



## **4-H is.....**

4-H is the largest educational youth organization in the world. Eighty-two countries today have some form of club work. 4-H aims to develop the potential of youth through the involvement of parents and volunteer leaders, who provide young people with a variety of learning experiences within their own communities.

The 4-H Program is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture. In Michigan, 4-H is sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension Service which has offices in all 83 Michigan counties. The USDA, MSU, and Delta County cooperate in making 4-H Youth Programs available to all youth.

4-H members live in the country, or on farms, and in cities and suburbs. In Michigan alone, over 200,000 young people belong to 4-H.

### **The Emblem**

The emblem of 4-H is a four-leaf clover of green, with a white "H" on each leaf. The leaves represent the whole self: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The clover has long been a symbol of well being. It reminds members that throughout life, they can grow, and can continue to achieve. To live is good; to manage one's life well is a gift and an accomplishment.

### **The Colors**

The colors are green and white. Green symbolizes life, growth, and creativity. White symbolizes purity or wholeness.

### **The Motto**

The 4-H Club motto is "To Make the Best Better".

### **The 4-H Club Mission**

4-H is a fun, learn-by-doing, educational program for young people. The mission of Michigan 4-H Youth Development is to create environments, through collaborations, that build strong and healthy youth who are proactive in a complex and changing world. Through their involvement with caring adult volunteers, 4-H members gain meaningful quality of the experiences depends, to a large extent, on the relationships built between and among the young people and adults.

4-H clubs are designed to foster relationships and offer learning experiences over an extended period of time. The unique opportunity for social and personal

development provided through a 4-H club structure is the most effective and efficient way to achieve the mission of 4-H.

### **Outcomes of Participation in 4-H**

Active participation in a 4-H club helps young people develop their assets and life skills. We hope that young people will:

- Greater knowledge and appreciation of themselves and others.
- Decision-making skills.
- Public and interpersonal communication skills.
- Positive interactions with other young people and with adults.
- Responsibility for themselves.
- An ethic of service to group and community.
- An attitude of life-long inquiry and application of information.
- An ability to relate to a constantly changing world.
- Strengthened family interactions.
- Career exploration and workforce preparation skills.
- Leadership skills.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- Greater understanding of and appreciation for diversity.
- Practical knowledge and skills in project areas.
- Positive conflict resolution skills.

Adults involved in 4-H roles as volunteers often grow and develop in the same areas as the youth participants.