



Thank you for inquiring about the 4-H Youth Development program of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For over 100 years, 4-H has been shaping the lives of youth. Among our alumni are Vice Presidents, First Ladies, University Presidents, Coaches, countless CEO's and even a Heisman Trophy winner. Your FAMILY'S involvement in 4-H will help your son or daughter develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to become competent, caring and contributing citizens.

4-H is a family affair! Parents and members will both be expected to be active participants in 4-H meetings, club events and activities. Dr. C.B. Smith, a pioneer 4-H leader, said "...leaders may kindle the flame in youth, but it takes the good will and help of parents to keep the fire burning." Becoming a 4-H volunteer demonstrates to your child that you want to be an active participant in their 4-H experience, and further strengthens the bonds within your family.

There are a couple of manners in which your family could become involved in the 4-H program:



**The best way to have direct input into your family's 4-H experience is to work with other families to start a 4-H club in your neighborhood, school or church. The 4-H staff and our trained Master 4-H Leaders offer a number of resources, and will attend meetings to help you get your new club started. As an organizational leader or co-leader, you can have an impact in selecting when and where the club will meet and serve as a resource to the other families in your club.**



**In some instances it MAY be possible to identify an existing club within Douglas/Sarpy 4-H that meets near your home and offers projects of interest to your family. As a parent, you will be expected to volunteer to become a project leader and your family will be responsible for planning some of the club's events for the year.**



**Your family could participate as individual 4-H members. It is possible to participate in 4-H events without being a member of a club, but in most cases this is not an ideal situation as it deprives you and your child the opportunity to learn from others in a club setting.**

Regardless of the manner of participation your family selects, your role as a 4-H parent is critical in determining your family's success in 4-H. You will get out of the 4-H youth program what you put into it.

For a listing of 4-H manuals please refer to the Pick a Project booklet. More project opportunities are available in the Sarpy County Fair Book and the Nebraska State Fair Book. All of these references are available online at [douglas-sarpy.unl.edu](http://douglas-sarpy.unl.edu) or at the Extension Office.