

The 4-H Organization

In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service. The Extension Service was an organization, which linked the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Land-grant Colleges. The purpose of the Extension Service is to take research based information to the citizens of the state.

“Cooperative” refers to funding received from multiple sources: federal, state, and county government.

The land-grant colleges in Mississippi include Mississippi State University and Alcorn State University.

1. Education – to teach students who enroll in college.
2. Research – the process of scientific investigation.
3. Extension – to extend information and assistance to people across Mississippi through Mississippi State University Extension Service and Alcorn Cooperative Extension Program.

In the beginning, 4-H was a means for reaching adults, through their children, with improved home and farm practices. In 1902, the first Boys’ Clubs were established, quickly followed by Girls’ Clubs. In 1914, the Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs became a part of the Extension Service.

The clover and H’s were adopted as the emblem in 1911. The four H’s represent Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The following descriptions can be found in the 4-H club opening ceremony. For what is the ____ trained?

Head:	“To think, to plan, to reason.”
Heart:	“To be kind, to be true, to be sympathetic.”
Hands:	“To be useful, to be helpful, to be skillful.”
Health:	“To resist disease, to enjoy life, to make for efficiency.”

In 1927, the 4-H Club Pledge and Motto were adopted. In 1970, the words “and my world” were added to the 4-H pledge.

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.

THE 4-H MOTTO: "To Make the Best Better"

4-H is the youth development component of Mississippi State University Extension Service and Alcorn Cooperative Extension Program. Three other program areas include: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Enterprise and Community Resource Development. Mississippi State University Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability, or veteran status.

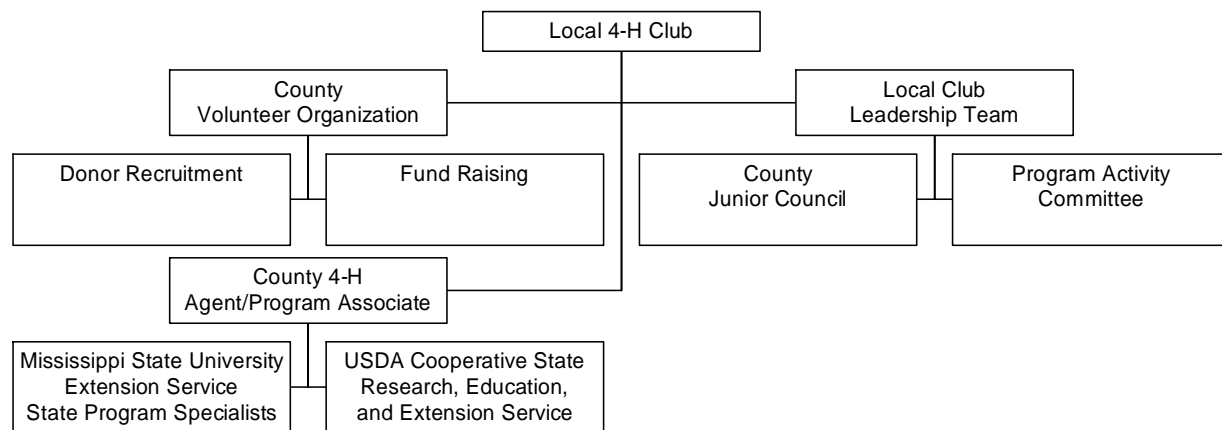
4-H is the largest youth serving organization in the world. 4-H is available in all 50 states and more than 80 countries worldwide.

Mississippi 4-H members are youth between the ages of 5-18. Five to eight year olds are referred to as Cloverbuds. Cloverbuds is a non-competitive program. The primary purpose of 4-H is education and youth development.

Youth Development and education is achieved through:
Individual project work

- Local clubs – group of youth who meet on a regular basis for fun and learning.
- County, district and state activities and events – educational programs and competitive events. The competitive events are conducted to provide one form of evaluation and motivation for an individual's project work.
- Short-term and Special Interest programs – directed at a specific need and interest for the time required to achieve the objective.
- School Enrichment – programs designed to supplement school curriculums.

Organizational Structure of the Local 4-H Club



Leadership Structure of a Local 4-H Club

- **Organizational Leader** – provides the primary leadership for the 4-H club. They coordinate, guide, and provide leadership for the local club. Their most important role is to encourage, involve, and develop other volunteers.
- **Activity Leader** – provide leadership for planning and coordinating an activity through a committee of youth and adults. (Talent Contest, Picnic, Service-Learning Project, etc.)
- **Project Leader** – provide the leadership in learning and educating members in a specific subject matter.
- **Teen Leader** – assist local leadership, as skills are acquired may serve as an activity, project, and organizational leader.
- **Membership and families** – actively participate in club meetings, committees, and activities. Share time, talents, and skills with the club.



Important People

4-H Volunteers & Parents

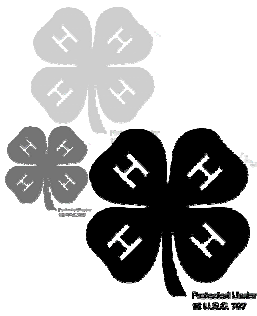
The Mississippi 4-H Program is committed to providing County Volunteer Training on the local, county, district and state levels. The training opportunities provide individuals with positive social interaction with their peers and an opportunity to exchange ideas. For your personal development and 4-H skill enhancement watch your county newsletter for details and check out the Mississippi 4-H home page at www.msucares.com for district and state opportunities .



Mississippi State University Extension Service
4-H Youth Development
[www.http://msucares.com](http://www.msucares.com)

4-H Volunteers needed to

- **Create a learning environment for youth and adults**
- **Structure learning experiences for youth and adults**
- **Help the learner interact with the information**



Review Questions Unit 1A

Name _____ County _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Club _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Date Completed _____

A minimum of three (3) 4-H Volunteer Self Study Lessons may be completed as one of the three necessary trainings required to maintain active status as a Certified 4-H Volunteer. The completed review questions from each lesson must be filed annually by the date specified by your county office.

What is the purpose of Mississippi State University Extension Service?

What does "cooperative" refer to in the title, Cooperative Extension service?

What do the four H's represent in the 4-H emblem?

What is the 4-H club motto?

What are the four program areas of Mississippi State University Extension Service?

What is the enrollment age for Mississippi 4-H members? _____ years old

True or false, Cloverbuds is a competitive 4-H program. _____ True _____ False

What is the **primary purpose** for 4-H?

List three ways youth development and education are achieved through 4-H.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Local Clubs feed into four other branches of the 4-H Structure, please list.

