Step 5

Keeping the Club Strong

Helpful Hints

- Get to know all 4-H curriculum possibilities for your project areas
- Conduct regular organizational and project meetings
- Establish good youth-adult partnerships
- Allow youth to make decisions
- Establish good communication network with club members and families
- Share information about current 4-H events and opportunities
- Involve club members in county, district, state, national and international 4-H activities
- Recognize achievement
- Build community relationships with other organizations
- Seek and receive support from 4-H staff, other 4-H leaders and alumni

What is 4-H?
Who can Join?

4-H is a hands on, fun program of learning for all children between the ages of 5 and 19. It offers young people the opportunity to develop new interests, make new friends, practice decision-making skills, and develop   leadership abilities. 4 – H is the largest youth development organization in the United States. Adult volunteers give their time and talent to make 4-H clubs hap-pen.

In Bath County, most 4-H'ers belong to in-school clubs with two primary officer positions. We would love to create more 4-H opportunity with community clubs where youth can learn to elect officers, conduct meetings, complete 4-H projects, plan programs and participate in community service and other activities.

If 4-H sounds interesting to you or your friends, please contact the office and we can help you get started!

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Bath County Office
Kari Sponaugle, Associate 4-H Agent
65 Courthouse Hill Rd, PO Box 357
Warm Springs, VA 24484
Phone: (540) 839-7261
Email: karis@vt.edu
Websites: www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h
http://offices.ext.vt.edu/bath

Start a 4-H Club
In
Bath County

5 Easy Steps

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Step 1

Getting Started

- Contact the Bath County 4-H office, 540-839-7261

- Tell us your interest in 4-H and your needs

- You will be invited to come to the 4-H office to talk about 4-H possibilities and the leader training process.

- Attend leader training (two 2 hour sessions with other interested adult volunteers and the 4-H agent and staff)
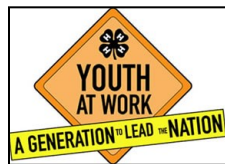
Step 2

Tell the 4-H Story

- Tell families in your community about 4-H— you might hold an informational meeting with help from the 4-H staff.

- Tell the opportunities available through 4-H.

- Explain how a 4-H club operates.

- Use 4-H materials to educate. You can get these from the 4-H office.

Step 3

Create a Strong Support Base for Your 4-H Club

· Recruit adult volunteers and teens to help organize the 4-H Club
- Ask people directly to take specific jobs in the club
- Explain the roles of adult volunteers:
- Organizational Leaders
    - Assistant Leaders
    - Project Leaders
    - Activity Leaders
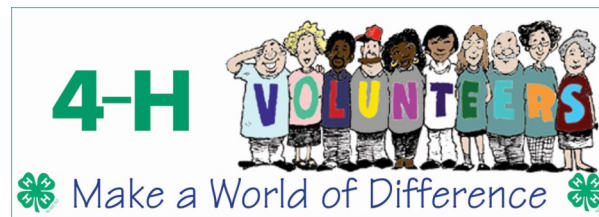
4-H Pledge:
*I Pledge My **Head** to clearer thinking,*
*My **Heart** to Greater Loyalty,*
*My **Hands** to larger service and*
*My **Health** to better living,*
*For my **club**, my **community**, my **country** and my **world**.*
4-H Motto: *"To Make the Best Better"*

Step 4

Conduct 4-H Club Organization Meetings

- Encourage members to select a club name

- Establish meeting times and location

- Complete enrollment forms

- Develop a club annual plan

- Organize project groups

- Discuss club rules and by-laws

- Elect club officers

- Form committees

- Have Fun!