



In 2024, the second **North Central Region 4-H Volunteer Impact Survey** was launched to gather information from 4-H Volunteers about the perceived impact of volunteering.

The purpose of the study was to investigate the:

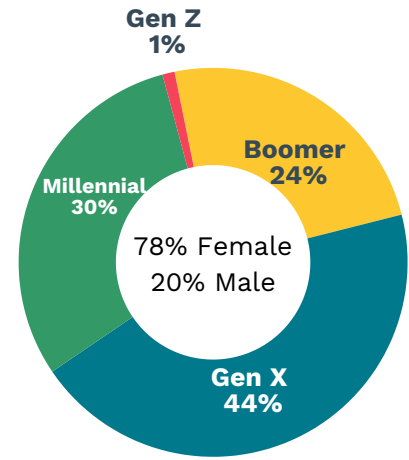
- Individual Benefits** - or, value to the individual volunteering
- Organizational Benefits** - or, value to the Extension 4-H program and
- Public Value** - or, value to the community(ies) where they live and work

An electronic survey was sent to a sample of 1,000 volunteers from each of the 12 NCR states. 2,252 Volunteers completed responses across the region, representing an 18.8% response rate.

Volunteers give on average 9 hours a month to 4-H. Average years of service was 13.5 years for volunteers. 2/3 of volunteers were 4-H members as youth.



Volunteers value the **"shared sparks"** model of 4-H, which focuses on working with young people on areas of mutual interest to facilitate youth thriving.



## INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

Volunteers come into the 4-H Youth Development Program to **support youth and make a difference**. In addition, they personally:

- 94%** had fun while volunteering
- 91%** built new relationships with youth
- 82%** gained skills to use in other roles
- 75%** felt better connected to the community
- 74%** increased their confidence as a leader

*"I feel that most of my life skills come from what I've learned either directly from being in 4-H or being a volunteer. I have learned how to stand in front of a crowd and speak to everyone without fear. Being able to pass that knowledge on to the youth in 4-H has been a great feeling."*

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
4-H VOLUNTEER**



## ORGANIZATIONAL BENEFITS

Volunteers bring **substantial value to Extension and 4-H programs**. Volunteers said they:



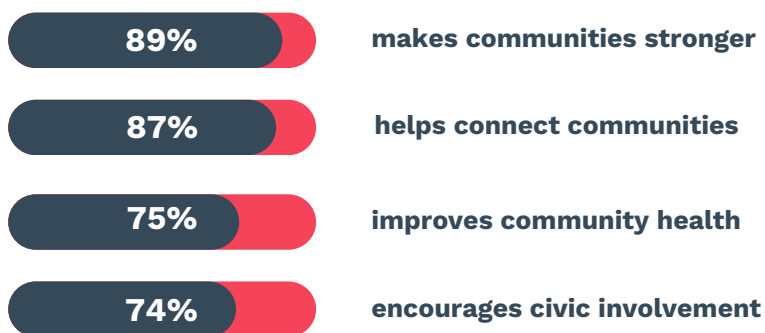
*"The skills I have gained as a 4-H volunteer have been useful in increasing partnerships with other community organizations that have in turn supported the 4-H program in my home county."*

**INDIANA  
4-H VOLUNTEER**



## PUBLIC VALUE

Volunteers impact the communities where they live and work. **Their value goes beyond the scope of the program and leads to changes in community conditions.** Volunteers said that volunteering for 4-H:



*"I see the volunteers making the community stronger by validating and helping youth make our communities better. When you give youth positive role models, they become positive stronger citizens to contribute to our communities."*

**WISCONSIN  
4-H VOLUNTEER**

Volunteers not only bring invaluable experience and care (as caring adults) to the 4-H program and its participants, but volunteers seek out 4-H as **an opportunity for personal growth** and to **give back to their communities** and the youth they serve.

