Introduction to 4-H

I Pledge... My Head, Heart, Hands and Health
Welcome to Georgia 4-H!

I’m Arch the Dawg, and we are glad to have you as a part of the University of Georgia’s youngest students. You have many great opportunities ahead in Georgia 4-H, so let’s get started as you learn to pledge your Head, Heart, Hands and Health to your Club, Community, Country and World! In 2014, we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act. Look for good, descriptive text in the pages ahead to help you learn why this was an important celebration. Our journey together will help you learn that through 4-H we can “Make the Best Better.” Congratulations on the beginning of a terrific experience!

Georgia 4-H is a partner in public education and strives to incorporate standards in the educational materials produced for in-school use. The following standards are correlated to content delivery included in this publication’s introduction to Georgia 4-H:

- **ELAGSE5RL4**: Interpret information presented in diverse media formats, including visually, quantitatively, orally, and in writing.
- **ELAGSE6SL1**: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- **ELAGSE6SL2**: Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media formats, including visually, quantitatively, orally, and in writing.
- **CM3.K4** Government and Public Administration
- **CM3.K4** Marketing

Think Green! Not just 4-H Green…but let’s help do our part to recycle and reuse. Save this book, reseed it or pass it along to a friend. If it’s too worn, please recycle it.

When most of Georgia was farmland and most Georgians made their living on the farm, Mr. G.C. Adams, school superintendent in Newton County, dreamed of a place for young boys to learn all they needed to about their future career in farming.

To help his students prepare for the future, Mr. Adams began the first Georgia Boys Corn Clubs in 1904. In this early club, boys planted and cared for their crop, and exhibited it in the fair. Just southeast of Newton County, another milestone in Georgia 4-H history was growing. Like the boys in Newton County, the girls of Hancock County wanted an opportunity to be part of an educational club and thus the Girls Tomato Canning Club began in 1908. The girls grew tomatoes in their family vegetable gardens and canned them for competition.

Soon boys and girls all over Georgia were joining corn and tomato canning clubs and the beginning of what we now call Georgia 4-H was on its way

As a result of innovative methods learned through the Boys Corn Clubs and Girls Tomato Canning Clubs, the corn and tomato yield increased for families.

In 1914, an important event in our nation’s history happened: Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service. Cooperative Extension is the service part of the University of Georgia.

We can thank Senator Hoke Smith from Georgia and Representative Ashbury Lever from South Carolina for their creativity and work to bring a new kind of “teacher” – a County Extension Agent – to each county in our state.

As a result of the legislation, the Boys Corn Club and the Girls Tomato Canning Clubs came together to form the first 4-H club. The Smith-Lever Act affords someone representing the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Science Cooperative Extension to bring 4-H education programs to your school.

Just like Mr. Adams used information from the university to help his boys learn, we will be doing that too. Today, you can go home and tell your parents that you are a student of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and a member of Georgia 4-H!

Georgia 4-H has expanded and grown since our beginnings more than one hundred years ago. We have many learning opportunities and projects with agricultural and science topics, and we also have opportunities in other areas like the environment, citizenship, leadership, family and consumer science, and, of course, communication!
Your community is your first stop for 4-H. During club meetings, you will explore and learn about different 4-H activities, receive announcements about upcoming 4-H events and get to know your fellow 4-H'ers!

Get started by filling in the blanks below.

I belong to ___________________________ 4-H. There are _____ members in my 4-H club.

My 4-H leaders are ___________________________________________.

Learning more about 4-H

--- Important Information to Know and Understand ---

**Motto**

The 4-H motto is almost as old as the club itself. For more than 100 years, 4-H'ers have worked to "Make the Best Better." Will you join the effort to "Make the Best Better" through your 4-H experience?

**Slogan**

"Learn by Doing." You will have many opportunities to "Learn by Doing" through your 4-H experience!

4-H Colors

4-H colors are green and white. For many years, 4-H'ers wore uniforms in competition. Today, 4-H'ers do not wear uniforms but do proudly wear the colors of green and white and display the 4-H emblem.

The 4-H Pledge

A pledge is a promise. The 4-H pledge was written in 1927 by Otis Hall from Kansas. Even though 4-H has changed since then, the pledge still stands as a commitment for 4-H'ers to do their best. 4-H leaders often have you say the pledge at 4-H meetings, events and activities. Learn the pledge and say it with pride!

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 LEARN BY DOING

Cloverleaf 4-H'ers have an opportunity to get involved in your school and community with your County 4-H program. This means you will attend 4-H meetings, learn how Science, Nutrition and Technology relate to your life, have a chance to improve your English Language Arts skills by participating in project presentations, be part of Community Service and Service Learning activities in your community and even go to one of Georgia's five 4-H centers for 4-H Environmental Education or Summer Camp! You will learn more about 4-H Summer Camp later this year.

Like you, many young people throughout our state have gotten their 4-H start in a school club meeting. Let's learn more about 4-H from these two outstanding 4-H alumni:

Meet Hamp Thomas from Chattooga County:

1. How Did You Become Interested in Georgia 4-H? I was fortunate to have been born into a 4-H family. My older brothers were active 4-H'ers and my mother is an Extension Agent. From a very early age I observed the hundreds of opportunities which were provided, and I could not wait until it was my time to participate. To be honest, I think 4-H found me.

2. Beyond your initial interest in 4-H, what hooked you on Georgia 4-H? As a cloverleaf 4-H'er, I participated in livestock projects by showing lambs and in the 4-H SAFE (Shooting Awareness Fun and Education) program as a member of the BB Team. These opportunities allowed me to meet new friends, learn showmanship, sportsmanship, and team work. However, District Project Achievement is what really got me hooked on Georgia 4-H. District Project Achievement or DPA as we refer to it, allowed me to speak on a topic I was passionate about and I learned how to use my voice.

3. What advice do you have for any fourth or fifth grader reading this Friends magazine about the opportunity to be in 4-H? 4-H is life changing! It unlocks opportunities inside yourself to discover your talents, passions and desires. Through 4-H, you can attend one of Georgia's five 4-H camps, see a living coast line at Tybee Island, learn how to care for animals at the Fortson farm, discover the pioneer life at Wahsega, walk through the marshes of Jekyll Island, or see the Rock Eagle effigy mound and the largest 4-H center in the world. 4-H has offered me lifelong friendships that I will always cherish. It helped me discover a career interest, travel, and gave me the opportunity to give back to my community.

4. What are your future plans? I am now a student attending the University of Georgia. I am pursuing a degree in Applied Biotechnology. I hope to use my education to work toward solving the major food deficit facing the world.

5. How did 4-H equip you to follow your dreams as you pursue your future plans? I often say if life is a highway then 4-H is where I learned to drive. 4-H offers a safe environment to learn and make mistakes. This amazing youth organization gives youth a platform of life skills to build their own story. Team work, decision making, communicating, critical thinking, attention to detail, determination, giving back to my community through service and leadership are all skills that I acquired through 4-H. I attribute who I am today to my 4-H experience and I plan to continue to use the skills I learned to impact my club, my community, my country, and my world!

Meet Sophia Rodriguez from Liberty County:

1. How did you become interested in Georgia 4-H? My first taste of 4-H was through a leadership conference that my school attended called, Step Up and Lead! I had never before been surrounded by so many thoughtful and genuine adults. The environment was so encouraging and all I learned contributed to my interest in 4-H.

2. Beyond your initial interest in 4-H, what hooked you on Georgia 4-H? Going to 4-H summer camp for the first time sparked my love for 4-H into a raging passion! Those five days changed my life, and I still keep in touch with my counselors from all those years ago.

3. What advice do you have for any fourth or fifth grader reading this Friends magazine about the opportunity to be in 4-H? In 4-H there is a place for everyone no matter who you are, what you like, or where you live, you can thrive and make your dreams a reality through 4-H. Some of the people you meet through 4-H will be your friends for life!

4. What are your future plans? I want to be a leader, whether that be a senator or the president of the United States, and I want to contribute to the world's brightest tomorrow!

5. How did 4-H equip you to follow your dreams as you pursue your future plans? Not only has 4-H given me the resources and support to follow my dreams, it has embodied me unapologetically be myself and push myself outside of my comfort zone. I’ve traveled across the nation and met people from all parts of the world because of 4-H, and I know that I can do anything I set my mind to because 4-H has proved to me, time and time again, that I truly am the best person to be!

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Did you know that County Extension Agents and Staff are considered careers in Government and Public Administration? Government 6-Public Administration careers include jobs at every level of government from local to state to national. Senator Hoke Smith and Representative Ashby Lever made a significant contribution to our country when they developed the legislation to create the Cooperative Extension Service. These Cooperative Extension workers are part of local, state and federal government and work to bring the knowledge and practical application of the research from the University of Georgia to your community.

What other careers can you name that are part of the Government and Public Administration cluster?
WHERE ARE YOU INVOLVED IN 4-H TODAY?

You just learned about our 4-H motto, slogan and pledge – and heard from two 4-H alumni, now let's take a look at where 4-H is in our great state!

Use the key to know which icon to place to represent the following places on the Georgia map.

- We cover the state with the 4-H program, can you find your 4-H club in your community, known as your county? Place a star on the Georgia map to note your county and the 4-H club where you are a member.
- Georgia 4-H is a part of the University of Georgia. Can you find the University's main campus? When you find it, place the UGA Arch on the Georgia map.
- Locate the five 4-H centers, also known as University of Georgia campuses, around our state. The five 4-H centers can be found from the Georgia map.
- We cover the state with the 4-H program, can you find your 4-H club in your community, known as your county? Place a star on the Georgia map.
 Definitions

Yield ________________________ rapid progress of events
Senator ________________________ to produce by a natural process or cultivation
Legislation ________________________ the act of making or enacting laws
Movement ________________________ to make greater, as in number, size, strength or quality
Increase ________________________ a title of respect given to a person who is or has been a member of the Senate
University ________________________ an institution of learning of the highest level
Representative ________________________ a person who represents a community in the legislature
County Extension Agent / 4-H Program Assistant ________________________ representatives from the University of Georgia who work with youth in their county.
Agriculture ________________________ the science, art or occupation concerned with cultivating land, raising crops, and feeding, breeding and raising livestock; farming
Environment ________________________ the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time.

*Definitions for this learning activity are based on entries from www.dictionary.com

Thank you for taking time to review this publication with your child. Please help your 4-H leader know that you have learned more about Georgia 4-H with your child.

____________________________________________________                                      ______________________
Parent/Guardian Signature                                                                   Date

Georgia Standards, www.doe.k12.ga.us; Lowry, R. Research Notes for Georgia 4-H History.
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. (1985) 4-H Exploring Series.
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