

Welcome to Lake County 4-H!



We're so glad that you've joined 4-H! Here is some information about 4-H to get you started.

If you have any additional questions or need more information,
please contact the Extension Office at 256-7603 or lake.county@sdstate.edu.

What do the H's stand for?

They stand for Head, Heart, Health, and Hands.

4-H Pledge

(movements in parentheses)

I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,

(use one hand to touch head)

My heart to greater loyalty,

(place right hand over heart)

My hands to larger service,

(hold both hands palm up)

My health for better living,

(hands at sides)

**For my club, my community, my country, and
my world.**

4-H Motto: To make the best better!

4-H Age and Eligible ages

4-H is open to youth ages 8 – 19. A child needs to be 8 on January 1st before they can participate in most 4-H activities, but they can begin attending meetings in October. They can stay in the 4-H program, until they are 19 on January 1st.

4-H Ages are broken into 3 groups (category determined by 4-H age – the child's age as of January 1st of the current year). These age groups are used to determine contest groups and project requirements.

Beginners – Ages 8-10

Juniors – Ages 11-13

Seniors – Ages 14 and higher



For younger children, we have the Cloverbud program in the summer, which is open to 5 to 7-year olds by January 1 of the current year. Cloverbuds are also allowed to participate during the year in 4-H clubs.

For older youth, we offer a Jr. Leaders program throughout the year that is open to any youth in grades 6+. They meet six times a year and focus on building leadership skills and service learning opportunities.



Community Clubs (a.k.a. 4-H Clubs)

Joining a community club is one way to participate in 4-H. These clubs are led by volunteer leaders and meet several times during the year. Club meetings include club business, speeches or demonstrations by members, activities, and projects. Clubs also participate in community service projects and may go on club picnics or trips. 4-H clubs include 4-H members of all ages and of all interests.

The Extension Office keeps a current list of community clubs. We encourage new families to visit a few clubs before deciding which one to join. It's also possible to switch clubs, if you find one that suits your child better.

Project Groups

Project groups are focused on a specific project; they usually meet for just a portion of the year and hold practices rather than business meetings. Examples of project groups are archery, guns, robotics, horse and dog.

A 4-H member can belong to a community club and a project group, or, choose to belong only to a project group. All 4-H members (whether they belong to a community club, a project group or both) are welcome to participate in other 4-H activities (4-H camp, Achievement Days, Youth in Action contests, etc.)



Projects without Groups

There are over 70 projects that you can be involved with in 4-H! Unfortunately, we don't have project groups or workshops for all those projects. The good news? We have resources so that kids can pursue these projects at home.

At the Extension Office, we have materials for all our project areas that we can give or loan you. In some cases, we can also link 4-H members to a family or community volunteer with experience in that project.

4-H Information

The office provides families information on events, guidelines, deadlines and calendar by e-mail. Please be sure we always have your current email, so you won't miss anything that we send!



4-Honline and Fair Entry

Enrollment in 4-H and registering for events such as County Horse Show, 4-H Camp, Achievement Days and State Fair is moving away from paper to on-line. The Extension Office will continue to keep 4-H families informed of how and when to complete the enrollment and registrations. Please contact us if you have questions on how to complete on line registrations.

Important Dates

The 4-H year runs from October - September. This is a general schedule of what happens during the 4-H year. Some event dates may vary from year to year. Please watch your email for dates and deadlines and contact the Extension Office with questions.

October

- 4-H Enrollment completed yearly
- 4-H Volunteer Enrollment completed yearly

November

- 4-H Recognition Event

January

- Shooting Sports Practices Start

March

- 4-H Scholarship applications by Mar 15

April

- 4-H State Shoot

May

- Rodeo Registration by May 1
- Dog Practices Start
- 4-H Enrollments must be in by May 31st

June

- Livestock Affidavits and Lease forms entered into 4Honline by families by June 1-no exceptions
- 4-H Horse Safety training by June 1
- 4-H Camp
- Teen Leadership Conference
- Horse Practices Start
- County Horse Show

July

- Youth for the Quality Control of Animals training for rabbit, poultry, beef, dairy, sheep, goat and swine by July 1.
- Purebred animal registration entered into 4Honline by families by July 1.
- State Horse Show
- Achievement Days registration in FairEntry

August

- Youth in Action Contests
- Achievement Days
- State Dog Show
- State 4-H Rodeo

September

- South Dakota State Fair
- State Livestock Judging Contest
- 4-H Sportsmanship nomination by Sep 15
- 4-H Recordbooks and Award applications by Sep 30
- 4-H Leaders Camp Scholarship by Sep 30

Livestock and Animal Projects



It is very important to have all animal registrations completed by the deadlines. Late or missing forms will prevent your child from participating in 4-H shows.

Youth in Action Events

Youth can participate in Youth in Action events. These events are:



Special Foods Contest: 4-H members cook a recipe for a judge, speak with a judge about the nutrition of that recipe, and bring a decorative place setting to show off their creation.

Fashion Revue: 4-H members have the opportunity to model their sewing projects and purchased outfits.

Public Presentation Contest: 4-H members perform a speech or demonstration.

Judging and Skill-A-Thon Contests: Judging contests include livestock, horticulture and consumer sciences.



Achievement Days

Achievement Days is our 4-Hers opportunity to compete and show off their project work for the year (in some counties, this event is called the County Fair). There are exhibit classes for all our project areas. **Be watching our newsletter for Achievements Days dates!**

Our Achievement Day classes and rules follow the State Fair Book. The fair book includes all the contest rules and exhibit classes. They usually come out in the Spring – we will contact you by email when it's available on-line. Or you may stop in to the office and look over a paper copy. If you'd like to look through the previous year's fair book, we have those available, though some classes may change.

All Achievement Day entries need to be pre-registered. We will send out information on how to pre-register with Fair Entry in mid-July. At that time, we'll also have any special entry forms available at our office.

State Fair

All 4-H projects are eligible to go on to the state fair. It is important to follow the guidelines the State 4-H Office establishes to register static and livestock projects in sd4hstatefair.fairentry.com.

For static/indoor exhibits, we will transport those for exhibit at the State Fair. Large static exhibits are the responsibility of the family to transport to the State Fair. All animal exhibits are the responsibility of the 4-H member and their family.

There's even More to 4-H!

4-H isn't just club meetings. There are also camps, conferences, project workshops, leadership trainings, 4-H events like 4-H Night at a Canaries Game, and national trips like Citizenship Washington Focus. These opportunities will be sent out by e-mail. Please contact us for more information about any events you read about in the newsletter.



We also have funding available to make these opportunities available to all youth. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Awards and Record Books

In 4-H, we encourage 4-Hers to set goals and keep a record of their 4-H participation and project work.

One way they can do this is with a 4-H Member's Annual Report. 4-Hers use the annual report to record their club meetings, activities, community service, and project work throughout the year, including what they learned and the best and most challenging moments.

Some 4-H awards are tied to completion of the 4-H journals. 4-Hers can work on earning pins each year (year and project area pins) and toward larger awards (Citizenship, Leadership, and 4-H KEY awards).

Award applications, booklets and 4-H record books are available at the Extension Office and online at <http://www.lake.sd.gov/custom/lake-county-4-h>.

Opportunities to be Involved

Parents and family members are an important part of the 4-H program! They're often needed to help host and assist with 4-H Club meetings.

If you'd like to get even more involved with 4-H, we encourage your help with the Leaders Association, Achievement Day committees, volunteering for different 4-H events, or chaperoning a 4-H trip or camp.

As you get more involved with 4-H, you may need to complete our Youth Protection process (for anyone alone with youth other than their own children, chaperoning a trip or overnight event, or working with 4-Hers more than 15 hours a year).

If you would like to be involved at that level, we can help you with the paperwork and answer any questions you have.

One Last Note

The true value of 4-H is what kids learn as they participate – whether it's responsibility from taking care of an animal, leadership skills from being the vice president of their 4-H club or how not to burn themselves with a glue gun during a craft project.

We ask that parents and adults help our 4-Hers focus on what they can learn. Winning a ribbon or plaque is fun and exciting, but it's not the only thing (or even the most important thing).

Meet the Extension Office staff!



My name is Jennifer Hayford. I'm the 4-H Youth Program Advisor for Lake and Moody Counties. I'm here to help manage the county 4-H program, and I'd love to help answer any questions you have. I am in the office on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays most weeks. You can reach me at 256-7603 or at jennifer.hayford@sdsu.edu.



Carrie Schiernbeck is the secretary and office manager for the Extension Office. If you have a question, need forms, or are looking for project resources, she'd love to help you out. Carrie can be reached at 256-7603 or at lake.county@sdsu.edu.



South Dakota State University, South Dakota Counties and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating
South Dakota State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer (Male/Female) and offers all benefits, services, education and employment opportunities without regard for ancestry, age, race, citizenship, color, creed, religion, gender, disability, national origin, sexual preference, or Vietnam Era veteran status