



# Friends

## Introduction to 4-H

**I Pledge... My Head, Heart, Hands and Health**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
EXTENSION





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## 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:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

**ELAGSE5RI2:** Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

**ELAGSE5SL2:** Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

**ELAGSE6RI3:** Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).

**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:** Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text or issue under study.

**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, reread it or pass it along to a friend. If it's too worn, please recycle it.





# THE STORY OF GEORGIA 4-H

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 students learn, we will be doing that too.

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!

1. Who is credited with starting the Boys Corn Clubs that later became Georgia 4-H?
2. What do you think it means to increase yield in a crop? Why would that be important for a farmer?
3. If the Smith-Lever Act was passed by Congress in 1914, how long has this legislation be in existence?
4. Explain why the Smith-Lever Act was an important piece of legislation.

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# 4-H IN YOUR COMMUNITY



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

In addition to our motto, 4-H also has a 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.



## SPOTLIGHT ON CAREERS

Did you know that County Extension Agents and Staff are considered careers in Government and Public Administration? Government & Public Administration careers include jobs at every level of

government from local to state to national. Senator Hoke Smith and Representative Ashbury 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 county, state, or federal government?



## 4-H LEARN BY DOING

Elementary age 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 and have a chance to put your English Language Arts skills into practice through presenting a project.

Check out this video to learn more about Georgia 4-H <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELdu5xOphQY>

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 they were provided, and I could not wait until it was my time to participate. To be honest, I think 4-H found me.

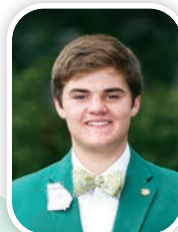
**2. Beyond your initial interest in 4-H, what hooked you on Georgia 4-H?** As a cloverleaf 4-H'er, I participated in livestock projects by showing lambs and in the 4-H SAFE (Shooting Awareness Fun and Education) program as a member of the BB Team. These opportunities allowed me to meet new friends, 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!

– **Hamp Thomas, 4-H Alumnus, Chattooga County**



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 emboldened me to 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 who I truly am is the best person to be!

– **Sophia Rodriguez, 4-H Alumna, Liberty County**

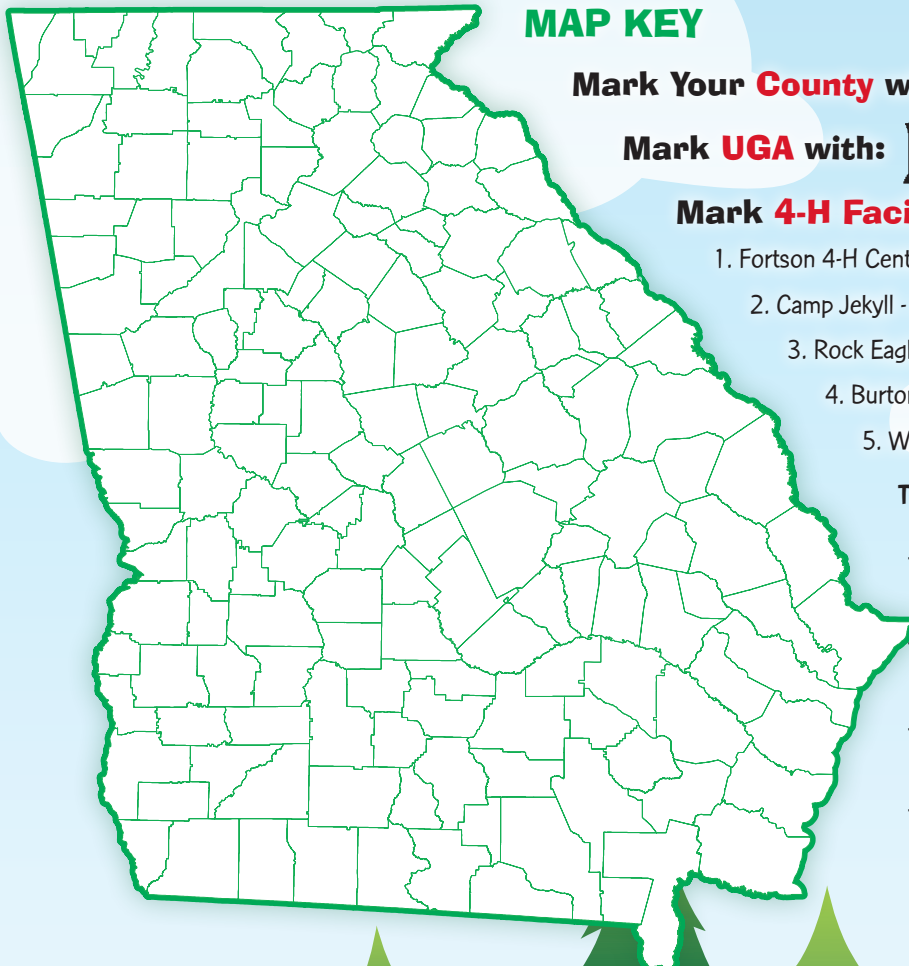


# WHERE ARE YOU INVOLVED IN 4-H TODAY?

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 mountains of north Georgia all the way to Georgia's coast. Place a 4-H emblem at each location on the map where you would find a 4-H center.



## MAP KEY

Mark Your **County** with:



Mark **UGA** with:



Mark **4-H Facilities** with:



1. Fortson 4-H Center - Hampton, GA
2. Camp Jekyll - Jekyll Island, GA
3. Rock Eagle 4-H Center - Eatonton, GA
4. Burton 4-H Center - Tybee Island, GA
5. Wahsega 4-H Center - Dahlonega, GA

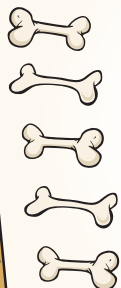
To contact your County Extension office call

\_\_\_\_\_ or email \_\_\_\_\_

Your County Extension Office is located at \_\_\_\_\_

County 4-H is a great part of Georgia 4-H! Welcome to you, our newest **4-H star**!

In \_\_\_\_\_ County 4-H'ers can:





# THE 4-H TIMELINE

A timeline is a sequence of related events arranged in chronological order. Take note of the special occurrences that happened in our rich 100+ year Georgia 4-H history, and then find your special place along the Georgia 4-H timeline.

➤ **1904** – G.C. Adams, Newton County school superintendent, organized the first Agricultural Corn Club in Georgia for boys in Covington with 151 members.



In **1933**, Georgia started the first Wildlife Conservation Camp.

**1904** – P.D. Johnson, a black teacher in Newton County, started the Negro 4-H program at the same time with a corn demonstration garden for sons and fathers who wanted to learn modern corn production practices.

➤ In **1935** the Georgia Master 4-H Club was organized. The first meeting was held at Camp Wilkins with 200 members present.



In **1914**, the Smith-Lever Act was passed, which established the Cooperative Extension Service. By 1915, Georgia had 5,507 club girls and 14,275 club boys.



By **1937**, Georgia had county agents working in every county and the 4-H enrollment had grown to 82,962.



◀ **1937** – Georgia 4-H opened their mountain camp, Wahsega. Wahsega 4-H Center is still a part of Georgia 4-H camping and environmental education today.

In **1943**, Georgia 4-H'ers sold enough War Bonds to buy a \$2,000,000 Liberty Ship, the SS Hoke Smith, and grew food to fill it.



◀ In **1946**, Tybee became a 4-H camp and in 2002 Tybee Island 4-H Center became Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island.

➤ In **1948**, the Georgia 4-H Club Foundation was organized to help further 4-H work in the state. Each 4-H member was asked to donate one dozen eggs to the Foundation during 1949. By year's end there was \$7,000 in the bank.



➤ In **1951** Construction began on Rock Eagle near Eatonton, Georgia. Bill Sutton raised \$2.5 million to build the center on a 1,400 acre tract of land. The center was dedicated October 30, 1954.



**1955** – Rock Eagle 4-H camp opened. Today, it is the largest 4-H center in the country, hosting 4-H'ers, students and adults year round for 4-H camp, environmental education and conferences.



◀ In **1979**, 4-H Environmental Education began at Georgia's 4-H Centers with Diane Davies as the coordinator.



◀ In **1981**, Clovers & Company was founded to provide our musically talented 4-H'ers the opportunity to share with others the life and vitality of 4-H.



◀ In **1982**, Georgia 4-H welcomed our second beach camp. Jekyll 4-H Center opened.

In **1990**, Rock Eagle 4-H Center was renovated and rededicated and the Georgia National Fair began in Perry, GA. More than 10,000 campers attend 4-H camp in five facilities in Georgia.

➤ In **2004**, Georgia 4-H in partnership with the Fortson 4-H Camp board, opened Fortson 4-H Center. In **2015**, the Fortson 4-H board gifted the Fortson 4-H Center to Georgia 4-H.



In **2013**, Georgia 4-H Environmental Education celebrated the millionth participant. In **2019**, Georgia 4-H celebrated 40 years of Environmental Education.

**Today**, Georgia 4-H has over 190,000 members. As you think about the timeline above highlighting the anniversary of the Smith-Lever legislation, the millionth student attending 4-H Environmental Education programs, and the more than one hundred year history of 4-H in our state and country can you create a marketing message to summarize all of these great happenings?

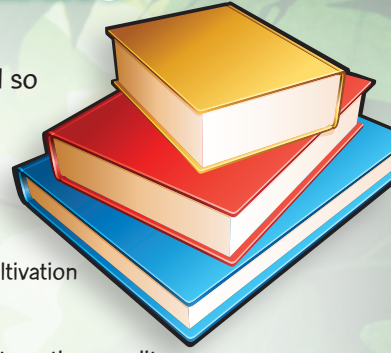
Sort of like this one: **Smith-Lever Act 100 Years of Leadership and Learning!**

**GEORGIA**  
4-H ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



# 4-H CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

In the story of Georgia 4-H and throughout this magazine you have learned so many things about this organization we call 4-H!



## Word Bank

Yield

Senator

Legislation

Movement

Increase

University

Representative

County Extension Agent /  
4-H Program Assistant

Agriculture

Environment

## Definitions

_____	rapid progress of events
_____	to produce by a natural process or cultivation
_____	the act of making or enacting laws
_____	to make greater, as in number, size, strength or quality
_____	a title of respect given to a person who is or has been a member of the Senate
_____	an institution of learning of the highest level
_____	a person who represents a community in the legislature
_____	the science, art or occupation concerned with cultivating land, raising crops, and feeding, breeding and raising livestock; farming
_____	representatives from the University of Georgia who work with youth in their county.
_____	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](http://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**

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University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. (1996, Fall) Friends.



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