

# Iowa 4-H Clubs: What Extension Councils Need to Know

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# Welcome! We're glad you're here!

## Ice Breaker: In the chat box, share...

- Your name
- Your county
- What comes to mind when you think of 4-H clubs?
- What do you hope to learn or gain tonight?



# What are 4-H Clubs and Learning Communities?

A 4-H club is an organized learning community who meet regularly with adult volunteers or staff for a long-term, progressive series of educational experiences.

4-H Clubs and Learning Communities create a culture of learning where everyone is involved in a collective effort of understanding.



# Characteristics of a 4-H Club

- Connect people to purposefully build a sense of community and establish a community identity.
- Embrace diversity of expertise and experiences within the group.
- Foster a culture of shared learning through collaborative and active learning experiences.
- Set common goals, develop standards to measure quality work, provide ample opportunities for reflection, and assess individual and group progress toward those goals.
- Share knowledge and questions, learning through respectful discussion and feedback between group members.
- Support distributed leadership by providing a range of leadership roles and skill-building activities.
- Value all members of the group and allow them to participate to the fullest extent possible



# Building Vibrant Clubs

## Best Practices for Vibrant 4-H Clubs

- Members should develop and follow a yearly club program plan.
- Use club newsletters, emails, or other communications effectively.
- Develop systems like using greeters to ensure all feel welcome.
- Meetings are youth-led.
- Volunteers are coaches, guides on the side. Utilize youth-led committees to empower members in club operations.
- Make opportunities for older members to mentor and provide leadership.



# 4-H Name and Emblem

- Stewardship by United States Department of Agriculture
  - Iowa 4-H Youth Development is designated authority in Iowa
  - The State 4-H office determines appropriate policies and practices in accordance with federal regulations, state and local policies, and university regulations.
- The 4-H Name and Emblem are officially protected by the United States government under Title 18 U.S. Code 707
  - Iowa 4-H, counties, and clubs must adhere to guidelines for name and emblem use



## 4-H Clubs (Grades 4-12)

- Mission: 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences.
- Engage in positive youth development experiential learning opportunities
- Outcomes: engaged contributors, outstanding communicators, effective leaders, successful learners

## Clover Kids (Grades K-3)

- Purpose: to foster the development of life skills that are essential for the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical maturation of kindergarten through third graders by providing a unique, age-appropriate educational opportunity
- Engage in non-competitive group activities
- Outcomes: strong self-understanding, appropriate social interactions, effective decision-making, cooperative learning, and active physical skills



# Positive Youth Development

- Positive youth development (PYD) views young people as vital resources with assets and potential to be developed.
- PYD is an intentional process; it requires proper planning and training in facilitation skills to promote youth voice and choice.
- With PYD, youth are not just the recipients of services. Youth are valued and encouraged to bring their assets to the table. Adults and youth work in partnership.





# IOWA 4-H

## EQUATION

*Empowering youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences.*



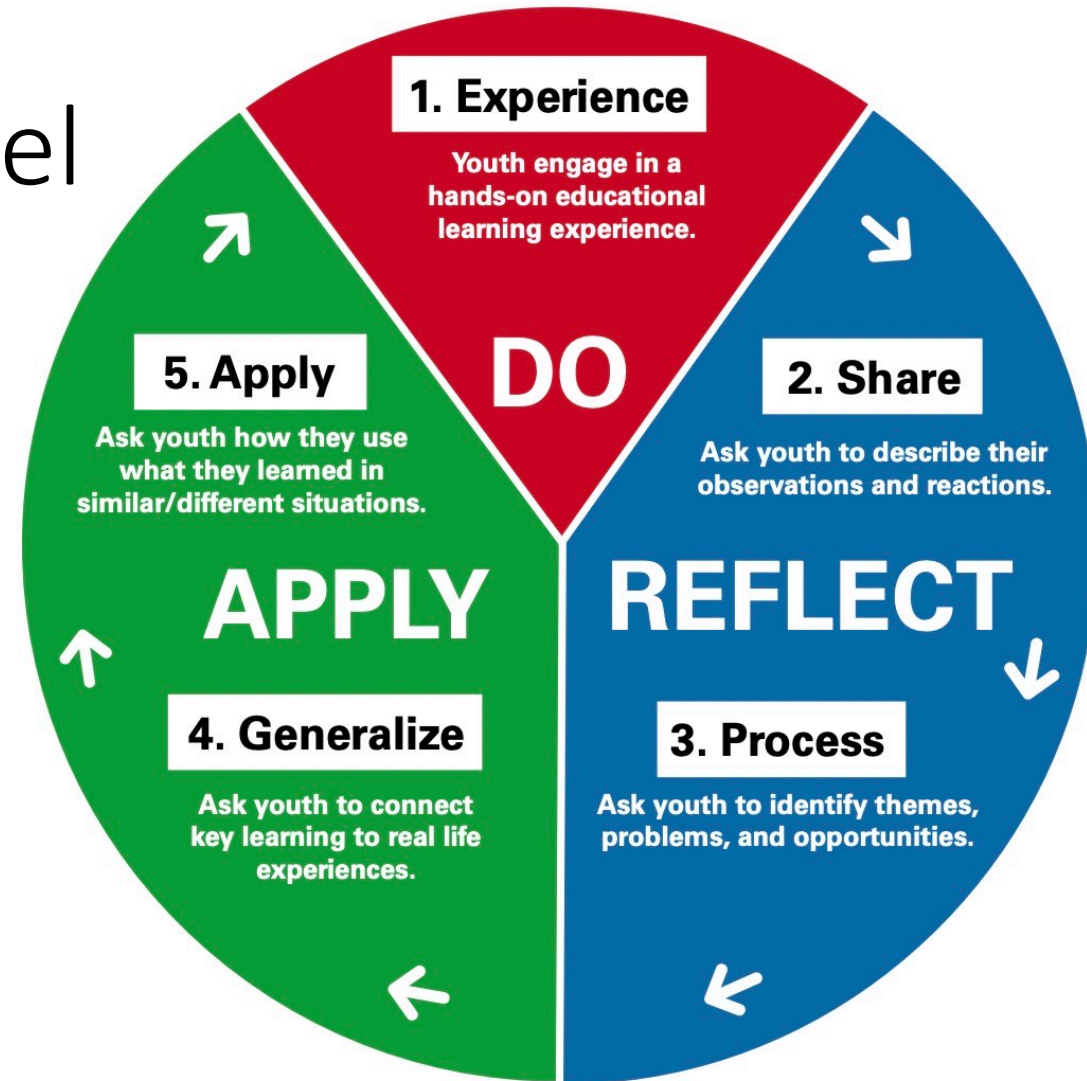
4H 3300 April 2022

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# Experiential Learning Model

1. Participant(s) **experience** the activity—perform or do it.
2. Participant(s) **share** the experience by describing what happened.
3. Participant(s) **process** the experience to determine what was most important and identify common themes.
4. Participant(s) **generalize** from the experience and relate it to their daily lives.
5. Participant(s) **apply** what they learned to a new situation.

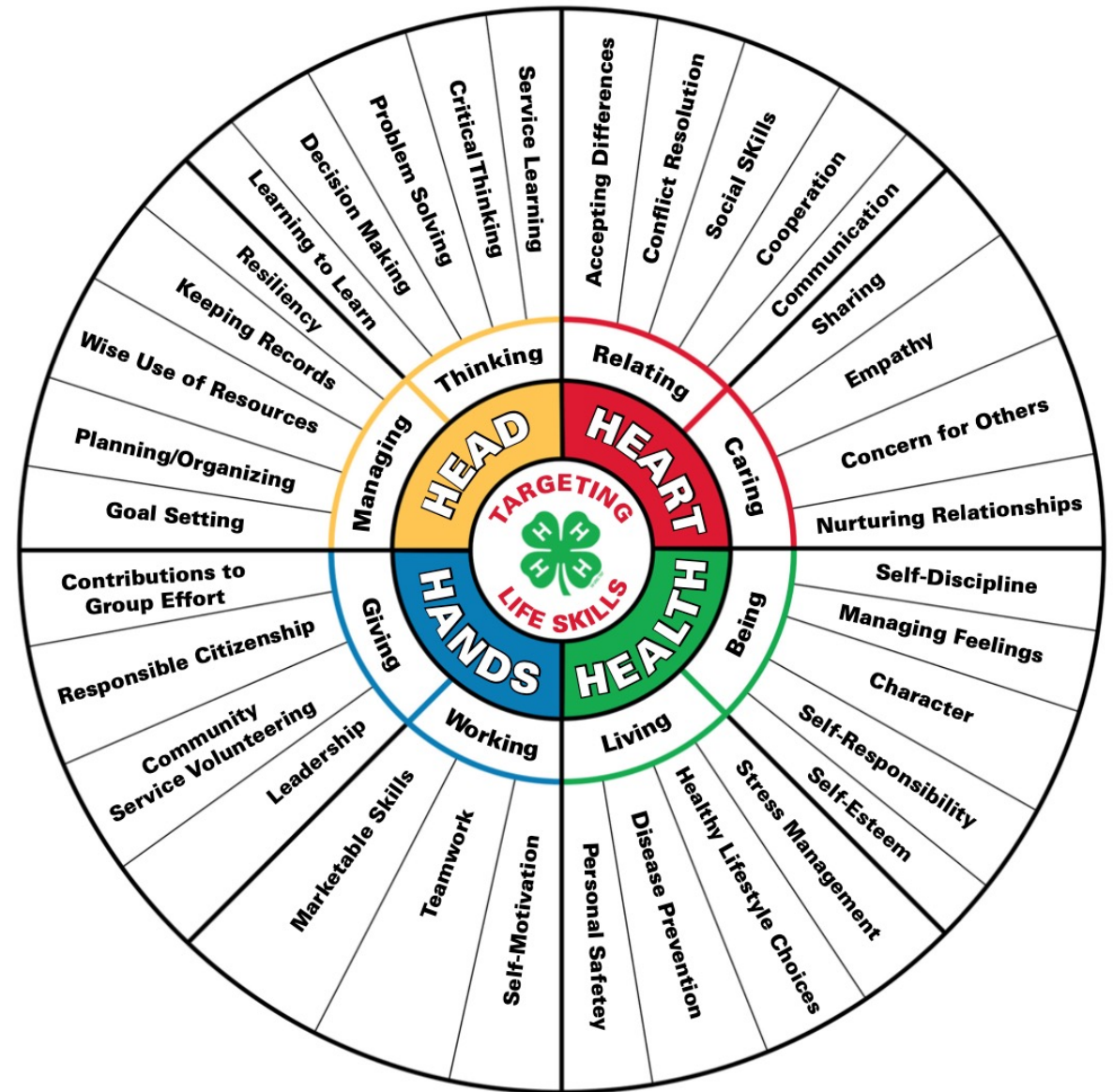


Based on the Kolb Learning Model (1975) and Bybee's Learning Cycle (1977).



# Targeting Life Skills

- Assists youth-serving staff in providing developmentally appropriate opportunities for youth to practice life skills
- TLS is intended to be inclusive for all possible life skills, and support staff in articulating program goals
- Facilitates measuring life skill development to determine program success



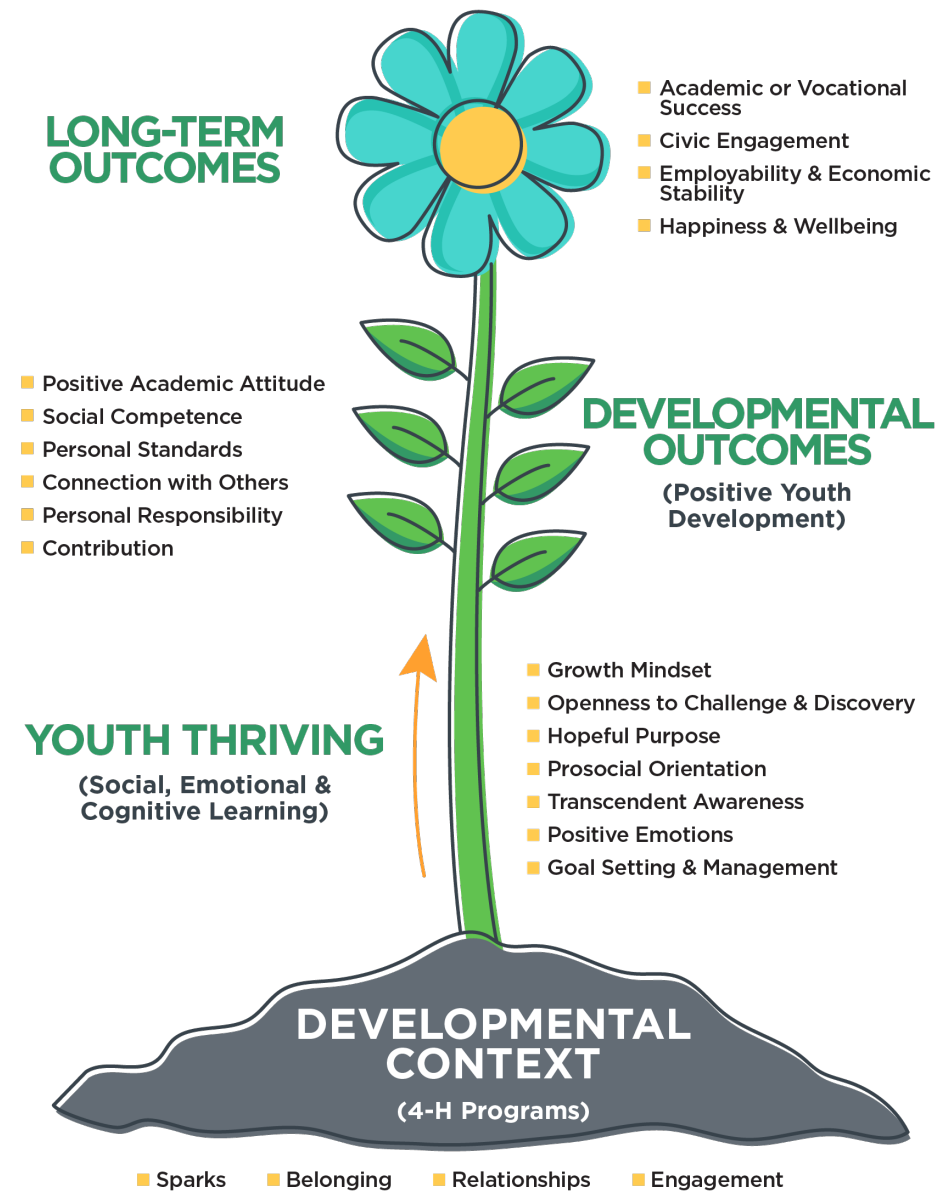
# Why 4-H?

- Flexibility
- Tufts study outcomes
- Personal growth over time through long-term engagement
  - Scaffolding learning experiences
  - Progressive experiences



# 4-H Thriving Model

- A predictive model of positive youth development in 4-H
- Predicts that participation in high-quality youth development programs will help youth thrive, and thriving youth achieve key developmental outcomes
- 4-H Thriving Model is a research-based model, supported by science
- Time x Intensity of 4-H Experience = Outcomes



# Opportunities Beyond the County

- State
  - Iowa 4-H Youth Conference or Round-Up
  - Career Pathways Academy
  - 4-H Connect Retreat
  - Statewide 4-H Clubs
  - State 4-H Council
  - Iowa 4-H Reporters
  - Healthy Living Ambassadors
  - Camera Corps
  - Recognition Opportunities
  - Science Technology Fair of Iowa
  - Iowa State Fair
  - Awardrobe
  - Equine Extravaganza
  - ... and more!
- Multi-County or Regional
  - Camps
  - Project Workshops
- National
  - National 4-H Congress
  - Citizenship Washington Focus
  - National 4-H Conference
  - National Youth Summit Series
- International
  - IFYE
  - State's Exchange





# The Role of Fairs, Achievement Shows, and Exhibition in the 4-H Youth Development Experience

- Celebrate the learning that occurs throughout the year in 4-H
- Showcase exhibits that demonstrate project learning
- Opportunity to reflect on their learning by preparing their write-up and conferencing with a caring adult
  - Experiential learning model

Note: Youth can still have a vibrant, meaningful 4-H experience without exhibiting at a fair or achievement show.



# Are your clubs vibrant?

## Questions to Ask about Your 4-H Clubs

- Are members attending meetings, or are they doing the “minimum”?
- Are club members participating in opportunities beyond the county?
- Does the makeup of your 4-H clubs represent the makeup of your community? If not, who is missing?
- Are volunteers actively engaged in recruiting new members?
- What do club meetings look like (when compared to Vibrant Club model)?





# Role of County Extension Councils

County Extension Councils function as the legal body for the Extension district, identify local needs, and serve as the link to ISU Extension and Outreach. Extension Councils establish county budgets, employ County Extension staff (including county 4-H program staff), approve county volunteers, along with other governance responsibilities.

From: We are Iowa 4-H: Organization Fundamentals

4-H Advisory Committees are appointed by County Extension Councils and work in cooperation with Extension and Outreach staff to provide leadership to county 4-H programs.



How can you promote positive youth development experiences and club vibrancy in your role as an Extension Council member?

Respond in chat or unmute yourself.



What questions do you have  
about creating 4-H  
opportunities for youth in your  
county?

I will respond where I am able, or I will record your questions and connect with you after the presentation with answers.



# Thank You

Join us on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 PM for  
“What Extension Councils Need to Know About 4-H K-12  
Youth Outreach”

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