

The Oregon 4-H Vision

All youth experience economic and social success in adulthood while making positive contributions to their communities.

The 4-H Program Mission

4-H helps young people **learn** and **grow** through an intentional process that builds competence, confidence, connection, compassion and character.

Core Values

4-H programs are based on the theory and practice of positive youth development.

Youth development programs work best when they provide opportunities for young people to experience mastery, belonging, independence, and generosity.

Experiential learning forms the basis of our “learn by doing” approach.

Youth voice and youth engagement are critical to effective 4-H programming.

Volunteers and partners are essential to the success of the 4-H program.

We value and respect human diversity of all types.

4-H believes that all young can be successful and therefore provides access and opportunity for all.

Youth Development Outcomes

Competence refers to the social, academic, cognitive, and vocational capacities of youth.

Confidence stems from improving self-esteem, self-concept, self-efficacy, and hope for the future.

Connection is the result of building and strengthening relationships with people and institutions.

Character refers to the development of self-control, a sense of right and wrong, and respect for cultural and societal norms.

Caring and **Compassion** refer to one's empathy and identification with others.

4-H Rationale

Research shows that by participating in 4-H, young people prepare themselves for economic and social success in adulthood. 4-H teaches young people about a wide array of **subject matter**. Learning through 4-H augments what is learned in the classroom and opens doors to career pathways. **Life skills** enable young people to function effectively in a complex world. The commitment to building life skills is articulated in the 4-H pledge.

Head represents managing and thinking skills

Heart represents relating and caring skills

Hands represent working and giving skills

Health represents living and being skills.

Positive **youth development** does not happen by chance. It results from intentional efforts of parents, schools, youth organizations, and communities to ensure that young people have opportunities for belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. 4-H programs intentionally includes opportunities for **belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity**. These are known as the essential elements of 4-H programming. The essential elements set the context in which positive development occurs.