

ESSENTIAL

MASTERY

GENEROSITY



BELONGING

INDEPENDENCE

ELEMENTS

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF 4-H

Mastery
Generosity
Belonging
Independence



In the beginning...

Georgia 4-H began in 1904 when Newton County school superintendent, G.C. Adams, organized an agricultural corn club for boys in Covington, Ga.

While Georgia is one of several states that claims to be the birthplace of 4-H, the reality is 4-H didn't start at any one time or place. Many movements were happening just after the turn of the century. The organization that emerged was the result of the work of many people in different parts of the United States who were concerned about young people.

The concepts of youth and adults working together to learn and grow, of providing young people with hands-on learning experiences, of taking research and making it useful, practical and accessible and of creating an environment where students are safe and supported were all part of the early years of 4-H. Those characteristics of 4-H marked our beginning, and they still provide the basis for all we do today.



In 1904, G.C. Adams, Newton County school superintendent, organized the first Agricultural Corn Club in Georgia for boys in Covington with 150 members.

NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE CENTER

Welcome
to the
National 4-H
Conference



WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a very large and successful youth development institution. The four Hs symbolize the development of the **HEAD** (to think, plan and reason), the **HEART** (to be concerned with the welfare of others, accept the responsibility of citizenship and develop positive attitudes), the **HANDS** (to be useful, helpful and skillful) and **HEALTH** (to practice healthy living, enjoy life and use time wisely).

4-H is a major partner in education. Lessons taught, experiences shared and information presented in 4-H is based on the research of the University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University.

A national research impact assessment project revealed that four elements are essential to positive youth development. They are **MASTERY, GENEROSITY, BELONGING** and **INDEPENDENCE**. We have adopted this research and consider these areas to be the essential elements of 4-H.

WHERE IS 4-H?



University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is a successful, grassroots-based deliverer of informal education in every community of Georgia. 4-H is the youth component of Extension. 4-H can be found in:

- County Extension offices,
- School classrooms and school programs,
- Community clubs and homes, and
- Everywhere else in Georgia, from the forest to the field.

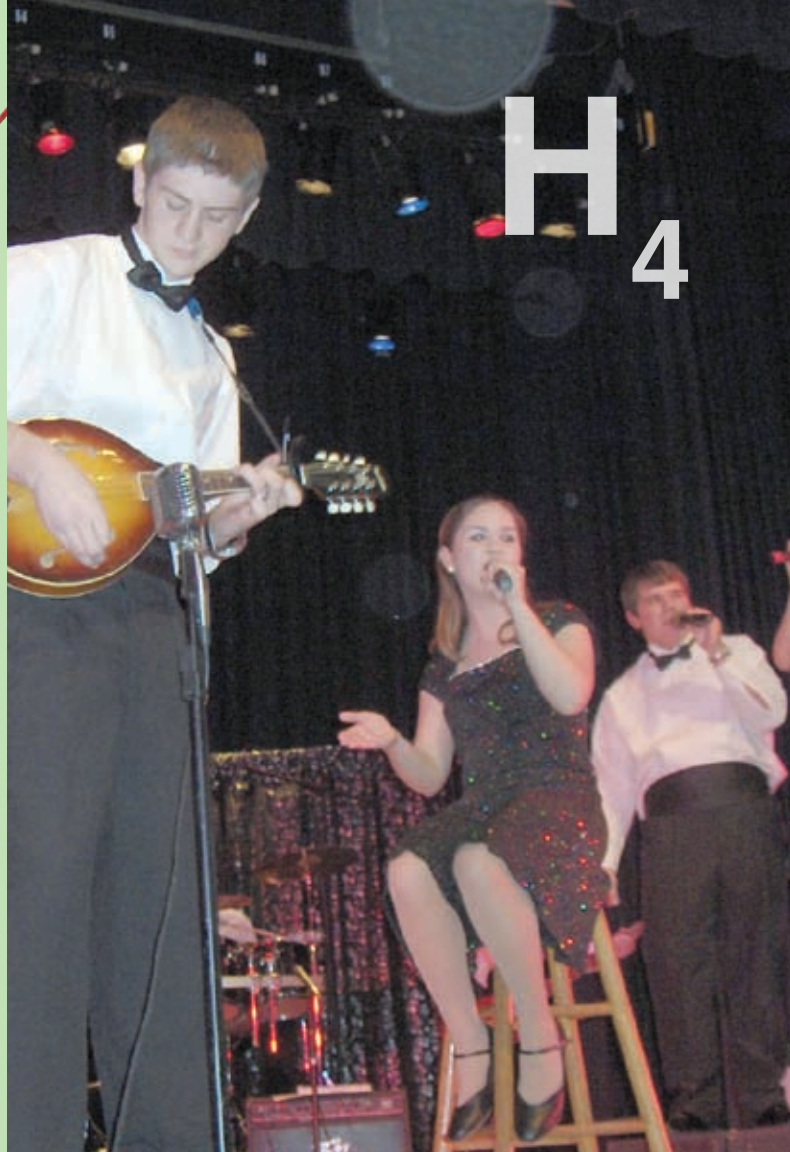


As a part of the educational system of our state, 4-H is university approved and research based. Its curriculum is designed for local use.

Georgia 4-H reaches approximately 200,000 young people each year. These youth are diverse (48 percent of minority races) and come from all areas of the state (33 percent rural, 23 percent small towns, 43 percent cities and suburbs).

4-H is part of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and relies on the support of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the USDA, the National 4-H Council and Georgia counties.

4-H is the only youth program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture and life sciences, home economics, human development and related areas that result from land-grant university research. The foundation of 4-H is in the practical application of the land-grant university knowledge by youth in their communities.



H 4



By involvement in 4-H projects, programs and activities, young people master skills needed to make career and life choices. 4-H provides research-based content to students, opportunities to learn by doing and access to a variety of programs. These experiences help prepare each generation for the workplace, and for life.



MASTERY



SEA MONKEYS

Using oranges to track contaminated ocean water, 4-H'ers in Glynn County did more than just play around in their community—they made a difference. “I had no idea we would do more than just gather facts for local scientists,” said Nathan Potts, one of the high school 4-H'ers who call themselves the Sea Monkeys. “We became the scientists.” Working with local environmental scientists, they

used oranges to track the flow of tidal streams. Based on the group's findings, environmental scientists focused their searches and found enterococcal bacteria sources. The Sea Monkeys found an unexpected source: dog feces on the beaches. They mounted an intensive public education campaign to turn that “brown tide” around.



Community service helps create a sense of belonging and sparks students' growth of generosity, giving them a sense that lives have meaning and purpose. It helps them become responsible, productive and contributing citizens.

Community service, state and national experiences and international perspectives combine to allow youth an experience that links them to the world and cultivates awareness, compassion and connections. It is this attitude of generosity that will help them make life better for their children and those around them.





OPERATION BOILED PEANUTS

Through funds they raised, in 2005 Georgia 4-H'ers sent two tons of Georgia boiled peanuts — or 4,800 bags — to the 4,300 soldiers of the Georgia National Guard's 48th Brigade stationed in Iraq. The seed of the project was planted when Clark Rountree, a specialist with the 48th, called his mother, Patricia Anderson. He had a

hankering for his favorite homegrown snack and wanted a few to share with his comrades in Iraq. From collecting donations to organizing events, each county 4-H club did something different to raise money for Operation Boiled Peanuts.



A sense of belonging may be the single most powerful ingredient in the lives of children and youth, according to various research. Young people will seek groups to belong to, and Georgia 4-H provides accessible, safe and positive options for belonging.



BELONGING



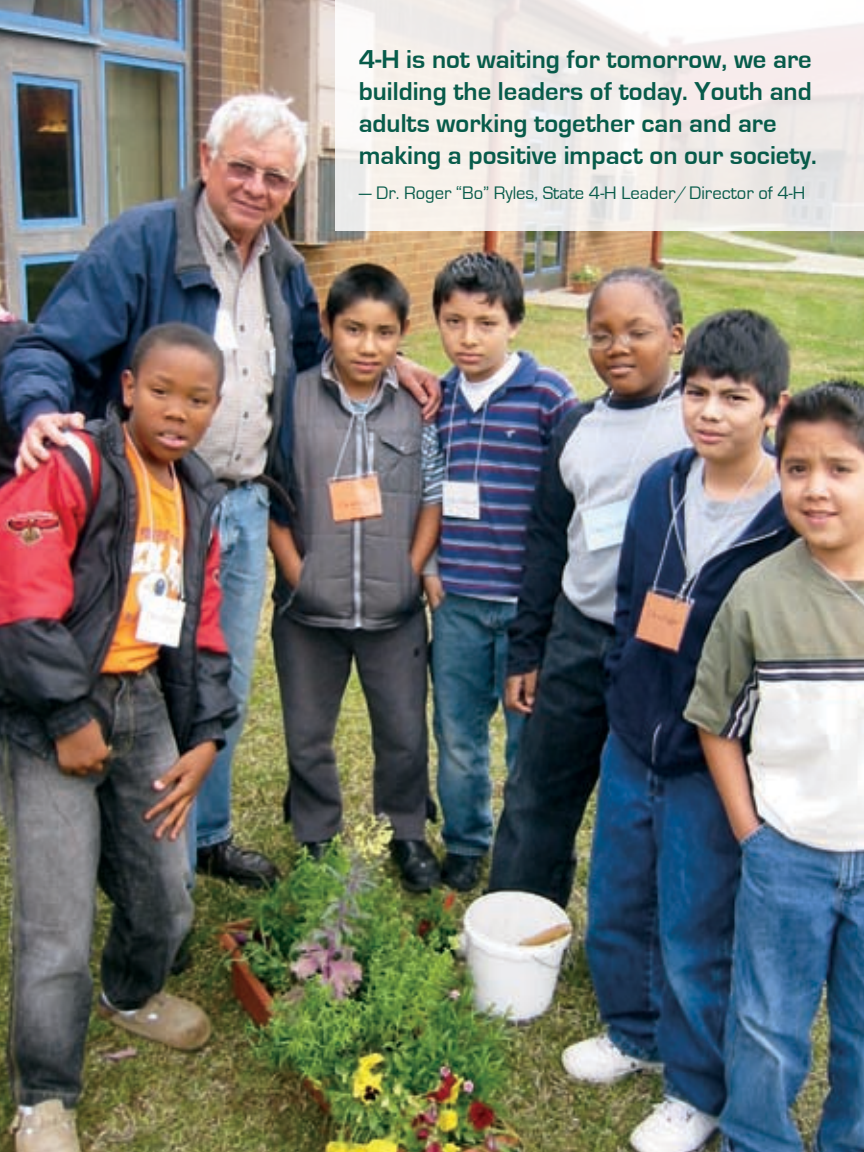
OPERATION MILITARY KIDS

Whether their parents are deployed or they're learning to adjust to having them home, military kids live a little differently than many of their friends. And Georgia 4-H has programs just for them. "Operation 4-H: Joint Forces at the Falls" is a week of 4-H camp

designed just for military kids. Hero Packs, the second Operation Military Kids program, is a service-learning project that pairs Georgia 4-H'ers with military kids across the state.

4-H is not waiting for tomorrow, we are building the leaders of today. Youth and adults working together can and are making a positive impact on our society.

— Dr. Roger “Bo” Ryles, State 4-H Leader/ Director of 4-H



Creating and providing experiences for students to develop skills and build

confidence are found in every component of 4-H, but especially when it comes to independence. For youth to be prosperous and successful, independent thinking is an essential element.

As the premier youth leadership development organization in Georgia, 4-H helps build independence by building leaders. As a partner with UGA's J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership and the 60 land grant institutions across the U.S., 4-H has some of the best minds in the nation training its students. But 4-H is not just teaching

leadership; it also offers opportunities for students to experience and practice it.



INDEPENDENCE



GEORGIA YOUTH SUMMIT

In 2006, over 650 participants from 133 Georgia counties gathered at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, Ga., to participate in the Third Biennial Georgia Youth Summit. Sponsored by the Georgia Rural Development Council and organized by Georgia 4-H, the summit's goal was to create awareness of local and state issues, enhance youth-adult partnerships on the local

level and equip youth to better their communities. While attending the summit, participants focused on health, safety, education and community development. After a series of workshops, assemblies and team building activities, student teams from each county used this information to formulate a plan of action to address an issue facing their community.

The future...

Georgia is growing rapidly. Youth are facing critical challenges. 4-H and the universities it represents have the experience and resources to continue positively impacting and educating Georgia's students. A combination of local, state and federal resources are needed to support 4-H, but the organization also depends on other support from both the public and private individuals.

4-H will provide experiences that inspire youth to feel a sense of personal responsibility, are equipped to lead our communities and are skilled in building our economy while protecting our environment.

Please voice your support for positive youth development and 4-H education to your elected officials and seek ways to personally support youth through 4-H. The four essential elements of MASTERY, GENEROSITY, BELONGING and INDEPENDENCE will be part of every 4-H program. Please support 4-H and help us as we prepare future generations to build up our communities, our state and our nation.





VALUES

VISION

MISSION

PARTNER

Our youth learn values through programs in agriculture, citizenship, communication, environment, family and consumer sciences and leadership.

Our vision is a world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysis for positive change.

Our mission is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing citizens.

Georgia 4-H, a partner in public education, is youth and adults learning, growing and working together to experience and accomplish the extraordinary.



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences



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