4-H Nova Scotia Program Overview

Welcome to 4-H

4-H provides opportunities for youth to develop skills that they can use for the rest of their life. We help our youth **"Learn To Do By Doing"** in a safe, inclusive and fun environment, providing opportunities for leadership and life skills development, while promoting agriculture awareness.

Who can be a Member?

4-H is open to all youth in Nova Scotia, regardless of their background.

- Cloverbuds (7-8 years of age)
- Junior Members (9-13 years of age)
- Senior Members (14-21 years of age)

Members pay a registration fee to join and are responsible for costs associated with project work. **4-H is a Family Affair** – families are encouraged to participate and attend 4-H events together. Parents who are involved witness their child's achievements and help them grow in the program.

What do Members do in 4-H?

The first step to start your year in 4-H is to choose a project. Learning new skills, making things, and visiting places with friends are all a part of a 4-H project. As a Nova Scotia 4-H'er, you'll experience the feeling of accomplishment that comes from trying and succeeding at something new – whether it's fixing a small engine, knitting a sweater, training an animal or presenting a speech or demonstration to a live audience. There are also endless extra opportunities to be involved in.

Club Meetings

General and Project meetings usually take place once a month. These meetings deal with things that are important to members, such as upcoming events and competitions.

Club Executive

Members may hold executive positions in their club, such as president, secretary, club reporter and treasurer. These executive members run their club's general meetings.

Communications

Communications consist of public speaking and demonstrations. Members are encouraged to prepare an oral presentation to achieve a communications completion sticker on their Achievement Day certificate.

Judging

Members complete judging by ranking four preselected items in one project from best to worst based on a specific format.

County, Regional, and Provincial Opportunities

4-H Calendar Year

October and November – 4-H Year Begins; Registration takes place; 4-H Month; AGM

December – Begin 4-H projects; Christmas Celebrations; Community Service Projects; Registration is Due

January and February – Club Meetings, Leadership and Skill Workshops; Winter Fun Days

March – Leadership Conferences; Club Public Speaking Competitions

April – County and Regional Public Speaking Competitions; Judging Workshops

May – Achievement Days; Community Projects; 4-H Weekend; Judging Days

June – Achievement Days

July – Camp Rankin; Achievement Days; County Shows and Exhibitions; Tours and Exchanges

August – Achievement Days; County Shows and Exhibitions

September and October – Exhibitions; 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show; Awards Banquets

County Council Meetings, Social Activities, Lumbersports and Tug-of-War Competitions, 4-H Weekend, County and Regional Workshops, Exhibitions, and 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Achievement Day
Members bring their completed projects to Achievement Day to be evaluated based on their age, years in the project, and experience. With their project completion and record sheet marked, certificates are awarded to members who completed the 4-H year.

Extras
Community Service, Camp Rankin, National 4-H Month, AGM, Tours, Workshops and Conferences, Travel Awards and Scholarships, Grade 10 Credit and more.

Completing Your Project

4-H members must meet minimum requirements to complete their projects. These requirements can be found in the project newsletters on 4-H Nova Scotia's website. Member's learn to keep records for each projects and submit their record sheet for project completion. In addition to project work, members must also do at least one of the following three components to complete their project; Communications, Judging, Club Contribution. After completing a project at Achievement Day, members have the opportunity to enter their projects into their County Show to be competitively judged.

Becoming a Leader or Volunteer

There are many ways for a person to volunteer their time to the 4-H Program. You do not need to be an expert in something to be a leader.

We are looking for leaders and volunteers who are enthusiastic, like to learn alongside youth and have an interest in working with young people.

The following are requirements of all volunteers in the 4-H Nova Scotia Program:

- 4-H Registration as a Leader or Volunteer
- Child Abuse Registry and Criminal Record Check
- Three References
- Interview

Becoming a Leader Contains These Additional Steps:

- Commit to Kids Training
- 4-H Nova Scotia Youth Safety Training

Visit our club map to find a club near you!

For more information, please contact:
info@4hnovascotia.ca
902-843-3990

Qualities of a 4-H Parent, Volunteer, and Leader

- ✓ Enthusiasm for young people
- ✓ Interest in skill building and leadership
- ✓ Patience and creativity with the ability to teach on a member's level
- ✓ Ability to give both praise and constructive criticism
- ✓ Ability to stay informed on project, club, and county events
- ✓ Initiative to become well-rounded for the benefit of your club
- ✓ Promote good sportsmanship