

4-H NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS UPDATE



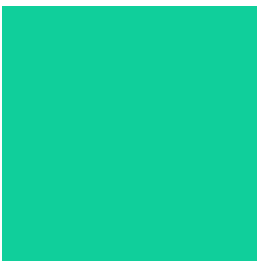
United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The uniqueness of the 4-H program is its interrelatedness to all facets of the local, state, and national communities. The program is multi-aged, vocationally and professionally diverse, and co-educational. It reaches from the USDA through the land-grant universities and state Extension services, to the local youth development professionals, then through volunteer staff to the youth in the community. The Cooperative Extension program, which includes 4-H, continues to exert a strong influence on the development of people, as well as on what people do or produce. To provide continuity to society, one's country, the world, and to life itself, each generation is obligated to provide information, educational opportunity, responsibility, and inspiration to the next. This is the vital and essential role of 4-H.

4-H Contributes to the field of Youth Development by:

- Providing a model program for positive youth development and youth-adult partnerships
- Serving as a partner for the leveraging of resources
- Providing positive youth development expertise from land-grant institutions across the country
- Conducting and sharing research on best practices in positive youth development



PROGRAM QUALITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Events

All 4-H events should meet standards of program quality and accountability, be tied to the land-grant universities, incorporate current research and technology, and have a risk management plan. The 4-H Events Checklist is a reference guide to ensure that those standards have been met. The checklist and other resources to assist in achieving the standards can be found at http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/res/youthdev_res_4h_events.html. Don't forget, any event that is designed for participants from multiple states must receive the appropriate recognition from 4-H National Headquarters. Recognition information can be found at the above web site.

DY4-H Mission Statement:

The Division of Youth and 4-H (DY4-H) provides support for positive youth development (PYD) programs through expertise and resources in the areas of youth development, professional development, learning processes and research and evaluation. DY4-H enables vibrant and resilient communities through the power of youth development.



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Youth Protection Framework

As a positive youth development organization, 4-H has a moral and legal obligation to ensure the safety and well-being of young people entrusted to its care. The same is true for other Extension programs that involve young people. We know, however, that participation in any program or activity brings with it some level of risk. How we choose to deal with that risk determines the level of safety afforded to the young people who participate in our programs. The [Youth Protection Framework and Checklist](#) is now available on the DY4-H website. This document represents a compilation of recommended best practices that should be employed nationwide to achieve the organization's goals of providing a safe and nurturing environment for growth and development.

LEARNING

Learning Team

4-H National Headquarters has organized a learning team to take a broad look at the future directions of learning as it relates to youth, adults, and the role of technology. The goal of the 4-H National Headquarters Learning Team is to: Lead, inform, and educate 4-H and other land-grant university youth development professionals about learning principles, trends, resources, methods, and delivery modes to support the incorporation of relevant learning into positive youth development programs. The learning team is comprised of Jim Kahler, Amy McCune, and Doug Swanson. Stay tuned for information from this team.

Citizenship eAcademy

A **4-H Citizenship E-Academy** is being planned for the spring of 2015. This will be a multi session web based live conference focusing on 4-H citizenship opportunities and successes. This academy will be open to all 4-H staff across the nation. Watch for information about this event from Doug Swanson.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Federal Grants

In the 2014 fiscal year, NIFA provided 57 competitive grants totaling **\$16 million** in funding to 44 land-grant institutions. These funds support youth development programming through the CYFAR program and through 4-H military partnership programs. In addition, approximately **\$13.7 million** in capacity funding (Smith-Lever, Hatch Act, and Evans Allen) was distributed across the land-grant system for youth development efforts.

Vulnerable Populations

The Vulnerable Populations Working Group has members from 11 different land-grant institutions and is led by Dr. Bonita Williams. The purpose of this group is to identify trends and issues related to vulnerable populations and present best practices on how to address these trends and issues. Check out the information sheet on [Vulnerable Populations](#) to learn more.



PARTNERSHIPS

National Institutes of Health

We are excited to tell you about a new opportunity from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)! NIH is now accepting applications from young adults ages 15 to 20 for the [Media-Smart Youth \(MSY\) Teen Leaders Program](#). 4-H National Headquarters is a federal partner with NICHD/NIH. MSY is a 10-lesson curriculum for youth ages 11 to 13 that explores media, nutrition, and physical activity. Throughout the program, youth analyze advertisements and make media messages of their own, try healthy snack recipes, and discover fun ways to be physically active. MSY teen leaders commit to carrying out the program from start to finish. In return, they receive leadership experience, community service hours, and recognition from the NIH, plus training and \$1,000 for program expenses.

Link to staff contact information and roles

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/family/res/pdfs/staff_focus.pdf