required to have “youth involvement in leadership and decision-making” emphasizing that 4-H clubs belong to youth members who should make the decisions. Adult leaders should not be making decisions for the members. (Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Policies)
- * Youth should be encouraged to make their own decisions in 4-H, both individually and collectively, and should be allowed to sometimes fail within an environment of safety and support. (Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Principles of Practice)

Youth in club and county 4-H leadership roles are advised by adults.

- * 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. (National 4-H Council Mission Statement)
- * 4-H enables youth to emerge as leaders through hands-on learning, research-based 4-H youth programs and adult mentorship. (Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development website)
- * The Rock County 4-H Program enables youth to develop leadership skills that are useful throughout life through youth empowerment with adults providing guidance and support. (Rock County 4-H Mission Statement)

Other “basics” to remember:

- * The county fair is independent of the 4-H program and works closely with 4-H to provide positive development opportunities for youth.
- * Adults should insure that 4-H experiences are as free of conflict as possible.
- * Youth and adults should have fun in 4-H!

THE BOTTOM LINE

The 4-H program is all about youth!

Decisions are made by youth who are advised by adults.

Learning, life skill development and fun are the keys to 4-H.