

WELCOME TO 4-H IN NEW BRUNSWICK

4-H New Brunswick is truly excited to hear of your interest in the 4-H program! With this information, we hope to introduce the 4-H program to you and answer any questions.

In this booklet, you will find information on 4-H in New Brunswick, the 4-H club, 4-H projects, members, leaders, parents and communities and where you can go for more information.

Please contact the provincial office for any additional resources or information: 4-H New Brunswick, 90 Upper Hampstead Road, Gagetown, NB, E5M 1W4, Email: director@nb4h.com, Website www.nb4h.com

There are many reasons why individuals form a 4-H club:

- There is a need for a new youth organization in your community.
- You were a 4-H member yourself, and now have children of your own that are ready for the 4-H experience.
- Your community used to have an active 4-H club, and the time is right to get it going once again.

According to the 'Measures of Success' survey conducted by the Canadian 4-H Council:

- 31% of alumni had completed a university degree, certificate or diploma, compared to 16% nation-wide.
- 59% of alumni had a household income of over \$50,000, compared to 45% nation-wide.
- 85% of alumni would recommend 4-H membership to young people.
- 88% of leaders surveyed say the key goals and objectives of 4-H are relevant to today's youth.
- 89% of leaders surveyed said the 4-H program was beneficial, or very beneficial to youth in terms of contributing to their personal or career experience later in life.

Mission

New Brunswick 4-H will develop life skills for its members and leaders and will improve the quality of life and increase awareness of agriculture and the environment, for all stakeholders.

We focus on the growth and development of our members, leaders, volunteers and staff through our motto: Learn to do by doing.

Motto "Learn to do by doing"

Learning through experience is a key objective of 4-H, in all aspects of the 4-H program, members are encouraged to learn through active participation in activities and projects at the club, district, provincial, national and international levels.

Philosophy

Although the 4-H program has its roots in rural communities in New Brunswick, the New Brunswick 4-H Council serves all youth 6-21 years of age. Members develop leadership skills and responsible citizenship primarily through the completion of projects.

In 4-H club work, members direct their own activities, learn to work effectively through their association with others and work in partnership with adults.

The 4-H program strives to encourage individual growth in young people by developing self-confidence, the ability to make wise decisions, and a responsibility towards community service.

The New Brunswick 4-H Council recognizes adult leadership and volunteerism, as the foundation to its success in accomplishing its mission.

Vision

We take pride in being an organization based on our pledge, our values and our belief that the power of the 4-H experience has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities and our country.

With a focus on fun and learning we provide opportunities that will develop skills needed in an ever-changing future. Using the talents and energies of our members, volunteers and staff, we create innovative ideas and programs as well as maintain our successful traditional ones. We work to spread the impact of 4-H, to help the youth of today to become leaders of tomorrow.

Core Values

We respect the importance of family and honour our 4-H traditions by upholding all of these core values:

- **Honour and Integrity**: Treating one another respectfully, fairly and justly.
- **Reliability**: Being dependable and responsible for our actions.
- **Co-operation**: Working as a team to achieve our goals.
- **Fun**: Creating positive and enjoyable experiences.

We do this within a safe, caring, inclusive and positive environment.

Pledge

The 4-H pledge is recited at the beginning of 4-H activities to mark the occasion and to remind us of the commitment we must keep as 4-H members and leaders.

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.

Emblem

The national 4-H emblem is a green four-leaf clover with a letter 'H' inscribed on each leaf. The four "H's" stand for 4 areas of development – Head (mental), Heart (emotional), Health (physical), and Hands (social).

The official colours in Canada are green and white. The white is for purity. Green is nature's most common colour and is symbolic of youth, life and growth.

Visual Identity Guides are available at www.4-h-canada.ca

Grace

We thank thee Lord for blessings great,
On this our own fair land.
Teach us to serve thee joyfully,
With head, heart, health and hand.

The grace can be spoken or sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne.

Who's Counting?

There are approximately 525 youth participating in 4-H club work in over 25 clubs in New Brunswick with about 150 adults providing leadership for the program.

4-H Clubs

Although the 4-H year extends from September 1 to August 31 most 4-H clubs organize in the fall, are active through the winter and hold an achievement day in late spring/early summer. This decision is made by each club, taking into account the following requirements:

- **Six members** are necessary to form a club.
- Each member must choose a **project**.
- A club will need an **organizational leader** to coordinate club business, and a least one **project leader** for each project group.
- Volunteer 4-H leaders, with the support of parents, guide members in project work. Leaders must be 22 years or older, and all are required to complete a volunteer screening process.
- A club **executive** must be elected from the general 4-H youth membership. The executive must include, but is not limited to, a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. At least one signing officer for the club account must be an executive member.
- 4-H clubs conduct business **meetings** using parliamentary procedure that requires that only 4-H members propose, second and vote on motions during club meetings. Single project clubs usually combine business and project meetings. Multiple project clubs usually have a monthly joint business meeting, and separate project group meetings.
- Clubs hold a minimum of **ten general meetings** per membership year. In addition to project activities, clubs plan and carry out social, recreational and community service functions. There are usually three parts of a 4-H meeting – business, education and recreation. The educational part could be having a guest speaker from your community in to give a demonstration. Your club could travel to another farm to see a clipping demonstration or another place of interest. The recreational can include a game, corn boil, party or other social event.
- **Communication** is an important part of the 4-H program. Clubs usually hold their club communication competition during the month of February, District ones are held in March and the provincial communication competition is the last Saturday in April. It is hosted by one of the districts on a rotational basis.
- Each club should have its financial statements audited annually by an individual outside the club.
- Each club must hold an **Achievement Day**, and ensure that all members have an opportunity to participate. An achievement day is an afternoon or evening that is set aside to show what all the members have been doing during the past year. All 4-H projects are exhibited and judged. Parents and community members are encouraged to come and usually an activity is planned for them to participate. Could be a BBQ, pot luck meal, etc.

- Each club must complete and submit to the New Brunswick 4-H Council the proper **registration forms and membership fees**.

A 4-H club's membership is represented at club or general meetings, and all members should try to attend each one. At general meetings, the club discusses business that involves the entire club membership, such as fundraising, community service, public speaking and social club events.

Club Executive

Club elect an executive of members who conduct the business meetings during the year.

- **President** – oversees all actions of the club including organizing and running meetings.
- **Vice – President** – acts as an assistant to the president, must be able to assume the president's duties when required.
- **Secretary** – keeps notes on all events and motions, including outcomes and amendments at each meeting. He or she must be prepared to read these at the next meeting. The secretary also handles any committee reports or letters of correspondence.
- **Treasurer** – keeps an accurate account of club finances throughout the year. Gives an account of the financial standing of the club at each meeting. Keeps all receipts of club expenditures and numbers them in order received. Prepares a brief annual statement of receipts and expenditures and enters them on the permanent record sheet in the Secretary's Record Book.
- **Club Reporter** – informs the public of club activities and events. He/she does so by notifying radio, television, local newspapers, and online on social media if necessary. Shares important updates of events taking place and collects clippings and pictures to share with the club.
- Some clubs add other positions, such as a photographer or webmaster.

4-H Projects

During the year, members choose a project and will be responsible for completing it. Through the exploration of a project, a member develops knowledge and skills in a certain subject matter.

The program offers a wide variety of projects. From beef and light horse to crafts, woodworking and sewing. The 4-H program has something for everyone. For the creative, there is the **4-H Self Determined** project, which allows a member to design their own project...the list is only as limited as the imagination.

4-H Opportunities

There are opportunities for members to attend such as Cloverbud and Junior Members Camp, Atlantic Members and Leaders Conferences, workshops, etc. There are 4-H National travel opportunities such as Citizenship Congress, Leadership Summit, National Members Forum, etc. for those 16 and older to attend. There are also international travel opportunities and scholarships to apply for. The opportunities are endless and members and leaders should try to take advantage of them – the more you participate – the more you will enjoy your time in the 4-H program.

4-H Members

To be eligible for membership a youth must be at least 6 years of age, and not more than 21 on or before January 1st of the achievement year. Members are encouraged to participate in a variety of projects, activities and events throughout the year at all levels of the program. Members register and participate for the entire membership year in one of the following age categories.

- Cloverbud (6-8)
- Junior (9-13)
- Senior (14-21)

Each year, members are acknowledged for their achievements. In order to be recognized, a member must complete one or more projects by:

- Exhibiting or demonstrating their project work.
- Exhibiting a completed record book.
- Attend 70% of 4-H Club meetings during the year.

Policy Statement

In all 4-H activities the emphasis is to be on participation and learning...not winning.

4-H Leaders

Leaders are vital to your 4-H club's success. Each club must have at least two adults that are not spouses, 22 years or older, acting as leaders that are present at 4-H Club meetings, project meetings, programs and events. There should never be a situation where an adult is one-on-one with a youth that is not their own child. Project material is presented under the direction of a **project leader**. The project leader's responsibilities may include:

- Holding regular project meetings.
- Teaching the pledge and motto.
- Providing project information and learning experiences, which could include inviting local experts to meetings to teach specific topics with the project.
- Encouraging members to: work on record books, "learn to do by doing" and take part in 4-H activities at all levels.

The **organizational leader** assists with the programming and organization of the club and may take on responsibilities such as:

- Ensuring that regular general meetings are held.
- Encouraging regular work on record books.
- Overseeing the general operations of the club.
- Communicating information from the New Brunswick 4-H Council to members, leaders and families.
- Offering support and encouragement to 4-H members and leaders.

Volunteer Screening

In order to ensure a safe environment in which young people can learn and grow, the New Brunswick 4-H Council as a volunteer screening process for all registered volunteers.

This requires:

- An application form.
- Submission of three references.

- A criminal record check and vulnerable sector check.
- Providing abuse prevention documentation for the Commit to Kids Training.

Volunteer screening packages are mailed directly to organizational leaders when a club registers, or they can be obtained from the provincial office at any time. Leaders are required to re-certify every three years or if there is a break in service.

Membership Fee

Each member, through the club, submits an annual membership fee to the New Brunswick 4-H Council. For the current membership fee, please check with the provincial office. The membership fee goes towards the cost of insurance, project books and leader resources as well as other programs offered.

4-H clubs or district councils may also assess a membership fee. The amount varies across the province and relies on the club or district's membership. Members may also need to consider the cost of supplies or material for their project.

There is no fee for leaders.

Steps to Start-up a 4-H Club

To start up your club, contact the provincial office at director@nb4h.com. Below are some steps to consider when starting up your club:

1. Determining Interest

First of all, it's important to determine if there is enough community interest to go ahead. You can do this by talking informally with parents and potential members. A community meeting can be set up, or a presentation at a school assembly is a good way to inform young people about the program. Call the New Brunswick 4-H Council Office to find out more about a presentation to your school or community.

You may also want to check with other community organizations to see if they would sponsor a 4-H club and help out with a club leadership role.

2. Awareness Meeting

If all signs seem positive, the next step is to organize an **Awareness Meeting**. The purpose of the meeting is to explain in more detail:

- Objectives and functions of a 4-H Club
- Projects available
- Costs
- Time involved
- Answer questions about the program

You may wish to involve provincial office in making a presentation at the meeting, or borrow project materials to have on hand. Advertise the meeting by phone, posters, school flyers and the media. Be sure to notify both parents and young people. Ask both to attend. Ask potential members to identify 4-H projects in which they would have an interest. Ask parents to volunteer for leadership roles or to suggest other potential leaders.

3. Organization Meeting

Assuming that there is sufficient interest in continuing, the next step is to hold a formal **Organizational Meeting**.

This too needs to be well advertised. From the awareness meeting and further discussions, you will be able to give some idea in your advertising of the type of 4-H projects that will be available.

At the organization meeting, members will officially register in the projects of their choice and pay their membership fee. Tentative plans will be made for future meeting dates and club activities and election of your executive.

4. Registering Your Club

The final step is to register your club with the New Brunswick 4-H Council. At the organization meeting, make sure to gather all the information you will need to complete the leader and member forms.

Contact the New Brunswick 4-H Council provincial office to obtain the necessary registration forms.

Make sure you get all the information, phone numbers, mailing address, parent information, birth year of members, project information, etc.

Once all your forms are complete, send them and the membership fees to the New Brunswick 4-H Council Office. Deadline to register is November 30th. Your club is officially registered once we've received all the pertinent information and membership fees.

Need more information?

Our website is currently under construction. Please check back for an update.

Need Help?

New Brunswick 4-H Council



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