

News Column

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Why Join 4-H

Why join 4-H? I think to answer this question you need to have all the information. A little history lesson: 4-H began way back in 1902 when A.B Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio. The first club was called "The Tomato Club" or "The Corn Growing Club." This is considered the birth of 4-H in the United States. " T.A Erickson of Douglas County, Minnesota, started the local agriculture after-school clubs and fairs that same year. Jessie Field Shambaugh developed the clover pin with an H on each leaf in 1910, and by 1912 they were called 4-H clubs. 1914 The Smith-Lever Act created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA and nationalized 4-H. In 1924, 4-H clubs were formed and the clover emblem was adopted. The Cooperative Extension System is a partnership of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 100 land-grant universities and more than 3,000 county offices across the nation. Cooperative Extension combines the expertise and resources of federal, state, and local governments and is designed to meet the need for research, knowledge, and educational programs.

Fast forward to 2022 and into Juab County. 4-H is locally known for agriculture and rich in generational programs. Although we love our livestock youth, 4-H is so, so much more. Today we currently have programing in Leathercraft, Teen Council (leadership), Needlecrafts, Cake Decorating, STEM, Robotics, Art, Cloverbuds, Service, Sewing, Cooking, Music, Jr. Master Gardener, as well as Horse and Livestock programs. We are continually growing and looking for new programing to better serve the youth in our county. The greatest thing about 4-H is that the sky is the limit! Do you want to learn about it? Do you have a passion or talent you would like to learn more about? Come see us! If you can think it up, we can do it.

How do we do it? We couldn't do any of this without the help of our amazing volunteers. We are so fortunate to have talented, fantastic volunteers who take time out of their daily routines to share their love for 4-H and their passions with our youth.

So again we come back to: Why 4-H? Did you know 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. 4-H programs give youth a hands-on approach that guides, gives them the tools and encouragement and then puts them in the driver's seat to make great things happen. Independent research proves the unparalleled impact of the 4-H experience. Today's 4-Hers are four times more likely to give back to their communities, two times more likely to make healthier choices, and two times more likely to participate in STEM activities.

Are you excited? Want to join 4-H? Sign up today! Register at 4h.zsuite.org. Have questions? We are here to help! Come stop by our office or contact us at 435-623-3450.

This information was taken in part from 4-h.org