



# UConn 4-H Fact Sheet



**UConn** | EXTENSION

## What is 4-H?

4-H is the youth development program of UConn Extension. As part of the University of Connecticut, 4-H has access to research-based, age-appropriate information needed to help youth reach their full potential. The mission of 4-H is to assist all youth ages 5-18 in acquiring knowledge, developing leadership and life skills while forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of their families and communities. UConn 4-H programming includes science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), agriculture, civic engagement and healthy living.

According to research by Tufts University 4-H youth and Alumni are:

- 4x more likely to make a positive contribution to their communities
- 3x more likely to participate in community service
- 2x more likely to make healthier choices

## Registration

Youth and volunteers enroll for free in the ZSuite the official 4-H enrollment system of UConn 4-H. Clubs may have additional enrollment forms and may have nominal club dues and/or project fees.

## Club Opportunities

4-H members are given the opportunity to learn and practice decision making in group situations. Members are expected to attend their club's gatherings, and parents are commonly encouraged to attend as well. There are generally two types of club gatherings. However, each club is unique and there are many ways a club might decide to structure their meetings.

- Club meetings: Members plan and carry out what they want to do as a group.
- Project Meetings: Members work together on their projects.

# County Opportunities

In 4-H, Counties put on meetings, facilitate learning opportunities and most importantly support the annual 4-H Fair. Engagement at the County level ensures 4-H members are aware of all the opportunities in 4-H.

- Fair
- Camp
- County Meetings
- Workshops (Food Show, Public Speaking, Leadership Training)

# State Opportunities

UConn 4-H provides countless opportunities for youth to connect at Statewide events that run through the Spring and Fall

- Statewide Project Days
- 4-H Day at the Capitol
- UConn 4-H State Council
- State Volunteer Awards & Recognition

# Regional & National Opportunities

Through Regional and National partnerships, UConn 4-H can provide youth with 'Next Level' experience to shape their learning to become Beyond Ready

- Northeast Region Speak-Up Fest
- New England 4-H Programs at The Big E
- National 4-H Award Trips
- National Judging Teams

# A UConn 4-H Member in Good Standing

A UConn 4-H member in good standing meets the following guidelines:

- Completes the annual ZSuite enrollment
- UConn 4-H members must be at least 5 years and not 19 years of age on January 1st of the project year
- Selects projects for in-depth study
- Records what they learn (record books)
- Attends meetings regularly (if a member of an organized group) and is an active participant
- Completes a community service project (or becomes involved in a group community service project)
- Promotes/participates in county fundraising
- Participates in some form of public presentation
- Has projects evaluated

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Adapted from <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-club-resources/docs/4-HNewFamilyGuide.pdf>

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