

Who funds 4-H?

The North Carolina 4-H program is conducted by NC Cooperative Extension through NC State & NC A&T State Universities with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the state of North Carolina, and Richmond County government.

These funding sources cover professional positions to support local volunteers, curriculum development, and administrative costs. However, individual 4-H clubs receive no direct funding from government sources. Private donors and corporate supporters provide additional funds for specific project areas, youth recognition programs, volunteer development opportunities and other programs in their communities.

Richmond County 4-H is proud to be a United Way Partnering Agency and supported by the citizens of Richmond County! We also receive funding from Farm Bureau for select programs.



What does it cost?

4-H has no membership registration fee or required uniform. There may be minimal costs for project manuals and some 4-H activities or events. Some clubs have dues to help defray the costs of project materials and refreshments.

What is a club?

A club is a group of five or more young people, guided by an adult leader. Members can elect officers and each member chooses one or more projects. Each club may explore a single subject or several subjects. 4-H members elect club officers, conduct their own business, work together on community service activities, meet new friends, and most important, have lots of fun! However, you do not have to be a club member to be involved in 4-H.

Where do clubs meet?

A 4-H club may be organized on a community or neighborhood basis and use local facilities, such as the public library, recreation centers, churches, or member's homes. Also it can be organized within a school using the school's facilities, time and staff. 4-H Clubs are allowed to use the County Extension meeting rooms, but be sure to make sure the calendar is open before making plans! Any place large enough and convenient for the club members is a good choice.

When do clubs meet and how long does a meeting last?

This depends on the group. Many community clubs meet for an hour or two after school, in the evening, or on Saturday. The most important thing is to have a regular time to get together.

What are 4-H projects?

4-H projects are challenging, but practical, planned courses of study with learning experiences centered around a specific subject. Members usually work on a project (subject area) for a year at a time. Hands-on, learn-by-doing involvement is the most important aspect of a project. Making, growing, caring for, observing, and participating are all involved in 4-H projects. The areas range from traditional agricultural and horticulture to computers, aerospace, robotics and even pets!

One of the most important aspects of 4-H project work is that the 4-H Member decides what they want to learn and do as they explore a subject they have chosen. They may select one or more projects, and receive a project manual, which guides them

through the activities. This allows the project to be self-paced, and gives children important skills in setting and working toward their goals.

Are 4-H members expected to do their own project work?

Yes, with help. Members are expected to select at least one, but it can be more, learning experiences related to the project during the year. 4-H is a “learn-by-doing” program. Leaders, junior leaders, and parents may tell or show members how, but members are expected to learn to do things themselves.

What do 4-H clubs do at meetings?

4-H clubs usually participate in four general kinds of activities during the meeting. They have a business meeting, special interest programs, project work, and recreation and social activities. Clubs may have a little business to conduct, may work on their projects for a while, and then play a game or two. Some meetings are devoted to one specific topic. It depends on what club members want to do!

What are 4-H leaders?

Volunteer leaders are the backbone of the 4-H program. They are adults who work voluntarily with a group of 4-H members. Volunteers go through a youth protection application and screening process before they are enrolled as leaders. Additionally, volunteers receive yearly training in skills they will need to become a successful 4-H volunteer.

What’s expected of parents?

Children need parental encouragement to get them started in 4-H and to keep them involved in the program in later years.

Parents can help by:

- **Sharing** – provide encouragement and take an interest in 4-H projects and activities. Listen, look, and offer suggestions, but avoid the temptation to “take over” and do things. Children learn by their mistakes as well as their successes.
- **Preparing** – assist by helping children understand the value of doing projects, having duties in the club, and following through on responsibilities as expected by others.
- **Being there** – Children gain more from 4-H by attending meetings regularly and getting involved in 4-H activities. Parents are welcome at meetings and are encouraged to stay, observe, and become volunteer leaders. However, remember that 4-H clubs are for the youth.
- **Caring** – arrange to participate whenever possible. Parents’ presence shows the child that what he or she is doing is very important.

What else can a 4-H member do outside of the local club?

4-H members can participate in a variety of county, state, national, and international activities depending on their age and ability.

- **County Workshops and Events** – Members are encouraged to attend learning sessions scheduled throughout the year. Fun and competitive events like Presentations, Fashion Review, 4-H Entertains, Christmas Project, Achievement Night and others are offered annually.

- **4-H County Council** – Teens age 13 and up meet regularly to help plan county 4-H events, gain leadership skills, and plan community service projects they complete as a group. The group usually meets the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Office.
- **District and State Events** – Teen Retreats, NC State 4-H Congress, District Activity Days, State Council Conferences, Citizenship Focus, Ambassador Retreat, etc.
- **Whatever They Decide** – The possibilities are endless - literally. Different areas of interest lead to opportunities that can't possibly be listed in a general program introduction.

Internet Resources to Find Out More...

North Carolina State 4-H
www.nc4h.org

4-H USA
<http://www.4husa.org/>

Richmond County 4-H
<http://richmond.ces.ncsu.edu>
www.facebook.com/richmondcounty4h

National 4-H Council
<http://www.fourhcouncil.edu/>

So what next...

Contact the Richmond County 4-H Office with any questions at 910-997-8255, e-mail Laura Grier at laura_grier@ncsu.edu or check out www.facebook.com/richmondcounty4h for more info! Turn in an enrollment form to become a 4-H member.

Communication with 4-H members

- 4-H Events Mailing
- Summer Fun Mailing – Check out this series of educational and fun programs offered during June & July
- Cooperative Extension Website – <http://richmond.ces.ncsu.edu>



North Carolina 4-H Opportunities



Many of the applications and forms referred below can be found online at: <http://www.nc4h.org> From the main page, you need to click on "Youth," then "Awards and Incentives Program."



4-H Achievement Plan. The 4-H Achievement Plan allows 4-H members to set goals, make plans to achieve those goals, and evaluate efforts and accomplishments that they have achieved through 4-H. Throughout this plan, service to others, as well as creativity, responsibility, and leadership are important. This plan encompasses four achievement levels: green, bronze, silver, and gold. The Plan is due on the same date as Project

Record Books each year.

4-H Ambassadors. Applicants must be at least 13 years old and a 4-H member for two years as of January 1. 4-H'ers may earn Bronze, Silver, Gold and Emerald Ambassador levels by completing workshops and a portfolio for each level. This program strengthens and expands upon 4-H Ambassadors' current leadership abilities so that they may serve as positive role models for younger youth.



4-H Cumulative Records. This is an accumulation of up to three years of 4-H project work in a major project area. Records are submitted in age categories of 13-15 and 16-18. These books must be postmarked to the State 4-H Office by March 1. State winners receive cash awards.

4-H Entertains. 4-H Entertains is a talent showcase. This event occurs in conjunction with District Activity Day. Each county may register two acts to perform at District Activity Day. Acts will then be selected to perform at the state talent show at 4-H Congress in July.

4-H Group Awards. There are several group awards that clubs and other 4-H groups can apply for each year. The NC 4-H Community Service award is based on ONE community service project completed by a 4-H group. There is also a 4-H Electric Group Award. Applications must be received by the State 4-H Office by March 1.

4-H International Exchange. North Carolina hosts Japanese exchange students ages 12-18 for one month, beginning late-July. Host families must complete an application and in-home interview. 4-H members may elect to host a year-long exchange student from Japan or one of the Newly Independent States. Host families are typically secured in early spring.

4-H Presentations. This competition allows you the opportunity to present information by demonstration or illustrated talk for competition. The time limit is generally between 5 and 12 minutes, with specific time regulations in specific categories. Each county determines how 4-H'ers are selected to compete at district competition.



4-H Project Records. Project records highlight what a 4-H'er has learned and done in a specific project area for a period of 12 months. The books are judged in age categories of: 9-10, 11-12, 13-15 and 16-18. They are submitted to the County 4-H office at the end of your 4-H year, usually due in late January. The top county winners in each of the curriculum areas are then submitted to Raleigh for district competition.

Camps. The North Carolina 4-H Camping Program offers programming for 4-H'ers of all ages. Richmond County generally takes a delegation of 4-H'ers (ages 9-14) to one of the 4-H camping centers for 4-H Junior Camp each summer. County camp locations and dates change each year. A few of the general 4-H camps utilize Leaders in Training. These are 4-H'ers not quite old enough to be a full time camp counselor - but at least 16 years old. LIT's work during the week to gain counselor experience. Other 4-H Specialty Camps available are: Fur, Fish and Game, Shooting Sports, Marine Science, Cloverbud and others.



College Scholarships. High school seniors may apply for 4-H scholarships. The application must be postmarked by January 15. One application form is completed if applying for one or more than one scholarship. Several of these scholarships are restricted to youth that meet certain criteria. The County 4-H Agent receives information on these scholarships in early December. Scholarship awards range in amounts from \$500 to \$2000.

County Scholarship Money. Youth can receive \$50 4-H scholarship money for project books and presentations. The scholarship money goes towards projects, camp fees, event fees, or fun 4-H items which they may want.

County Activity Day. County Activity Day is the county presentation competition that is held to determine who advances to District Activity Day. We also hold our County Fashion Review and Entertains Contest that day. This is usually held the third Tuesday in May.

Dairy Events. Events focused on dairy education include: dairy judging, dairy quiz bowl, dairy skill-a-thon, dairy poster contest, numerous dairy shows and national 4-H dairy conference.

District Activity Day. Those 4-H'ers advancing from the county level presentation and public speaking contest are able to compete on the district level at District Activity Day. The top winners in each category can compete at the state level contest in Raleigh, NC during 4-H Congress. State winners in sponsored categories receive cash awards. In specific categories, the state-winning seniors may go on to compete at the national level.



District Officers. Candidates for district office must be at least 14 years old and have been an active 4-H member for at least two years. A person may only serve as a district officer once.



Electric Congress. North Carolina 4-H Electric Congress is an educational event designed to recognize excellence in the Electric Program throughout the state. 4-H Electric Congress travels from region to region of the state, thus allowing

for a variety of programming opportunities for everyone. 4-H members participate in workshops, meet their Power Company Representatives, and interact with other electric winners. 4-H'ers must be at least 11 years old to attend. Counties may send two project winners, two cumulative record participants, and one program recruiter. 4-H Electric Congress is usually held during the second week of July.



Horse Events. Events focused on horse education include: Equine Expressive Arts Contests, Horse Bowl, Hippology, Retreats, Horse Judging and Horse Camp.

Horticulture Contest. The Horticulture Contest takes place at State Congress in July. It consists of three parts, a knowledge exam, testing what you know about horticulture, an identification test of flowering annuals, vegetables, woody shrubs and trees and indoor foliage plants, and a judging section that works your skills in determining plant quality.

Livestock Events. Events focused on livestock education include: livestock judging, livestock skill-a-thon, livestock shows and showmanship circuits and the Perry & Doris Teeter 4-H Beef Leadership Institute.



NC 4-H Congress. Held the third week of July, NC 4-H Congress is the culminating 4-H event for the year. The event is geared for teen 4-H'ers ages 13-18; however, junior 4-H'ers may attend part-time if they were named district presentation winners. Congress is held on the campus of NC State University. Activities of the week include: State Fashion Show, State Talent Show, State Presentation Finals, Honor Club Tapping, State-level Hands-to-Service Project, State 4-H Council Officer Elections, Banquets, Dances and more.

NC 4-H Honor Club. A 4-H'er must be 16 years of age or older as of January 1 to apply. Membership is based on a point system involving community service, 4-H activities, leadership and citizenship. Applications are due in the State 4-H Office by January 15.

Poultry Events. Events focused on poultry education include: poultry judging, NC State Fair Turkey Show, poster competition and Poultry Science Summer Institute.

Summer programs. During the months of June and July, Richmond County 4-H offers programs, workshops, events, camps, and more to occupy your summer as you learn and make friends! They are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so check the newsletter!

State Council Conference. This event, held in November each year, is the kick-off event which introduces the new state theme to 4-H members. Workshops and activities, taught by district and state officers, focus on the state theme.

State Fashion Revue. The State Fashion Revue is held annually during NC 4-H Congress who youth who have sewed a garment. You must be a county Fashion Revue winner aged 14 to 19 to advance to state competition. A participant must model the garment.



State Photo Contest. The purpose of the state photo contest is to provide a showcase of 4-H members' photographic accomplishments. The exhibit is unveiled at 4-H Congress in Raleigh, NC each summer. The winning photos are then displayed at selected meetings and events throughout the year until the next Congress.

Teen Retreat. The North Carolina State 4-H Program is divided into six districts: West, West Central, North Central, South Central, Northeast and Southeast. District officers from each district help to plan this district-wide 4-H event. Teen Retreat is generally held in the spring. This leadership building retreat generally offers training and workshops centering around the state 4-H project. 4-H'ers ages 13 to 18 are able to attend.

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program. WHEP is a 4-H youth natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management to junior and senior level youth.



Winter Enrichment. The North Carolina State 4-H Program is divided into six districts: West, West Central, North Central, South Central, Northeast and Southeast. District officers from each district help to plan this district-wide 4-H event. 4-H'ers ages 13 to 18 are able to attend.

Youth Volunteer Awards. District and State 4-H Youth Volunteer Awards are presented at State 4-H Council Conference to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and volunteer service.

NEED MORE INFO! CONTACT LAURA GRIER, 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT, AT THE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT 123 CAROLINA STREET, SUITE 100, ROCKINGHAM, NC 28379, PHONE 997-8255, FAX 997-8257.

Make Sure to visit
<http://richmond.ces.ncsu.edu>
And "Like" us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/richmondcounty4h