



WHAT'S YOUR

4-H

STORY?



Illinois Extension





# FORMING CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE



4-H youth benefit from their 4-H experience throughout their lifetime. Through projects, events, and shared experiences 4-H youth create a lifelong network as civically engaged leaders in their communities.



## 1890s-1917



**1899** W.B. Otwell, Secretary of the Farmers Institute in Macoupin County, Illinois, founded the first boys' corn club. He gave small packages of seed corn to 500 boys who were to grow corn and develop exhibits for the next farmers' Institute.

**1901** A.B. Graham, a school principal in Ohio, began to promote vocational agriculture in rural schools in out-of-school "clubs."

**1911** The four leaf emblem was officially adopted, with the fourth H designated for Health. The four H's were designated as follows: The Head was to be trained to think, plan and reason; The Heart was to be kind, true and sympathetic; The Hands to be useful, helpful and skillful; The Health H was to resist disease, and enjoy life.

**LATE 1890'S** As the century turned, young people were moving to cities drawn by the potential for jobs. They saw no future in laboring behind a plow. The atmosphere of economic prosperity was darkened by the nagging concern for the future generation of rural children.

O. J. Kerns, Winnebago County, Illinois, Agricultural Experiment Station, founded Farmers' Institutes to introduce farm and home topics and comparative classes for rural youth.

**1902** Graham formed a club of boys and girls with officers, projects, meetings, and record requirements. He sought assistance of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and Ohio State University. His clubs are considered the founding of 4-H.

**1904** Otwell's Illinois exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition created a great deal of interest in the idea of working with young people.

**1907** By this time, the principle ingredients of 4-H work had been tested. Graham had shown how well young people would respond to organized clubs that introduced them to agricultural science and technology. Otwell's corn contests, with their premiums and equipment prizes, demonstrated the value of incentives to encourage young people to learn.

In 1907, education officials in Wright County, Iowa presented the three-leaf clover to the members of their boys' and girls' clubs as an emblem for their organization. The three H's represented Head, Heart, and Hands.

**1914-1917** Passage of the Smith-Lever Act created the Cooperative Extension System. County agents and local leaders began to organize 4-H clubs. Club meetings and projects were made major requirements.





# GROWING TRUE LEADERS

4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are young people who have confidence; know how to work well with others; can endure through challenges; and will stick with a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born - they're grown.



## 1915-1944

**1922**

The first National 4-H Club Congress was the designation given to the national 4-H event in Chicago. In 1920, an educational tour held in the Union Stock Yards during the International Livestock exhibition to Chicago was the forerunner that eventually became known as National 4-H Congress.

**1927**

The 4-H Motto - "To Make the Best Better" - was coined by a USDA botanist.

**1939**

When the original patent on the four-leaf clover emblem expired in 1939, Congress passed a law protecting the 4-H name and emblem against misuse.

**1944**

In September of 1944, with the war coming to a close, the Joint 4-H Advisory Committee proposed a memorial for 4-H members and alumni who lost their lives in battle. It was ultimately voted that this memorial would be a State 4-H Camp.

**1915**

The first 4-H club in Illinois was the Union Pig Club, organized by C.C. Coats in Macoupin County in the spring of 1915. The wartime effort brought about rapid expansion of the work and by 1917 over fifteen thousand members were enrolled in Illinois. Not only were there corn and pig clubs, but the work now included canning, sewing, garden, calves - and even strawberry clubs.

**1919**

One of the most important meetings in the history of the 4-H movement was held in Kansas City. The general structure of local clubs was firmly established, an expansion of projects was encouraged, relations between club work and vocational education in the schools were defined, and the general principle of local initiative was ratified.

**1941**

With the United States' entry into World War II, 4-H responded to the needs for increased agricultural production and community service.



They grew Victory Gardens and sponsored fund-raisers in support of the war effort.

In one of their most notable drives, Illinois 4-Hers donated three ambulances to the American Red Cross after raising over \$4,500. 9,817 Illinois 4-Hers fought in the war, while countless others actively contributed on the home front.

**1942**

National 4-H Mobilization Week was observed annually in 1942, 1943, and 1944. The following year, and every year since, it has been observed as National 4-H Week.

**1918**

The term "4-H Club" first appeared in a federal document in 1918.

**1924**

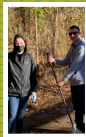
Club charters were first offered by U.S. Department of Agriculture to local 4-H clubs as they organized and the four-leaf clover emblem was patented in 1924.





# SERVING MY COMMUNITY

Service is a hallmark of all 4-H programs, teaching youth about the importance of giving back, improving our communities and developing innovative solutions to solve problems, large or small. 4-H'ers learn skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, community engagement and build a sense of compassion, confidence and pride.



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## 1946-1983

**1946**

In July of 1946, young philanthropist, Robert Allerton, made a donation of 250-acres from his estate in Monticello, IL to house the 4-H Memorial camp.



**1952**

A 4-H Commemorative Stamp was issued with first day covers at Springfield, Ohio, in 1952.

**1973**

The National 4-H Pledge was written by Otis Hall, Kansas State 4-H leader. The first and only change from the original wording added "and my world" at the close of the statement in 1973.

**1983**

In Illinois, the 4-H age was expanded for eight-year-old to join the 4-H program.

**1947**

County 4-H club agents established their own national professional association in 1947.

**1948**

While still in the beginning phases of construction, 4-H Memorial Camp opened for the first time for rudimentary camping in July 1948.

The National 4-H Foundation was organized in 1948 and Chevy Chase Junior College was purchased as a site for a national 4-H training center.

**1940**

A study of urban 4-H was undertaken with support of the Ford Foundation in 100 metropolitan areas where 4-H was organized. Illinois' urban programs had begun in Chicago in 1925, with the help of a grant from the Coats & Clark Company.

**1965**

It used to be that 4-H served young people between 10 and 21 years of age. Since 1965, youngsters between 9 and 19 years of age have been eligible to take part in 4-H.

**1972**

A highly successful 4-H television series, **Mulligan Stew**, was premiered by the Extension Service in 1972 and that began the exploration for new 4-H delivery methods. Many of those new initiatives continue today.



**1981**

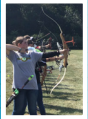
Launched the first 4-H Day on the University of Illinois campus. 4500 Illinois 4-H members and their families watched the Fighting Illini take on Syracuse University in the hope opener game. At half time, the Marching Illini presented a spectacular show complete with 4-H flags and a huge 4-leaf clover.





# 4-H BUILDS SKILLS FOR LIFE

4-H provides a hands-on approach proven to grow life skills like public speaking, goal setting, teamwork and critical thinking through relationships with caring adults and opportunities to share and use what you're learning.



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## 1996-2020

**1996-2001**

28 log cabins constructed to replace initial cabins in the Adopt-A-Cabin campaign at 4-H Memorial Camp.

**2001**

Celebrated 100 years of 4-H in Illinois



**2009**

Illinois 4-H adds the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum offering archery, rifle, and shotgun SPIN Club opportunities to youth

**2013**

Illinois 4-H Livestock Ambassadors launched

**1996**

Illinois launched the Illinois 4-H Cloverbuds Program for youth ages 5-7 years old.

**1999**

Launch of the Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team

**2007-2008**

The Remember CAMPAign fundraising effort assists with paying for a complete \$11 million dollar replacement of the commercial kitchen at 4-H Memorial Camp

**2015**

Launch of the Illinois 4-H Hunger Ambassadors

**2016**

Launch of the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association

**1997**

Illinois launched the 4-H Can Make A Difference Food Drive Campaign, collecting over 2.3 million pounds of food and contributed more than 2.1 million hours of volunteer service at food banks, pantries, shelters, and meal programs throughout the state.

**2004**

Illinois launched the Operation Military Kids Program to support deployed National Guard, Army Reserve and Active Duty Soldiers children.

**2020**

Launch of the Illinois 4-H Food Advocacy Team



# Communication Award – Exhibit – Team

Tina Veal, Lisa Diaz, Matt Wiley

## Illinois 4-H Alumni Association Welcome Booth

Walking into the Orr Building, you can see the directional floor graphics on the floor. 1. Welcomes Alumni to Booth 2. Invites to Register for the Alumni Association 3. Invites to Share 4-H Story. (pics to R)



## Overall Exhibit



# Alumni Interacting with Booth Volunteers to Share their Stories



## Giveaways



Notebook/Pen

Car/Laptop Sticker

Keyboard Sticker

Front of Banner – Themes  
 Back of Banner – History Timeline

TriFold Display – Post Alumni Story Notecards

Share Story Station

What's Your 4-H Story Backdrop

Registration Station

