

2021-2022 YOUNG COUNTY 4-H FAMILY GUIDE



YOUNG COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

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Graham, Texas 76450

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am-5pm

4-H Resource Website: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>

4-H MOTTO AND PLEDGE

Motto

"To Make the Best Better"

Pledge

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.





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VOLUNTEERISM



18 USC 707

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EMAIL THE COMMUNICATION METHOD FOR YOUNG CO. 4-H

Young County 4-H has close to 200 members making email the most efficient way to communicate with our members. Yes we will post information on our Young County 4-H Facebook Page and yes we will post information on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Website, however our chosen mode of communication is email. Please make sure your email address is on file with Michelle McClanahan at the 4-H Office. All 4-H communication will come from our automated 4-H Online email server.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK & GROUP PAGES REGULARLY

The Young County 4-H Facebook page

"Young County 4-H - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension"

is our most commonly used resource for quick updates, information shared by other 4-H groups at the local, county, district, and state level.

READ THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO STAY INFORMED

The Young County 4-H Connection is the monthly newsletter provided by Young County 4-H to keep it's members up to date and informed of what is happening in the Young Co. 4-H program. The newsletter will contain educational articles, important deadlines, 4-H activities and club news. Stay informed and read the monthly newsletter!!



18 U.S.C. 707

WELCOME

Young County Extension Staff

Penny Berend

County Extension Agent
Family & Community Health



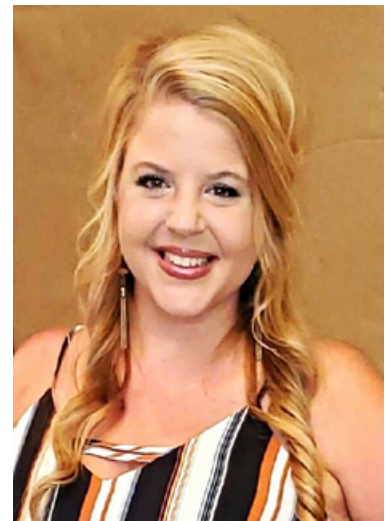
Michelle McClanahan

County Extension Service
Office Manager



Savanna Williams

County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources



4-H is the youth development organization of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Our purpose is to provide young people the opportunity to learn and develop life skills through hands-on learning experiences. Young people are our future, so we want to make every effort to extend the wealth of knowledge and learning experiences available through the Land Grant University System. AgriLife Extension is part of the Texas A&M University System with cooperation of local Commissioner Courts. The 4-H Program has opportunities to offer all youth including both urban and rural communities. 4-H members participate in many activities which can include everything from aerospace to showing livestock. With so many 4-H projects and activities available, many new members do not understand the overall process. We hope that this will be a quick reference guide for you to use and make your 4-H experience more enjoyable.



YOUNG COUNTY 4-H



a family affair!

4-H members select various projects with help of their parents and Extension Staff. Parents, project leaders, and County Extension Agents then advise, counsel, and assist their child in taking care of, constructing, or being involved in the project.

Please read through your Young County 4-H Family Guide to answer any questions you may have about the 4-H program. You may also refer to the 4-H Newsletter as well as the Young County Extension website as you set your goals for participation in 4-H events and contests.

We look forward to your participation in the Young County 4-H program.



4-H IS...

Learning by doing, and is available to all boys and girls, 8 years old and in the 3rd grade through 18 years old as of August 31st of each year, from urban, suburban and rural areas.

First, an adult leader brings together youth that have common interests. Second, the youth choose one or more projects. Projects are chosen from over thirty project areas offered. Third, the group enrolls as a club, and forth, meets together to learn and have FUN.

Clubs are able to explore 4-H activities, events and trips. In 4-H, there are events happening all year round.

4-H SLOGAN

Learn by Doing

4-H MOTTO

To Make the Best Better

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,
my COUNTRY, and my WORLD.

4-H PARENT PLEDGE

I pledge my HEAD to give my child the information I can, to help him/her see things clearly, and to make wise decisions.

I pledge my HEART to encourage and support my child no matter whether he/she has successes or disappointments. I pledge my HANDS to help my child's club; if I cannot be a leader, I can help in many equally important ways.

I pledge my HEALTH to keep my child strong and well for a better world through 4-H, for my child's club, our community, our country and our world.

Mission Statement:

Prepare youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood, through a coordinated, long-term, progressive series of educational experiences that enhance life skills and develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies.



4-H MEMBERSHIP

PROGRAM YEAR

The 4-H program year begins on September 1 and concludes on August 31 the following year.

MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

Any person, regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, disability or national origin, may enroll as a 4-H member.

Texas 4-H activities and events are open to enrolled members between the ages of 9 (or 8 AND in the 3rd grade) and 18 on August 31.

Events that require registration, certification or entry during the summer prior to the beginning of the 4-H year – County Extension agents may sign entry forms for events that will occur during the 4-H year for youths who will become eligible for and enroll in 4-H on September 1, but these youths may not participate in 4-H competitive events and activities until September 1.

Zero-based enrollment – for accountability purposes and the requirement for keeping mailing lists updated, the Texas 4-H program will continue to use zero-based enrollment, meaning that we start new every 4-H year and must re-enroll previous members and volunteers and enroll new members and volunteers.

PROJECT ENROLLMENT

All 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project. A member may add or delete project enrollments at any time during the 4-H year.

CROSS-COUNTY ENROLLMENT

Membership cannot be held simultaneously in more than one county or state, but membership may change with residence, as long as the member competes in a given project in only one county or state.

A member of a 4-H club must participate in 4-H learning groups and other educational activities under the guidance of a 4-H volunteer who is enrolled in the county Extension office. A member of a 4-H club is expected to enroll in one or more 4-H projects and provide written evidence of project completion.

Exception - if it is more convenient, desirable or logical for a 4-H member or Clover Kid to belong to 4-H in an adjacent county, he or she may do so if both agents involved agree. The agreement should be in writing. In addition, crossing county lines requires either changing all membership from the home to the host county or participating in the project in the host county but representing the home county in events and activities.





WHAT DO YOU DO IN 4-H?

The 4-H slogan is “Learn by Doing”. 4-H members complete learning experiences called 4-H projects. A project is an area of interest that a 4-H member wants to learn more about. Each project consists of at least six hours of learning time and provides hands-on, in-depth learning experiences for members.

A 4-H member may participate in one or more project each year. Below is a list of 4-H projects offered in Young Co. If you're interested in a project not on this list, you may still participate in that project, it would be considered a self-directed project.

Photography
Consumer Education
Citizenship
Food and Nutrition
Clothing & Textiles
Public Speaking
Horticulture
Leadership
Shooting Sports

Beef
Theatrical
Sheep
Swine
Rabbits
Horse
Archery

Just about any subject can be tailored into an independent 4-H project if your club doesn't have a leader for your interests.

Another way to participate in 4-H is by attending club meetings. These club meetings are conducted by 4-H'ers who have been elected into officer positions. 4-H adult volunteer leaders help 4-H members plan and run the meetings. Each club has an adult volunteer leader who acts as club manager. The 4-H club manager oversees the meetings and activities of his or her respective club.

4-H offers its members many fun activities to participate in. In addition to attending club meetings and completing projects, you might also enjoy making presentations, performing skits, and leadership and community service activities. There are also opportunities to participate in 4-H camps, retreats, exhibition shows and contest.



4-H ENROLLMENT

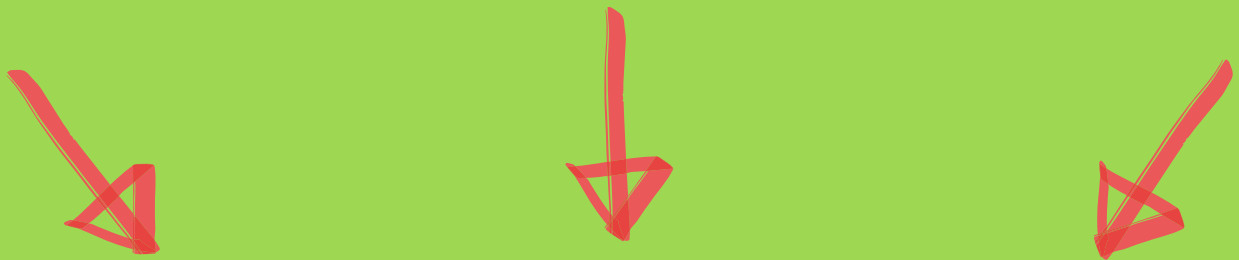


4-H'ers and volunteer leaders will utilize the online enrollment system to enroll in the Young county 4-H program.

Once enrolled, your family profile stays with you your entire 4-H career, no need to ever create a new family profile.

If you have moved to another county, just contact your County Extension Agent and they can get the transfer process started.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO ENROLL



4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT SYSTEM

THE 4-H PROJECT



THE 4-H PROJECT

The project is the heart of the 4-H program. A wide variety of projects are available for members. Project opportunities vary depending upon the county and club.

Through well chosen projects, members learn to use their resources, to assume responsibility and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living. A project may extend over a short period of time or for several years. “Learn-by-doing” is the most important aspect of a project, not time. Making, growing, caring for, observing and participating – all of these active learning processes are involved in 4-H projects.

From a member’s viewpoint, projects may be fun, help develop skills, offer an opportunity to assume responsibility, to make a profit, save money or explore interests and careers. Projects also offer a chance to do things with friends.

Leaders and parents may see the project as a means to create more interest in daily tasks, strengthen family and community ties, develop knowledge and skills of members, explore possible career opportunities, enhance positive self-concept, develop the ability to organize, plan and make decisions.

THE 4-H PROJECT GROUP

Members will have the opportunity to participate in group learning and peer teaching since sharing skills and experiences often provides them with greater learning opportunities. Group participation can also motivate members to follow through with commitments.

Members are usually involved in group learning through their participation in a project group.

Project group meetings (4-H classroom setting) are where members acquire subject-matter, knowledge and skills, and general life skills. 4-H projects are required to have six educational experiences so that 4-H members can develop their knowledge and skills.

Most clubs will have several project groups to offer. If there are five or less members enrolled in a project, the club may decide not to offer that project. Parents will be expected at this time to help the 4-H member select another project. In some cases projects are available on a countywide level (i.e. shooting sports, photography, food and nutrition, fashion and interior design, etc.).

Project meetings for county wide events are announced in the Young County 4-H newsletter.



THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A PROJECT

- Select a project you like or have interest in learning about.
- Select a project that can be completed.
- Consider the monetary investment it will take. Can parents / guardians help?
- Consider the space and equipment that you have at home.
- Consider parental support for the project.
- Be aware of the opportunities for growth in this project.
- A 4-H project should be fun, serve a purpose, and be worth the effort.
- Select only the number of projects you can complete.

**DO THE APPROPRIATE RESEARCH BEFORE
YOU PURCHASE OR COMMIT TO A PROJECT**



HOW DO I BECOME A 4-H VOLUNTEER?

To learn more about becoming a 4-H volunteer, contact the Young County Extension office or a club manager.

- Consider volunteering to lead a 4-H group in your community, your local school, or any other location where there are youth who need positive, committed adult role models in their lives.
- Complete the Texas 4-H Volunteer Enrollment and Youth Protection Standards Program. Because the Texas 4-H Youth Development program is committed to helping create safe environments for young people to learn, have fun and develop socially, we work to ensure that the adults we entrust to work with young people only have the best interests of youth at heart.
- Share your skills, knowledge and talents while having fun with kids and you're sure to make a difference in their lives.

4-H offers a variety of programs activities and events designed specifically to support and enhance volunteer participation and involvement in kids' lives. The work volunteers do with youth is also supported by university-developed educational materials and resources available through your Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office.



Volunteer

WHAT TYPES OF 4-H VOLUNTEERS ARE THERE?

Volunteers are essential to the successful implementation of the 4-H program. All registered adult 4-H volunteer working directly with 4-H youth in Texas complete a Youth Protection Standards Program (criminal background check) and receive training. Teens may also serve in volunteer roles through the 4-H Leadership project.

Volunteers can serve in a variety of roles, including the following:

- 4-H Club Managers
- Teachers
- Event Judges
- Community Resource Persons
- Camp Counselors / Chaperones
- Parent Helpers
- Advisory Council Members
- Foundation Members
- Mentors



YOUNG COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Members of the Young County 4-H Council plan and coordinate 4-H activities in the county. The Young County 4-H Council also promotes county, district and state level 4-H activities.

County Council is comprised of 4-H members from each of the various 4-H clubs in the County. Clubs are encouraged to have two to three council delegates who will attend the County 4-H Council meetings. Typically, a 4-H member is elected into the position of council delegate and represents his or her club at the County 4-H Council meetings. In most cases, the President of the 4-H club also serves as a delegate to the County 4-H Council. In addition to the club council delegates and presidents, membership to the council is open to all 4-H'ers of Young County.

The Young County 4-H County Council serves as a communication channel. Council delegates represent their club and relay information and ideas from their club to the council. The council delegates also relay information from the council to their club to keep the members up to date on county-wide activities and events.

Meetings of the Young County 4-H Council are held the first Monday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. at the Young County Extension Office in Graham starting in September.



YOUNG COUNTY 4-H PARENT LEADER ASSOCIATION

All 4-H parents and leaders are encouraged to become part of the Parent Leaders Association.

- This association is composed of volunteer 4-H leaders who meet and work together to support the youth of Young County 4-H.
- The Parent Leaders Association works in conjunction with the County 4-H Council to plan and coordinate county-wide 4-H activities. The Parent Leaders Association works to financially assist the 4-H youth through fund raising projects. The Association is also useful as a meeting forum in which leaders may exchange ideas.
- Meetings of the Young County 4-H Parent Leaders Association are held the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Young County Extension Office in Graham.

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YOUNG COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADOR

The purpose of the 4-H Ambassador will be to promote and advertise 4-H to other youth, volunteers, and community leaders. The Ambassadors help others understand how 4-H affects the lives of young people and how it addresses key youth issues in the community and state.

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR AMBASSADOR

- Must be a Senior 4-H member (Freshman and 14 years of age). Complete the Ambassador application. Ambassadors must reapply each year!
- Must submit a 4-H Record Book
- Present a speech on & complete an interview.
- Held an officer position in your local 4-H club and/or participated in Youth Council.

REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN AN AMBASSADOR

- Help with Parent Adult Leaders Annual Fundraiser.
- Help with the YCJLS held in January.
- Help with the GRMC Health Fair held in August.
- Complete 2 county-wide community service activities. One in the Fall and one in the Spring.
- Give presentation at one Commissioner's Court meeting.
- Promote the County 4-H Council and the County Ambassador program to the community and local clubs.
- Participate or have participated in THREE 4-H project areas.
- Submit a 4-H Record Book
- Other items deemed necessary by the ambassador advisor.



4-H RECORD BOOKS



Each 4-H member is encouraged to keep a record of his or her 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but are a part of the 4-H program. Few young people (adults are no exception) enjoy record keeping. However, it is an important life skill.

Why encourage 4-Hers to keep good records?

A 4-H record teaches a desirable habit. Modern day society demands that each and every one, no matter what vocation, keep track of financial and business matters. Developing this habit early in life will be a valuable asset.

A 4-H record is a measuring stick. Members and leaders are kept informed of the member's progress and will usually stimulate self-improvement by the member.

A 4-H record is a mirror. It will reflect accomplishments and therefore serve as the basis for awards, trips and other recognition.

A 4-H record provides youth with a time for reflection about who they are, what their goals are, what they have accomplished in the past year, etc.

A 4-H record can be achieved only when there is the proper attitude and cooperation between member, parents and leaders.

4-Hers learn:

- to communicate in writing.
- to organize thoughts.
- to set goals and work toward these goals.
- to make short- and long-term plans.
- to evaluate a record of growth from year to year.
- to recognize skills learned, goals accomplished and successes they've had.

Information required to complete a record book is available at the Young County Extension Office.

Due mid-June of each year.

REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR MOST COUNTY SPECIAL AWARDS & scholarships.

[Click Here for the Texas 4-H Record Book Link](#)

4-H CONTESTS



THERE ARE A VARIETY OF 4-H CONTESTS WHICH OFFER MEMBERS A CHANCE TO SHOWCASE THEIR SKILLS. MANY OF THESE CONTESTS ARE OFFERED AT THE COUNTY, DISTRICT AND STATE LEVEL. CONTEST INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. BELOW ARE BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME OF THE ANNUAL CONTESTS. FOR CONTEST DATES, REFER TO THE 4-H CALENDAR INCLUDED IN YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CONTEST DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES WILL BE PRINTED IN THE 4-H NEWSLETTER.

CONSUMER DECISION MAKING

Consumer decision making is a team contest where 4-H'ers must evaluate goods and decide upon the best product for a given scenario. 4-H'ers will gain knowledge in the area of price, quality and product evaluation.

4-H ROUNDUP

4-H Roundup provides 4-H members a chance to demonstrate and practice their public speaking skills. 4-H members use the knowledge they gain from their 4-H projects and activities to prepare presentations, which are a valuable educational part of the 4-H program.

Educational Presentations are planned presentations by one or more 4-H members, designed to teach information related to a project or activity. Visual aids including slides, posters, charts, pictures, and models may be used in the educational presentations. 4-H'ers may present educational presentations individually or in teams up to five.

In addition to educational presentations, 4-H Roundup offers PUBLIC SPEAKING. Individuals present a 5 to 7 minute talk suitable as a platform speech or radio broadcast. Props and visual aids are not permitted and recordings of any type may not be used.

Share-the-Fun Skits are other competitions that are part of 4-H Roundup. These skits all 4-H members to discover and fine-tune their acting and showmanship talents. There are six divisions within Share-the-Fun.

- Poetry/Prose
- Vocal
- Musical-Instrumental
- Solo/Band Performance
- Choreographed Routines
- Celebrate 4-H

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



AG PRODUCT ID

20 Texas agricultural products are selected and exhibited at separate stations. Contestants select the correct identification of each product from four possible answers. Following the product identification, each station has one multiple choice question pertaining to the product on display. Questions can be general to the industry that produced the product, (i.e. Texas' national ranking, economic impact to Texas, general nutritional content, region of production) and specific to the individual product that is on display (i.e. cooking method, use, growing season, specific nutrition of the cut or variety). Contestants are given 40 seconds at each station to answer both questions. Please refer to the Product list for suggested products and the resource guide for study materials. Contest locations include Texas State Fair, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Texas 4-H Roundup. [Click for the AG Product ID Explorer Guide.](#)

LIVESTOCK QUIZ BOWL

The Livestock Quiz Bowl is a team trivia contest that tests 4-H'ers knowledge about livestock and livestock industry. 4-H'ers compete in Livestock Bowl teams of four.

BEE KEEPING ESSAY CONTEST

The Beekeeping Essay Contest is sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. For over 50 years, the American Beekeeping Federation has been serving the needs of the U.S. beekeeper. Any youth interested in participating in the contest must follow the instructions for the Texas selection process. Each State Winner, including the national winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

ENTOMOLOGY

Did you know that nearly three-fourths of all animals are insects? Because there are so many insects, they impact our daily lives in both good and bad ways. In this 4-H project you will learn about entomology – the study of insects. You will learn about the insect world by studying, collecting and identifying various insects. Discover how helpful and harmful insects live, multiply, and affect humans. This project is easy to afford because insects are free or inexpensive at pet stores or scientific supply houses. Because of their size, insects can be easily housed in small containers for observation. Learn how to identify, classify, collect and preserve insects and other arthropods.

**CLICK THE CONTEST
TITLE FOR MORE
DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



4-H DOG SHOW

The Texas 4-H Dog Show has been a great success for 40 years! Competitors from all over the state, ranging in age from 8 to 18. All breeds, including mixed, are welcome to compete after they have met the minimum requirements. Dog and 4-H member teams can compete in five different classes, such as: obedience or rally, conformation, showmanship, drill team, and/or costume.

FASHION SHOW

The Fashion Show provides opportunities for 4-H members to demonstrate what they have learned about good grooming, poise, fashion interpretation, and understanding or style. Clothing and Textiles participants may choose to concentrate on clothing construction or buying. They will have the opportunity to model these garments at the Young County 4-H Fashion Show in March. The District Fashion Show is held in April and the State 4-H Fashion Show is in June.

**CLICK THE
CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE
DETAILS**

DUDS TO DAZZLE

During Duds to Dazzle, teams of 3 to 5 receive textiles and each team has 60 minutes to create a new product using items from the supply closet. Each team provides their own supply kit (Supply kit list found in Duds to Dazzle guide). The teams then present their item to a team of judges. You may also be tested on what you have learned about how the clothing & textile industry impacts the environment, specifically the waste stream.

STORYBOARD

The 4-H Storyboard is an industry-inspired method of displaying original designs. The storyboard “tells the story” of the designer’s idea. The storyboard includes original illustrations, flats, and more to promote the design. Now an Invitational contest for Senior members!

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Texas 4-H Photography Contest encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography, including the use of photographic equipment and process of photographs.

The Texas 4-H Photography Judging contest allows 4-H members to demonstrate skills in the evaluation, selection, and placing of photographs based on industry standards and expectations. The 4-H members participating in the contest will judge six classes of photographs and two classes of problems, testing both the participant’s knowledge and skills in the photography project.

4-H CONTESTS



FOOD CHALLENGE

Modeled after such competitions as the Food Network's Chopped, the 4-H Food Challenge allows teams of 4-H members to create a dish using only a predetermined amount of ingredients. From these ingredients, 4-H members must identify, prepare and then present information related to the serving size, nutritional value, and cost of the dish. Through out of this energized process, the 4-H members are demonstrating their culinary and food safety skills to judges and on-lookers

FOOD SHOW

The Food Show allows 4-H members an opportunity to practice skills and share knowledge acquired through the Foods and Nutrition project. There are four categories in which to compete: Main Dish, Side Dish, Appetizer and Healthy Dessert. The Parker County Food Show is held in October, the District 3 Food Show is held in November, and the State 4-H Food Show is in June.

FCH QUIZ BOWL

A "Quiz Bowl" is a quiz game that tests teams of 4 on their knowledge of basic nutrition, consumer information, food and kitchen safety, food preparation skills and storage, and health. Up against the clock, the 4-Hers buzz in to answer a question and earn points for correct answers. Teams advance in a tournament-system bracket to win the competition. The contest will cover materials found in Food & Nutrition Healthy Lifestyles Invitational Consumer Decision Making.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES INVITATIONAL

The invitational is held at 4-H Roundup; teams do not have to qualify to enter. First, you are given a story (in each of 8 classes) related to a healthy lifestyles topic and four possible outcomes or choices. You must rank the four choices and are scored on your answer. Then, in the presentation portion, teams must work together to analyze a problem, develop a solution and make a presentation to the judges.

HORSE SHOW

4-H members can show off their horsemanship skills while participating in the 4-H Horse Show. 4-H horses must be owned by May 1st of the current 4-H year. There is also a futurity project that you can participate in as well. The District 4-H Horse Show is held in June, and the State 4-H Horse Show is held in July.

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Livestock judging is a highly competitive experience that enhances independent decision-making abilities while challenging participants to process information quickly and be able to defend a position or decision. Livestock judging is the visual appraisal of an animal's physical traits, including positive and negative features.

HORSE JUDGING

In horse judging, you will compete on a team as you learn to be the judge of a horse show! You will learn all the body parts of a horse, the ideal characteristics of how a horse moves, and determine how to score horses in competition, and to explain how you decided on your scores. You will learn decision-making and public speaking skills. When you get to the senior level of this activity, you could compete in national competitions.

MEAT SCIENCE

There are several contests throughout the year at almost every major stock show as well as District and State 4-H events. Students are given a set of meat that they must evaluate and score. After they have made their decision of which cut of meat is the best they will write a set of oral reasons. It is a competitive environment to test their knowledge of the subject of meat science.

HORSE QUIZ BOWL

Quiz bowl is an opportunity to demonstrate all of the information that you have gained through the past year through this project. This is a contest that will help your student learn more about his or her project while getting the opportunity to compete on a state level. It is a team event where you compete against another team and whoever buzzes in first, gets to answer the question. Held at 4-H Roundup each year, competitors must qualify through their district in order to compete at this event. Visit the State Roundup and Quiz Bowl Resource webpages to learn more.

LIVESTOCK SKILL-A-THON

The Livestock Skill-a-thon contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to gain and develop production livestock skills and life skills through a competitive environment.

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**

4-H CONTESTS



RABBIT EXTRAVAGANZA

The Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza is open to official Texas 4-H-age enrolled members. The event includes opportunities for youth to exhibit their rabbit projects in numerous breeds in addition to single fryers and meat pens. 4-H members without rabbits also may participate in a variety of other educational events. These include Art (graphic and handicrafts), Best Dressed Rabbit (costume), Breed Identification, Educational/Promotional Rabbit Posters and Displays, Hands-on-Judging (by the youth), Photography, Rabbit Quiz Bowl, and Showmanship. This event takes place in the Fall of every year.

SET POSTER CONTEST

The Discover Scientific Research Method Poster contest allows youth to apply the scientific method to the subject matter they have learned through their 4-H projects. The scientific method is a process for experimentation that is used to formulate and test a hypothesis through experimentation and data analysis. Scientists use the scientific method to explore relationships in nature. The poster contest will allow youth an opportunity to display and explain through the scientific method their project, research, and observations.

LIVESTOCK SHOWS

There are a number of opportunities for youth to exhibit their livestock at the local, county, state and national levels. County and state livestock show opportunities are advertised through the Young County 4-H Connection. If you are new to showing livestock, please contact the Young County 4-H office and we will be able to help you set up a livestock show plan.

**CLICK THE CONTEST TITLE
FOR MORE DETAILS**



4-H LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Information about the programs offered will be sent to the county Extension office before each event. The 4-H program offers youth many opportunities to learn and apply leadership skills.

Service opportunities exist for members from the club level on through the state level—and even at the national and international levels. Numerous training and networking activities are available for members as they mature and seek out increasing amounts of responsibility.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP LABS

Most Extension districts host a 2-to 4-day leadership retreat where senior 4-H members receive in-depth training. Dates and costs vary from district to district. Information is mailed to county Extension offices in the spring of each year. The goal of leadership lab is for participants to take information that they learn back to their local club or county and teach others.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP RETREAT and TEEN RETREAT

Junior and Teen Leadership Retreats provides youth a state level leadership development experience. Workshops are facilitated by Texas 4-H Council and other senior level 4-H youth and focus on leadership, group dynamics, leading recreation and more. Additionally, youth experience service opportunities. The workshop is conducted annually in November - Junior and January - Teen at the Texas 4-H Conference Center.

4-H LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS ([Link](#))

This mock legislative educational event is held in Austin in even-numbered years. During the four day program, senior 4-H youth experience the legislative process first hand. By role-playing senators, representatives, lobbyists and press corps members, youth are exposed to the full political scene. Activities range from debating bills in the actual Texas Legislature chambers to socializing with advocates and opponents at evening receptions. Youth return to their communities with a better understanding of how our state government works. Information is sent to County Extension offices in the winter preceding the event year.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS ([link](#))

National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the 4-H program. Youth from the United States and its territories have participated in this youth leadership development conference. The Congress provides youth, ages 14-19, a quality, educational, and cross-cultural experience that exceeds what any state independently provides. It is designed to address the needs and issues of youth while helping to develop capable, competent, and caring citizens. The program is built upon the Cooperative Extension System's belief that young people can be significant partners in addressing the issues that face our nation, especially those affecting youth. Each year a National Design Team of Extension educators, 4-H youth, and 4-H adult volunteers analyze current youth issues and determine the most effective ways to address them. The program combines plenary sessions, seminars, discussion groups, and a service learning experience. The nation's most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present the most current and timely information available.

NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE ([link](#))

The National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. The National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults--at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture--assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. This event brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the Canadian Provinces. As the sponsor for this conference, the National 4-H Headquarters located within Families, 4-H, and Nutrition at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) NIFA (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) is charged with sharing the recommendations that emerge from the conference with the Secretary of Agriculture, national Extension Program Leaders, and others who determine 4-H programs. At the same time, ensuring that the conference is a meaningful experience for the youth and adult participants. More information including application deadlines and important dates can be found at http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth_national_conference.

4-H LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HORIZONS ([link](#))

This five day, four night camp focuses around project enhancement, career exploration, and personal/professional development. Participants choose their focus area where they will receive approximately 16 hours of instruction and introduction to careers in the field. Each workshop is limited to 20 youth and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Evening activities are geared towards professional development and workforce preparation, and of course, camp recreation and games! Dances each night! Early registration begins in March.

MISSION POSSIBLE ([link](#))

Mission Possible promotes the involvement of all youth. We invite youth with and without disabilities or special needs or who require special accommodations to participate in this unique summer residential camping program. 4-H membership is NOT a requirement. The focus is on each campers' abilities and not their disabilities. Participants are encouraged to recognize their individual strengths and their own limitations while participating in a safe and fun camp environment!

PRIME TIME ([link](#))

Prime Time is an age-specific, four day three night residential camp experience. Session I is for youth who have completed grades 5-8, while Session II is for youth who have completed grades 2-5. Yes, those youth completing grade 5 can choose which session to participate in. Camp activities include swimming, kayaking, challenge course, rifle, archery, arts & crafts, dancing, games and lots more. Evening activities involve all youth in team building, dorm challenges and the nightly dance. Alternative activities are available during the dance.

COUNTY CAMP ([link](#))

County Camp programs at the Texas 4-H Conference Center are designed to provide an opportunity for youth to experience summer camp while enjoying the advantage of meeting youth from across the state. Participants will enjoy kayaking, swimming, the climbing wall, environmental education, drama, riflery, archery, arts and crafts, games, dancing and special events! County camp is offered as a three day, two night or four day, three night experience. Youth who have completed second through eleventh grade are eligible. County groups are housed together, by gender, in the dormitories with their Adult Chaperones. Youth are assigned to co-ed groups based on their age, for the daily educational activities

4-H TERMINOLOGY

Volunteer Leader – An adult who works closely with club managers to provide leadership and assistance for specific projects. Volunteer leaders are responsible for at least one project at the club level.

4-H Age – 8 years old and in the 3rd grade or 9 years of age through age 18 as of August 31st of the 4-H year.

Age Divisions – (Ages are based on August 31st of the previous 4-H year.)

Clover Kid – 5 years of age to 8 years (and not in the 3rd grade).

Junior – age 8 and in the 3rd grade - 5th grade

Intermediate – 6th grade - 8th grade

Senior – 9th - 12th grade

4-H Ambassador – 4-H members who have been selected and trained to represent 4-H before civic and community groups to promote 4-H.

4-H Club – a group of boys and girls, 3rd grade through age 18, who are advised by club managers and volunteer leaders. Each elects their own officers, who preside at club meetings.

Club Manager - Volunteer leaders who provide guidance and management to a 4-H Club. Serves as the contact person between the club and the County Extension Office.

Club Meeting – Where 4-H'ers meet, generally on a monthly basis, to handle the business of the club. Generally one hour in length. Follows a four part agenda including inspiration, business, program and recreation.

Club Officers – Elected by the club members each year. Officers are responsible for conducting 4-H club meetings and planning with club managers.

4-H Committee – Committees can serve many functions within a club or on the county level. They offer members extra involvement and leadership opportunities. A Committee Chairman (ex. Refreshment Chairman) leads an individual committee.

Community Service Project – An activity conducted by 4-H'ers for the benefit of the community. Collecting food or clothing for the needy, Christmas caroling, and Adopt-A-Highway roadside clean-ups are examples of community service projects.

District 3 – Texas 4-H is organized geographically into districts. There are 24 counties in District 3, and 12 Districts in the State of Texas. Young County is a part of District 3, the "Rolling Plains" District.

Enrollment – 4-H membership begins with choosing a 4-H club to join and completing a 4-H enrollment form. Re-enrollment begins in September, and every 4-H member and adult leader must re-enroll each year to continue their membership.

4-H TERMINOLOGY

4-H Leader – An adult volunteer who works with 4-H club members.

4-H Year – September 1st to August 31st of the following year.

National 4-H Week – Held the first full week of October. Provides an opportunity to increase public awareness and understanding of the 4-H program.

Young County 4-H Newsletter – The monthly 4-H Newsletter is prepared by the County Extension Office staff to keep 4-H families informed about 4-H events and activities and to recognize the accomplishments of 4-H members and leaders. Please contact us about a subscription or being placed on the email list.

4-H Prayer – “Help me, O Lord, to live so that the world may be a little better because Thou didst make me....Amen.”

4-H Project – An area of study in which 4-H members participate. A project consists of at least six hours of learning time. Members may choose from over 40 projects.

Project Group Meeting – Meetings where 4-H members learn about their specific project area. Coordinated by adult project leaders.

Project Leader – An adult volunteer who helps 4-H members learn through involvement in a specific 4-H project.

4-H Scholarship – Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000 are available to graduating 4-H'ers who meet application criteria. The State Scholarship program is administered by the Texas 4-H Foundation.

State 4-H Roundup – State event in which qualifying Senior 4-H members compete in various contests. Held on the campus of Texas A&M University each year in June.

Teen Leader – Teen members who accept leadership responsibilities in 4-H project meetings, workshops, trainings, or special activities.

Texas 4-H Center – a camp facility operated by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on the shores of Lake Brownwood. Extension training programs and 4-H camps and retreats are conducted throughout the year.

Texas 4-H Congress – An educational event for 4-H members, ages 15 through 18. Held in Austin, Texas in even-numbered years. Participants study and learn about state government by participating in a “mock congress.”

Texas 4-H Council – Consists of two 4-H delegates from each of the twelve Extension Districts. State Council plans and carries out many statewide events, including 4-H Roundup and Texas 4-H Congress.

HOW CAN I JOIN 4-H?

Anyone, regardless of race, gender, religion or socioeconomic status may join 4-H. All you have to do to join is attend a regular 4-H club meeting and complete a 4-H enrollment form or enroll online here

[CLICK HERE TO ENROLL](#)

WHAT ARE THE AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H?

Anyone between the ages of 9 or 8 and in the third grade to 18 as of August 31 of the current year may be enrolled as a “traditional” 4-H member. 4-H Clover Kids are young people from Kindergarten to the second grade. Please keep in mind that there are specific age requirements for participating in the County Livestock Show in January. Just because you're able to enroll in 4-H doesn't automatically make you eligible.

WHAT ARE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR 4-H?

A member can only be enrolled in one county. A member may participate in a regular project in a county they are not a member of if their “home” county does not offer that project.

DO I HAVE TO SHOW AN ANIMAL TO BE IN 4-H?

4-H offers many projects including animals, but a member does not have to own an animal to be in 4-H.

WHAT ARE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE YCJLS SHOW IN JANUARY?

To participate in the County Show in January, a member must live in Young County or attend a school in Young County.



WHERE IS THE CLOSEST 4-H CLUB TO ME?

There is a list in this guide that shows all 4-H club meeting locations in Young County.

DO I HAVE TO “GET OUT” OF 4-H WHEN I BECOME A FFA MEMBER ?

No, you can be enrolled and involved in both 4-H and FFA. Extension and FFA Advisors encourage joint participation.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN 4-H?

A. 4-H is an organization that provides projects that interest nearly every young person. Your amount of involvement is your decision. 4-H has something for everyone.



WHAT ABOUT LIVESTOCK SHOWS AND VALIDATION?

Livestock projects are a serious undertaking. Much money and time is spent choosing animals, working them at home, and showing at livestock shows. You can view a calendar in the back to review what shows are held during the year.

All market animals that will be exhibited at major livestock shows must have state validation tags. Species committees are formed in each county that include County Extension Agents and Agriculture Science Teachers from schools located in the county. Validation is a very serious matter. If your animal is not validated and the proper paperwork is not filled out correctly, you may not exhibit your animal(s). It is your responsibility as the exhibitor, to read the monthly 4-H newsletter to know times and locations of validation. The calendar located in the back also includes validation MB n information.





PROJECT QUICK LINKS



CLICK THE PROJECT AREA FOR A LINK TO THE STATE RESOURCES

Please note...we do not have project leaders for every project listed. If you are interested in a project without a project leader, you may still participate in the project independently.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Dog Care & Training
- Goats
- Horse
- Horticulture
- Meat Science
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science

LEADERSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP

- Citizenship
- Community Service
- Global Citizenship
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Theater & Performance Arts
- Workforce and Career Prep
- Youth Entrepreneurship

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Consumer Education
- Fashion and Interior Design
- Food And Nutrition
- Health and Personal Safety

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Entomology
- Forestry
- Outdoor Education & Living Skills
- Range Science
- Shooting Sports
- Sportfishing
- Water Conservation
- Wildlife & Fisheries

STEM

- Photography & Video
- Robotics
- Rocketry & Aerospace
- Science, Technology, Engineer & Math

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**PLEASE REFER TO YOUR YOUNG
COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER FOR
DETAILED INFORMATION RELATING TO
PROJECT MEETING AND INFORMATION
LISTED ON THE CALEDAR OF EVENTS.**

*****Dates are subject to change*****

**PROVISIONS FROM THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY
ACT WILL BE CONSIDERED
WHEN PLANNING EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.
PLEASE NOTIFY THE YOUNG
COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE IF
YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING AN
EXTENSION EDUCATION
PROGRAM AND NEED
SPECIALIZED SERVICES.**



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