

Exploring 4-H

What Is the 4-H Club All About?

Skill Level

Beginner, 4th Grade

Learner Outcomes

The learner will be able to:

- Develop a greater understanding of 4-H by learning the motto, colors, emblem, and pledge.
- Understand that UT and TSU are the land-grant universities that conduct 4-H in Tennessee.
- Understand opportunities that are available for 4-H members.

Educational Standard(s) Supported

4th Grade English/Language Arts

- Speaking and Listening 1
- Speaking and Listening 4

See supplemental information for standard text.

Success Indicator

Learners will be successful if they:

- Identify the 4-H emblem, what the four H's represent, the colors and motto.
- Recite the 4-H pledge.
- Explain what 4-H is to another person.
- Recognize 4-H's relationship with UT and TSU.

Time Needed

10-30 minutes

Materials List

4-H Matching Cards
Student Handout

Introduction to Content

This lesson introduces students to the 4-H program. Students learn about opportunities available to them in the 4-H program including trips, project areas and activities. 4-H members will gain an understanding of the land-grant university system and how the 4-H program is run.

Introduction to Methodology

Students take part in an engaging activity in which they learn facts about the 4-H program in Tennessee. Students then have an opportunity to share with others in their class what they have learned. Students also have an activity sheet they can complete and then share with their parents to provide them with more information on the 4-H program in Tennessee.

Part of the national award-winning Exploring 4-H curriculum.



Terms and Concepts Introduction

Emblem — Symbol, something that visually represents a group or club.

Motto — Rule to live by.

Land-grant University — An institution that has been designated by its state legislature or Congress to receive the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The original mission of these institutions, as set forth in the first Morrill Act, was to teach agriculture, military tactics and the mechanical arts as well as classical studies so that members of the working classes could obtain a liberal, practical education.

Volunteer — Someone who works without getting paid because they care about 4-H or any organization.

Extension Agent — Works for UT or TSU and implements the 4-H program.

Setting the Stage and Opening Questions

In each corner of the room, hang a sign that says the following: “Not a lot,” “a little,” “a lot,” “all the time.” Say the following to the students: *“In just a moment, everyone is going to stand at their desks. I’ll then read a statement, and you are to go to the corner that describes how you feel about that statement. There is a place for all the time, a lot, a little and not at all.”*

Ask students if they have any questions, and answer any that are asked. Read the following statements and allow students to move to their corner.

I like to go camping.

I like to travel to different states.

I like to play with farm animals.

Then say to the students, *“Camping, sheep, the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University are all part of 4-H! Today each of you became a part of the world’s largest youth organization with 7 million members in over 70 different countries. We are going to learn about all of the fun and exciting things you can do in 4-H. 4-H is a program for youth in grades four through 12.”*

Experience

Cut apart and laminate the cards included with this lesson. Hand one card to each student and ask them to find their match. Some students will have more than one match, and some students will only have a single match.

Once the students have found their match(es), ask them to share what they found. Discuss with the class what each match means, or use the questions below to guide a discussion.

What are the 4-H colors? Green and White: Green represents growth and white represents purity.

What is the symbol or emblem of 4-H? A green four-leaf clover with a white H in each leaf

What do the four H’s stand for? Head, heart, hands and health.

Why is it called 4-H? Because there are four H’s on the clover!

What universities conduct the Tennessee 4-H program? UT and TSU

What is the 4-H pledge? (Recite it with the hand gestures.)

I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world!

What activities can you do in 4-H? poster contest, public speaking, demonstration, show an animal, attend 4-H camp

Share

Ask the students the following questions:

What is something that you can learn about in 4-H?

Name one fact you learned today about 4-H.

Process

What are the 4-H colors?

Who is your 4-H agent or volunteer leader?

What is one contest you may enter in 4-H?

Where is one place that you can travel to in 4-H?

Generalize

What excites you about 4-H?

What do you think you might learn by being in 4-H?

Apply

What are you going to tell your parent when you get home and they ask you, "What is 4-H?"

What are you going to do before the next meeting?

Extend Beyond the Classroom

Pass out the student handout and have students complete the activities. Discuss with them that they can use the handout to share what they learned today with others who don't know about 4-H.

References

4-H Youth Development Organization | 4-H. (n.d.). Retrieved from 4-h.org

Life Skill(s) from TIPP for 4-H 4th Grade

- Participate in 4-H club meetings by saying pledges, completing activities, and being engaged. (Head)
- Recite the 4-H pledge from memory. (Head)
- Actively listen to what others are saying; be able to restate or summarize. (Heart)
- Follow Instructions. (Heart)

Supplemental Information

Educational Standards Met and Additional Information

Speaking and Listening 1 — Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on *grade 4 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Speaking and Listening 4 — Report on a topic or text, tell a story or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

4-H Facts for Matching Game

Contests You Can Enter

- Poster
- Demonstration
- Public Speaking

Prizes You Can Win

- Scholarships
- Cash
- Trophies
- Ribbons
- Plaques

Places You Can Travel

- 4-H Camp
- UT Knoxville
- Nashville
- Washington, DC
- Atlanta

4-H Motto

- To make the best better

What the 4 H's Represent

- Head
- Heart
- Hands
- Health

4-H Colors

- Green
- White

Universities that conduct the 4-H program

- University of Tennessee
- Tennessee State University

Animals You Can Show in 4-H

- Cows
- Sheep
- Pigs
- Goats
- Horses
- Chickens
- Dogs
- Rabbits