



## Ocean County 4-H Q&A

The 4-H Youth Development program offers a variety of opportunities for young people. Beginning in Kindergarten through grade 13 (one year out of high school), youth participate in activities, competitions, workshops, and conferences that help them grow into caring, contributing, and confident adults. 4-H was founded in 1902 with the purpose of instructing rural youth in improved farming. By the 1970's, it broadened its goals to cover a full range of youth projects. Today 4-H serves youth in rural, urban, and suburban communities in every county in every state across the nation reaching 6+ million youth!

### **Q** ***What types of clubs does 4-H offer?***

**A** Ocean County 4-H offers long-term clubs: a club that meets once or more a month throughout the year (September—July) or short-term exploratory programs (S.T.E.P) that takes place for a minimum of 3 weeks to a maximum of 3 months. There are a variety of subject areas in 4-H, so ask staff for the current club listing to find a club that fits your interest.

### **Q** ***Is 4-H just located in Toms River?***

**A** Nope! The administrative office is located in Toms River and there is also an auditorium where several clubs do meet; however, a 4-H club can be created at any time of the year and can meet anywhere within Ocean County. Currently 4-H has clubs located as north as Point Pleasant and as south as Barnegat. Helps us grow and create a new club today!

### **Q** ***Does it cost money to join 4-H?***

**A** 4-H has no membership fee and there are no uniforms. Some 4-H activities may have a registration fee, which is usually minimal. Each club chooses whether to charge annual dues.

### **Q** ***Do I need to own an animal to be a part of an animal club?***

**A** Nope! So long as a member has an interest in the subject, they are welcome to participate in any club

### **Q** ***Where does 4-H get it's funding?***

**A** Rutgers cooperative Extension, of which 4-H is a part of, receives funds from:

- Federal (via the US Department of Agriculture)
- State (via the New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station of Rutgers University)
- County (through the Board of County Commissioners).
- Private gifts and donations

### **Q** ***What opportunities are available beyond Ocean County 4-H?***

**A** In addition to the opportunities Ocean County 4-H provides, youth have the opportunity to attend a variety of symposiums, workshops, and camps offered by the New Jersey 4-H State Level and the National 4-H Level. There is even an international level!

