



NACOGDOCHES COUNTY



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PROMOTE

2023 - 2024

Family Handbook

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THE LATEST VERSION:



Developed by Brianna Lugo, CEA-FCH

Texas 4-H information adapted from <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to 4-H.....3

- Nacogdoches County Extension Faculty & Staff.....3

What is 4-H?.....4

- About 4-H.....4
- 4-H Motto & Pledge.....4

Who Can Participate?.....4

- Age Requirements.....4

How To Get Started (5 Easy Steps).....5

Membership & Enrollment (Youth & Adults)6

Enrollment Instructions (New & Returning Families).....7-9

- Family Enrollment Tips.....9-10

Participation & Eligibility Requirements.....10

- Academic Eligibility & Excused Absences.....10

Declaration of Eligibility Form & Instructions.....11-12

Get Involved!

- **Clubs**.....13
 - What is a Club?.....13
 - Our 4-H Clubs.....13
- **Projects**.....14-17
 - What is a Project?.....14
 - Project Activities Popular in Nacogdoches County 4-H.....14
 - Texas 4-H Project List.....15
 - Our Project Clubs.....15-17
- **Start a New Club or Project**.....18
- **Contests & Livestock Shows**.....19
 - District & State 4-H Contests.....19
 - Validation Information for Livestock Shows.....19
- **Youth Leadership & Adult Volunteer Opportunities**.....20
 - Club, County, District, & State 4-H Officers, Youth Ambassador Programs, Project Leaders & Club Managers, 4-H Adult Leaders & Parents Association (ALPA).....20
- **Record Books, Scholarships, Recognition, & Camps**.....21

Stay Informed About 4-H Activities & Events.....22

Resources.....23

WELCOME TO 4-H

Dear 4-H families,

Welcome to Nacogdoches County 4-H! We are pleased to have your family as members of our program.

4-H is designed to be a family affair. To make the most of what 4-H has to offer, we encourage all youth members and their parents/guardians to become as involved in local 4-H opportunities as possible. The program is primarily volunteer-led and would not be possible without the help of all our wonderful adult volunteers. With your help, we hope to strengthen and improve our program as well as provide more opportunities for the youth of Nacogdoches County.

This handbook is intended to serve as a reference tool to help guide families towards a successful 4-H year. Please refer to this handbook for resources and answers to any 4-H questions that you may have. For further inquiries and assistance, call our office or email one of your County Extension Agents (CEA), Ricky Thompson or Brianna Lugo.

We look forward to working with you!

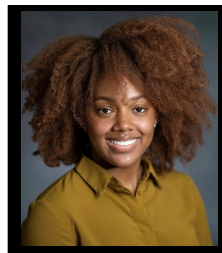
Nacogdoches County Extension Service Faculty & Staff



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WHAT IS 4-H?

About 4-H

4-H is a national organization which helps young people develop life-long knowledge and skills to become engaged citizens. With over 65,000 youth members enrolled in community clubs across the state, 4-H is the largest youth development program in Texas. 4-H is a voluntary, non-formal, educational program. Through various learning experiences, 4-H provides opportunities for youth to gain leadership, citizenship, and life skills that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. The 4-H program gives youth the opportunity to explore and pursue their interests while making friends through both non-competitive and competitive experiences such as 4-H club meetings, projects, contests, educational workshops/programs, tours, community service, camps, and more on county, district, state, and even national levels.

4-H Motto

"To Make the Best Better"

4-H Pledge

"I pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service, and

My Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world"

4-H Emblem & Colors

Emblem: The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The four "H's" stand for head, heart, hands, and health.

Colors: The leaves of the clover are green and the "H's" are white. Green and white are used together to symbolize purity, youth, life and growth.



Who Can Participate?

Age Requirements

Youth may participate in the 4-H year from September 1st of grade three through August 31st following the completion of grade twelve, with these age restrictions:

- **Minimum age - 8** (as of August 31, 2023, in addition to being in the 3rd grade)
 - **Maximum age - 18** (as of August 31, 2023)
-

HOW TO GET STARTED

Below are 5 easy steps to help youth get started in 4-H:

1

Select a Project



- Find one or more fun project(s) that may interest you and consider the costs, time, space and equipment that will be required for you and your family to start and complete your project(s). (Refer to pages 15 -17 of this handbook to learn more about 4-H projects and see our local project clubs to begin planning)

2

Find a Club to Join



- Find out what 4-H Clubs Nacogdoches County currently has available and join the one that works best for your family. (Learn more about what a 4-H Club is and our local community and in-school clubs on page 14 of this handbook)

3

Enroll in 4-H



- Once you have found a project to start and a club to join, with the help of your parents, you will need to become an approved 4-H member by completing and submitting an online enrollment application through the 4HOnline registration system. (See pages 6 - 10 of this handbook for enrollment requirements and instructions)

4

Get Involved



- Become involved in 4-H by starting and completing a project, participating in club meetings, as well as county, district, and state-wide 4-H events/activities, educational workshops, contests, community service, and leadership opportunities. (Learn more about 4-H involvement opportunities on pages 14 - 20 of this handbook)

5

Record Your Success



- Keep records of all your 4-H involvement and success by taking photos and keeping relevant documents such as logs of community service hours, proof of participation, awards, and receipts. As the year progresses, use these records to create a **Texas 4-H Record Book** detailing all your hard work throughout the 4-H year. (Learn more about Texas 4-H Record Books on page 20 of this handbook)

MEMBERSHIP & ENROLLMENT

Texas 4-H Member Categories

Junior:	Grades 3, 4, and 5
Intermediate:	Grades 6, 7, and 8
Senior:	Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Clover Kids: Kindergarten - 2nd Grades

- Note: Clover kids may participate in [age-appropriate 4-H experiences](#) but are not eligible to compete.

Membership & Enrollment Requirements

An applicant becomes a 4-H member or volunteer after completing and submitting an individual online registration via 4HOnline at <http://texas.4honline.com>, paying a participation fee, and receiving registration approval.

4-H Enrollment Year

The Texas 4-H year officially begins on **September 1st** and ends **August 31st**. However, enrollment opens on August 15th.

Who Must Enroll on 4HOnline?

Each year, all former and new 4-H members, parents, and volunteers directly involved in 4-H MUST enroll/re-enroll for the current 4-H program year. **NOTE:** This year members in 3rd and 4th grade should wait until September 1st to enroll due to the changes with the enrollment fee for Clover Kids.

Adults Who Must Complete 4HOnline Enrollment


All 4-H parents/adult volunteers who work directly with youth or adults by providing unpaid support for the 4-H program through face-to-face contact are required to be screened through the [Extension Volunteer Standards \(EVS\) Program](#) by completing the volunteer application process on 4HOnline. **Direct volunteers** must pass a criminal background check, complete two online trainings, and have their application approved prior to fulfilling any volunteer duties for AgriLife Extension. In-direct adult volunteers who handle 4-H funds must also complete this process (i.e. treasurers and signers on support group accounts).

Examples of Direct Volunteers:

- Driving youth who are not your own to/from 4-H-related activities or events, chaperoning youth for overnight events, managing a 4-H club, leading/coaching a 4-H project club, providing educational experiences for youth or adults in Extension such as workshops or project-related practices, providing mentorship to 4-H members, handling Extension support group funds, etc.

Annual Participation Fees

Youth Club Member Participation Fee:

- **\$25.00** - Discounted enrollment fee - August 15th - October 31st
- **\$30.00** - Regular enrollment fee - November 1st - end of 4-H year
-  ▪ **\$10.00** - Clover Kid enrollment fee

Adult Volunteer Application Fee:

- **\$10.00**

ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS

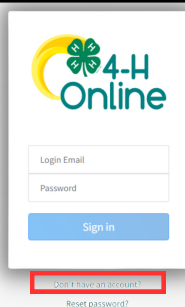
The first step to becoming a 4-H member or volunteer is creating a profile in the 4HOnline data management system. Texas 4-H uses the 4HOnline system to manage 4-H membership, events, projects, activities, and communications. All youth and adults who participate in Texas 4-H must have a 4HOnline profile.

4HOnline profiles are family-based, which means every family creates a "master" profile with its own login ID and password. A member file is then created within the family profile for each family member involved in Texas 4-H. A family profile may contain both youth and adults.

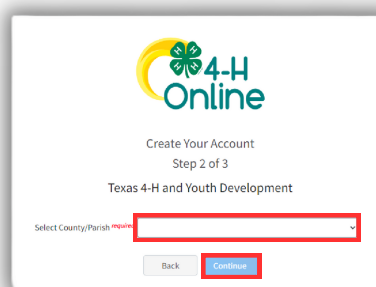
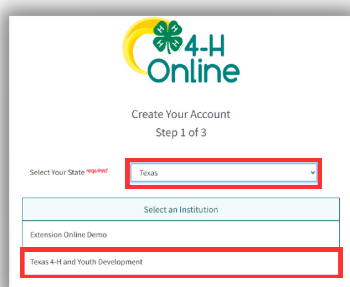
Once a family profile is created, it will exist for as long as members of that profile are involved in the 4-H program. New members may be added to the family profile at any time, and members who are no longer involved in 4-H may be archived. If someone in your family was active in Texas 4-H from 2010 to 2019, you likely already have a family profile in 4HOnline. In that case, use your existing login and password to access your family profile in 4HOnline.

NEW FAMILY

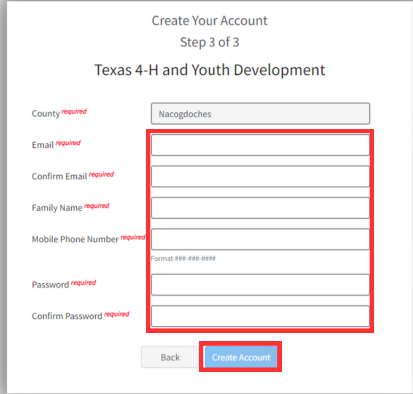
1. Go to <http://texas.4honline.com/>
 - **NOTE:** the 4HOnline website operates best on computers using browsers like Google Chrome and Firefox.



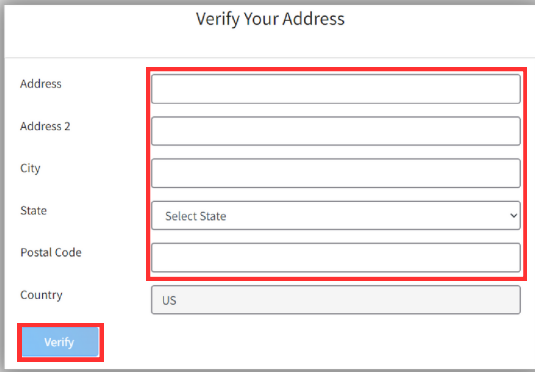
2. Click the "Don't have an account?" link to create a profile.
3. Select "Texas" from the drop-down menu.
4. Select "Texas 4-H and Youth Development" under the "Select an Institution" section.
5. Select "Nacogdoches" as your county from the drop-down menu. When selecting your county, you are choosing the 4-H program in which your family will participate. There is not a way to undo this selection once chosen.
6. Click the blue "Continue" button or the "Back" button to make changes.



7. Complete your family's information. Required fields are marked in red and must be completed to move to the next screen. If you have mistakenly chosen the wrong county click the "[Back](#)" button to adjust it before moving on to the next screen.
 - **NOTE:** Your family profile must be associated with a valid email address. This will be your login and you will receive communications to this address. It will also be the email address where a password reset will be sent, if needed. The email address you provide can only be associated with one family profile. If 4HOnline does not accept your email address, you may already have a 4HOnline family account. Contact the County Extension office for assistance if you run into this issue.
8. Click the blue "[Create Account](#)" button to continue.



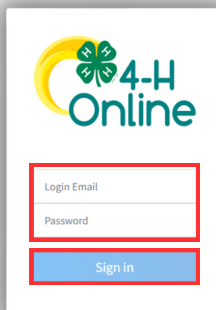
9. Enter your family's address information and click the blue "[Verify](#)" button. The verification process may require you to select an appropriate USPS format.
 - If there is already another record in 4HOnline with a matching address, you may see the "Duplicate Address" screen. Use the browser "back" button to return to the previous screen. Double-check the address you entered and try again. Be sure you have included the full USPS address and unit/apartment number, if that is part of your address. If you receive the "Duplicate Address" message again, log out and contact the County Extension office for further assistance.
10. Add members: After the address is verified, your family profile has been created! You will receive an email confirming your family profile. The next screen will start the process to add the first member to the family account.



Click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to add a new member.

RETURNING FAMILY

1. Go to <http://texas.4honline.com/>
2. Enter the family's email address.
3. Type in the password.
4. Click the blue "Sign in" button.



If you do not remember the password associated with your family profile, you can use the "Reset password" function at the bottom of the screen. A temporary password and instructions will be sent to the email address associated with your family account.

If you do not remember the email associated with your family profile, contact the County Extension office. Remember: Your family profile must be associated with a valid email address. This will be your login and you will receive communications at this address. It is also the email address where a password reset will be sent. Once you have logged in to the family profile, you may review the "Member List", add new family members and complete 4-H enrollment and registration actions.

FAMILY ENROLLMENT TIPS

NEW FAMILY

1	2	3	4	
			YOUTH	Adult
Select to set up a profile Setup only one family profile per household.	Start adding members. Enter one member profile at a time. The Next button will take you through each screen.	Review Fees Youth Fees vary with date enrolled. Adult Fees pay \$10.00.	Review enrollment and fees. Click Back to make corrections. Click Submit.	Review enrollment and fees. Click Back to make corrections. Click Submit.
Enter an e-mail address that is checked often. This will be how you get communication.	Enter information in all the fields on the Questions screen. Youth Birthdate and school grade determines eligibility.	Add and select a credit card to pay for the fees.	Status changes to pending. Local county office reviews and approves.	Adult completes Screening and Required trainings.
Create a password. Requirements are displayed on the screen if not validated.	Youth selects at least one club and one project. Adult selects volunteer type, clubs and projects.	Or select payment collected by county office. A confirmation screen will popup.	Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged or county mails payment.	Status changes to pending. Local county office approves. Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged or county mails payment.
Complete all family information.	Complete the Health and Consents Screens. Click Next through each screen.	Select payment and agree to Payment and Refund terms.	Status changes to approved after payment is received.	Status changes to approved after payment is received, screening approved and trainings completed.

Contact the local county office before starting a profile, to make sure you are selecting a club which fits your family needs.
Find your local county office online at: <http://counties.agrilife.org>

RETURNING FAMILY

1	2	3	4	
Login with the family email address and password. Requirements are displayed on the screen if not validated.	Click Enroll Now next to the member's name.	Review Fees Youth Fees vary on date enrolled. Adult Fees are \$10.00.	YOUTH	Adult
Contact the local county Extension Office for password assistance or click Reset Password link.			Review Enrollment and fees. Click Back to make corrections. Click Submit.	Review Enrollment and fees. Click Back to make corrections. Click Submit.
Do Not Create a NEW Family Profile.			Status changes to pending. Local county office reviews and approves.	Adult completes screening and required trainings. (if applicable)
	Click Next through each screen. You must enter school, grade, clubs and projects.	Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged or county mails payment.	Status changes to pending. Local county office approves. Payment is locked-in. Credit card is charged or county mails payment.	
Review and update family information.	Complete the Health and Consents Screens.	Select payment	Status changes to approved after payment is received.	Status changes to approved after payment is received, screening approved and trainings completed.
If the family has moved to a NEW county in Texas, contact local county office to have the FAMILY PROFILE moved to the new county. Do not create a new profile.				
The system will send automatic notifications to the family email address in the system.				

PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY

Participation & Eligibility Requirements

Complete 4-H Enrollment

- To participate in any county, district, state, or national 4-H-sponsored or organized events such as club/project meetings or practices, contests, clinics, workshops, fundraising/social events, camps, etc., in association with or in representation of the Nacogdoches County 4-H program, all participating youth and involved adult volunteers must be enrolled members of the 4-H program.

Start & Complete a Project

- All members must enroll and participate in at least one project that is either organized or self-directed. Project participation should include a combination of experiences such as hands-on activities, practices, research, workshops, contests, demonstrations, exhibits, community service, etc. A member may add or delete project enrollments at any time during the 4-H year.

Join a Club & Attend Club Meetings

- All members are required to join a 4-H club and participate in monthly club meetings/activities.

Academic Eligibility & Excused Absences

All 4-H members in public, private, or home school participating in any 4-H events or activities (competitive or non-competitive) that require absence from school must provide proof of academic eligibility in accordance with the Texas Education Code to be excused from school. Proof should be provided through the completion and submission of a **Declaration of Eligibility (DE) form** to Agents Ricky Thompson and/or Brianna Lugo, at least 2 weeks prior to the desired event or activity. If you are unsure if a DE form should be completed for a particular event/activity, check with your club manager or County Extension Agents.

See the [Declaration of Eligibility](#) instructions and form on the next two pages.

DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM INSTRUCTIONS

4-H'ers should complete a separate form for each competitive event/activity in which they plan to participate. The original form should be returned to the county Extension office by the deadline established by the County Extension Office.

NOTE: Schools requiring a copy of this form should make their copy before returning it to the student.

Parent/Guardian Section

1. Parent/Guardian will select the information being requested. It is either:
 - Academic eligibility information only. (Used to verify academic eligibility only for 4-H competitive events/activities.), or
 - Academic eligibility information and authorization to receive an excused absence from school. (Used to verify academic eligibility as well as receive authorization to receive an excused absence. This would be used for events held during school hours such as stock shows, state and national 4-H contests and events, etc.)
2. Complete the date and name of activity. (Used to notify school officials of exact dates/times a student would be participating in a 4-H activity or representing 4-H at an event.)
3. Parent/Guardian signature is required. The signature of the parent/guardian confirms that this person is aware of the academic eligibility and excused absence requirements of the Texas Education Code.

County Extension Agent Section

1. Extension Office will complete this section and certify the youth is a 4-H member and his/her participation in the event.
2. County Extension Agent (with adjunct faculty status) will sign the form.

School Principal/Designee Section

1. Principal, or designee, will indicate the 4-H members eligibility status, options are:
 - Academically eligible to participate
 - Not academically eligible to participate
2. The principal or designee will indicate whether or not an excused absence will be granted.
3. Principal, or designee, will sign and date the form in order to be valid.



Declaration of Eligibility Form

This form is requested in accordance with the requirement of the Texas Education Code and in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency and local school board policies.

Instructions: Complete one form per activity. 4-H member should return original form to the County Extension Office.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SECTION

In accordance with 4-H policy, provided by our local Extension office, I respectfully request:

(CHECK ONE)

- ☐ Academic eligibility information only.
- ☐ Academic eligibility information and authorization to receive an excused absence from school.

Date of Activity: _____ Name of Activity: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT SECTION

I hereby certify that _____ is a member of 4-H in _____ County and is scheduled to participate in this activity representing 4-H. He/she will be under the supervision of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service faculty or agency's designated volunteer leader.

Date

Signature of County Extension Agent

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR DESIGNEE

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ I do certify that the student is academically eligible to participate in the above-mentioned activity.
- ☐ I do not certify that the student because he/she is **NOT** academically eligible to participate in the above-mentioned activity.

EXCUSED ABSCENCE (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ An excused absence will be granted.
- ☐ An excused absence will **NOT** be granted.
- ☐ Does not apply.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ Face-to-Face (on campus)
- ☐ Virtual option
- ☐ Homeschooled

Date

Signature of Principal or Designee

Name of School

CLUBS

What is a 4-H Club?

A 4-H Club is an organized group of at least five youth from two different families who meet regularly with adult volunteers or staff for a long-term, progressive series of educational experiences.

4-H Club Purpose

The purpose of a 4-H club is to provide positive youth development opportunities to meet the needs of young people to experience belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. In 4-H clubs, youth may serve as officers and learn to conduct meetings, handle club funds, facilitate and participate in group decision-making, plan/organize club activities and events, and give back to their communities.

Our Clubs



- **Nacogdoches Livestock 4-H Club** - Community Club
 - Project learning opportunities/activities, leadership, community service, and more!
 - **This club is no longer livestock-focused and is in the process of getting a name change.**
 - **Club Manager:** Laurie Fuller
 - **Email address:** fullerl@garrisonisd.com
 - **Co-Club Manager:** Carey Lindemann
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** 1st Mondays beginning in September, excluding holidays (if a holiday falls on the first Monday of a month, then the meeting will be held on the second Monday)
 - **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches County Extension Office



- **Regents Academy 4-H Club** - In-School Club
 - Project learning opportunities/activities, leadership, community service, and more!
 - **Club Manager:** Kelly Anderson
 - **Email address:** kalaine1172@gmail.com
 - **Meeting Information:** **NEW!**
 - **Dates:** 1st Wednesday of each month beginning in September
 - **Time:** 3:45 p.m.
 - **Location:** Regents Academy
 - **Participation:** This club is limited to Regents Academy students/siblings only

PROJECTS

What is a 4-H Project?

A 4-H project is a series of learning opportunities led by a trained adult or teen volunteer, or self-directed by a 4-H member. Projects are tools that 4-H uses to help club members gain subject matter knowledge and develop life skills such as goal setting, evaluating products and experiences, keeping records, and learning about character.

4-H Project Categories

- **Club, County, District, & State Projects:** These projects are supported by educational curricula from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and may include state-sponsored project experiences
- **Self-directed Projects:** Individualized areas of interest where members can explore appropriate subject matter when no Texas 4-H curriculum or named project exists: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_self_directed_projects_23_24.pdf
- **Clover Kid Projects:** Approved, age-appropriate projects for Clover Kids: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_clover_kid_projects-1.pdf

Project Activities

4-H project activities enable youth to learn through a variety of life experiences. A 4-H project usually consists of four types of activities:

- **Hands-on:** Making, producing, observing, testing, interviewing
- **Organized:** Demonstrations, speeches, workshops, contests, camps, judging contests, project activities, exhibits
- **Leadership/Citizenship:** Conducting, planning, teaching, helping, informing, organizing
- **Community Service:** Volunteering, serving, helping, collecting, reflecting, donating

Popular Project Activities in Nacogdoches County 4-H

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Livestock Shows | • Judging Contests | • Agriculture Product ID |
| • Shooting Sports Contests | • Photography Contests | • Educational Presentations |
| • Food Workshops & Food Challenge Contests | • Public Speaking Contests | • Fashion, Clothing & Textile Workshops & Contests |
| | • Forestry Contests | |



Texas 4-H Project Areas

There are five main project areas in the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program. The five project areas are Agriculture & Livestock, Family & Community Health, Natural Resources, Leadership & Citizenship, and STEM.

Texas 4-H Project List

Agriculture & Livestock

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Dog Care & Training
- Goats (Dairy & Mohair)
- Goats (Meat)
- Horse
- Horticulture
- Junior Master Gardener
- Livestock Judging
- Meat Science
- Poultry (Chickens & Turkeys)
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Soil & Crop Science
- Swine
- Veterinary Science

Family & Community Health

- Consumer Education
- Fashion & Interior Design
- Food & Nutrition
- Health & Personal Safety

Natural Resources

- Aquatic Science
- Entomology
- Forestry
- Outdoor Education & Living Skills
- Range Science
- Shooting Sports
- Sportfishing
- Water Conservation & Education
- Wildlife & Fisheries

Leadership & Citizenship

- Citizenship
- Community Service
- Global Education & Awareness
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Theater & Performance Arts
- Workforce Preparation
- Youth Entrepreneurship

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math

- Energy
- Photography & Videography
- Robotics
- Rocketry
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)

Our Project Clubs

Families that join 4-H after September or those who are interested in participating in a project club that has already started meeting must contact the project leader(s) to notify them of their interest in joining to ensure that the group is still accepting members and plans to meet as scheduled, discuss supply/equipment needs, and other participation requirements.



○ Archery (Shooting Sports) **NEW!**

- Firearm safety, responsible handling and use, marksmanship
 - **Project Leader:** Vanessa Whitehead
 - **E-mail address:** nessa7902@gmail.com
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** 2nd Sundays
 - **Time:** 2:00 p.m.
 - **Location:** Meadow Ridge Outdoors, 1090 Co Rd 231, Nacogdoches, TX 75961
 - **Participation Requirements:** \$10 fee per child per class. Bring your own equipment or use bows at Meadow Ridge. Members must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.



○ Beef Cattle

- Beef cattle industry, animal husbandry, livestock selection, health and care
 - **Project Leader:** Erin Brown, PhD
 - **E-mail address:** erin@rockingbfarms.com
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** 2nd & 4th Mondays beginning on September 25th
 - **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
 - **Location:** SFA Beef Cattle Pavilion, 442 Co Rd 123, Nacogdoches, TX 75965





◦ Dog Care & Training **NEW!**

- Daily care, health, and obedience training of dogs
 - **Project Leader:** Mandi Whitworth
 - **E-mail address:** bcwhitworth@yahoo.com
 - **Phone #:** 936-652-3529
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** Nov. 9, Jan. 11, Mar. 21 & 28, April 4, 11, 18, & 25
 - **Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 - **Locations:** Nov. 9 - SFA Beef Cattle Pavilion | Jan 11 - Nacogdoches County Extension Office | Mar. 21 - April 25 - Pecan Acres Park
 - **Clover Kid-friendly**



◦ Fashion & Interior Design **NEW!**

- Sewing machine basics, design, construction, upcycling, consumer buying skills, **Quilts of Valor** community service program
 - **Project Leader:** Mandi Whitworth
 - **E-mail address:** bcwhitworth@yahoo.com
 - **Phone #:** 936-652-3529
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** Oct. 3 & 17, Nov. 11, Dec. 12, Jan. 16 & 30, Feb. 3 & 20, Mar. 12, 19, & 26, April 9, 16, & 30
 - **Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches County Extension Office (meeting on and Feb. 20 will be at the SFA Beef Cattle Pavilion.)
 - **Clover Kid-friendly**



◦ Food & Nutrition

- Healthy food preparation, nutrition education, food and kitchen safety
 - **Project Leader:** Brianna Lugo, CEA-FCH
 - **E-mail address:** brianna.lugo@ag.tamu.edu
 - **Phone #:** 936-560-7711
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** Sept. 19, Nov. 14 & 28, Dec. 5 & 19, Jan. 23, Feb. 13
 - **Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches County Extension Office
 - **Clover Kid-friendly**



◦ Forestry - Regents Academy

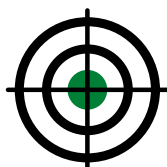
- Conservation, tree identification and measurement, forest evaluation, compass orienting
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - Practices usually begin in the spring. Contact Regents Academy 4-H Club Manager, Kelly Anderson for more information.





○ Livestock Judging

- Decision making, public speaking, evaluation of market animals
 - **Project Leader:** Erin Brown, PhD
 - **E-mail address:** erin@rockingbfarms.com
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** 2nd & 4th Mondays beginning on September 25th
 - **Time:** 5:00 p.m.
 - **Location:** SFA Beef Cattle Pavilion, 442 Co Rd 123, Nacogdoches, TX 75965



○ Rifle (Shooting Sports) **NEW!**

- Firearm safety, responsible handling and use, marksmanship
 - **Project Leader:** Kelly Anderson
 - **E-mail address:** kalaine1172@gmail.com
 - **Meeting Information:** *more details to come...*
 - **Dates:** (TBD) *Starting in the spring*
 - **Time:** (TBD)
 - **Location:** (TBD)



○ Shotgun (Shooting Sports)

- Firearm safety, responsible handling and use, marksmanship
 - **Project Leader:** Jennifer Horner
 - **E-mail address:** jdhorner_929@hotmail.com
 - **Meeting Information:**
 - **Dates:** 2nd Mondays & 4th Sundays
 - **Times:** 6:15 p.m. on 2nd Mondays | 2:30 p.m. on 4th Sundays beginning September 18th
 - **Locations:**
 - Pines Sporting Clays, 311 Spring Lake Dr, Lufkin, TX 75901 (**on 2nd Mondays**)
 - Nacogdoches Skeet Club, 1180 Old Post Oak Rd, Nacogdoches, TX 75964 (**on 4th Sundays**)



WHAT PROJECTS WOULD YOUR FAMILY LIKE TO SEE ADDED?

Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code below to complete the Project Interest Survey:



Start a New Club or Project

Don't see something you're interested in? We may not currently offer a club or project, but that does not mean we cannot start one! No experience necessary – we will train and assist you!

Volunteer & Club Types

You decide the level of involvement that fits your skills and schedule. There are many types of volunteers and clubs in 4-H. Determine what role and club type best suits your interests by reviewing the descriptions of each at: https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_fast_facts_participation_23_24.pdf.

How to Start a Club

Minimum Requirements:

- **Membership** - Find at least five youth from at least two different families that have similar interests, who live or attend school within Nacogdoches County
- **Leadership** - Determine who will be the designated club manager or project leader. Clubs and projects must be led and/or supervised by at least one screened and enrolled adult 4-H volunteer who will be responsible for providing primary leadership of the club/project by coordinating and facilitating educational activities. Additional volunteers may enroll to help lead projects/activities
- **Location** - Find a safe, accessible location to host club or project meetings
 - Ex.): School, church, public park, library, recreational center, county extension office, etc.
- **Club Chartering** - Once it is determined that membership, leadership, and location requirements will be met, the club will need to be chartered. Each year, all 4-H clubs are required to complete a [Texas 4-H Chartering Application](#) (granting permission for groups to operate using the 4-H name and emblem) to renew or form a club. To do so, the club will need:
 - Club Name
 - Employee Identification Number (EIN)
 - Club bylaws (template provided)
 - Financial Review
 - Bank accounts are optional but if possessed, they must be in compliance with Texas 4-H [financial management guidelines](#)

NOTE: Project/SPIN clubs are not required to complete Club Chartering if they do not have bank accounts AND if all the participating youth are enrolled members of a Community, School, After School, or Military 4-H club that meets monthly and has elected officers.

- **Youth & Volunteer Enrollment and Participation** – Once the club's chartering application is approved, youth and adult volunteers may begin enrolling online and participating in club, project and other 4-H activities
 - **Traditional Chartered Clubs Must:**
 - Hold regularly scheduled monthly meetings
 - Have elected officers of President, Vice President(s), Treasurer, Secretary
 - Parliamentarian, Reporter/Public Relations Officer, County 4-H Council Delegate(s), and Health/Safety Officer
 - Conduct service learning and/or community service project(s)
 - **Non-Chartered Project/SPIN Clubs Must:**
 - Have a minimum of 5 sequential learning experiences each at least 30 minutes in length with a total of at least two hours of educational experiences

Click [HERE](#) to submit a request to start a new club/project or scan the QR code:



CONTESTS & LIVESTOCK SHOWS

4-H Contests

Throughout the year, various open, invitational, and qualifying contests are offered across the district and state in all 4-H project areas. Registration for most district & state 4-H contests/events must be done through family 4HOnline profiles.

District 4-H Contests

- District 5 4-H contests enable members to showcase the skills they obtained through their participation in 4-H projects. Some district 4-H contests are offered as stand-alone events while others may occur during the multi-day, **Come Alive in District 5** event in April or May.
 - **County Contests:** Some district contests may require 4-H members to qualify on the county-level. A need for county qualifying contests will be determined by agents and the 4-H Adult Leaders' & Parents' Association and will be conducted on an as needed basis depending on the number of interested contest participants.

Texas 4-H Roundup

- Texas 4-H Roundup is a qualifying and invitational event for 4-H members in the senior age division (9th - 12th grades) who placed in a District-level Roundup or signed up to compete in one of the invitational events. The [Texas 4-H Roundup](#) has around 50 diverse competitions that tie in with the many projects that 4-H has to offer and usually takes place in June.

Validation Information for Livestock Shows



To participate in county and major livestock shows, 4-H members must have their animals validated prior to showing. See validation, entry, and pick-up information for the 2023 -2024 year below. **NOTE:** Entry and validation dates for some breeds and shows may have already passed.

State Fair of Texas (Dallas) - October 1 - 14, 2023

Piney Woods Fair - October 10 - 14, 2023

- **Broiler Pick-up Date:** August 28, 2023
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches Co. Expo. Center
- **Rabbit Validation Date:** September 7, 2023
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches Co. Expo. Center
 - **Time:** 4:00 p.m.

Fall Major Show Validation

- Lambs, Goats, & Heifers
 - **Validation Date:** October 24, 2023
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches Co. Expo Center
- Pigs
 - **Validation Date:** November 28, 2023
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches Co. Expo Center

Major Show Entry Night - October 30, 2023


- **Location:** Nacogdoches Co. Extension Office
- **Time:** 5:00 p.m.

Nacogdoches County Steer Show - Feb. 29 - Mar. 1, 2024

- **Validation Date:** August 23, 2023
 - **Location:** Nacogdoches Co. Expo Center
 - **Time:** 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For more information about important livestock project dates, deadlines, and dues, contact Ag & Natural Resources Agent, [Ricky Thompson](mailto:ricky.thompson@ag.tamu.edu).

Phone: 936-560-7711
Email: ricky.thompson@ag.tamu.edu



Need Financial Assistance for Your Livestock Project?

The **U.S Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency** has a youth loan program that supports 4-H and FFA agriculture projects. For more information, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/youth-loans/index>

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Club, County, District, & State 4-H Officers

4-H members have the opportunity to serve as 4-H officers on the club, county, district, and state levels. At each level, officers are elected by their peers to represent the 4-H program while collaborating with adult volunteers and Extension faculty to plan, coordinate, and facilitate activities and events. Other requirements for various levels of officer positions including age restrictions and applications may apply depending on each group's respective bylaws.

Texas 4-H Ambassador Programs

The **Texas 4-H Ambassador Program** strives to provide high school-aged 4-H members the opportunity to develop and practice advanced leadership skills to mentor other youth, and to become knowledgeable representatives and advocates for their respective project. Ambassadors may represent a county 4-H program or a specific 4-H project/program area. Ambassador opportunities are available on the state-level as well, examples include the Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors, Livestock Ambassadors, Shooting Sports Ambassadors, and such. For more information about becoming a Texas 4-H Ambassador in a particular project area, visit: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ambassadors/>.

Project Leaders & Club Managers

- **Club Manager:** Enrolled adult volunteers who provide guidance to the general leadership/management of a 4-H club unit, involves 4-H officers, parents, supporting adults, leaders and members in promoting the goals of 4-H, and serves as the contact person between the club unit and the county Extension office
- **Project Leader:** Enrolled adult volunteers who provide structured learning experiences, personal guidance, and counseling in project-related opportunities for 4-H members enrolled in the project.
- **Teen Leader:** Enrolled youth volunteers/4-H members between the ages of 13 and 19 with one year of project experience who accept the full leadership responsibility under the guidance and advice of an adult volunteer for a 4-H project.
- **Junior Leader:** Enrolled 4-H members who have excelled in his or her project and exhibits leadership by assisting project leaders with project learning experiences

4-H Adult Leaders' & Parents' Association (ALPA)

The 4-H Adult Leaders' & Parents Association (ALPA) and County Council is a group which consists of 4-H adult volunteers and parents who help plan, coordinate, and facilitate events/activities for the Nacogdoches County 4-H Program and provide guidance and support to the County Council. The **County Council** is a youth group made up of the Council Delegate, President, and Vice President from each of the 4-H clubs within Nacogdoches County that works collaboratively with the ALPA.

◦ **ALPA & County Council Meeting Information:**

- **Dates:** 3rd Mondays (September - August) or the following Monday if the third one is a holiday
- **Time:** 5:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Nacogdoches County Extension Office

4-H Family & Community Health (FCH) Coalition

Members of this coalition take part in the planning, marketing, and implementation of 4-H FCH project workshops/learning opportunities, contest practices, community service, and leadership opportunities. Both adults and youth may be a part of this taskforce which will meet at least 3 times a year on an as needed basis.

RECORD BOOKS, SCHOLARSHIPS, RECOGNITION, & CAMPS

Record Books

All 4-H members are encouraged to keep project records and have these records reviewed annually by submitting a **Texas 4-H Record Book**. The primary purposes of completing a Record Book are for a young person to develop the skills necessary to set goals, work toward achieving those goals, reflect on his/her experiences, and set new and higher goals for themselves. A secondary benefit is to prepare young people for the process of completing academic scholarship and/or collegiate admission applications. Lastly, these books can be entered into Record Book contests.

A Texas 4-H Record Book consists of information that a 4-H member records over the course of a 4-H year that documents his/her goals, knowledge and skills gained, leadership experiences, awards earned, and service in his/her community. Those experiences are recorded into forms, narratives, and a story/photo portfolio written by the 4-H member. The information is combined and is typically submitted for evaluation around June or July. Resources & guides for completing a Record Book can be found at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>.

Scholarships

With 4-H comes opportunities for 4-H members to earn scholarships. Many scholarships can be earned by members of all ages through their participation in select 4-H opportunities. Academic scholarships can be applied for by eligible 4-H members through the **Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation**. Visit <https://texas4hfoundation.org/types-of-scholarships/> for more information.

Recognition & Awards

County 4-H Awards: At the end of each 4-H year, all Nacogdoches County 4-H members have the opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments at the County 4-H Awards Banquet. Some of the awards that 4-H members can earn include **4-H Year Pins** which recognize youth for the number of years that they have participated in the 4-H, **Project Completion Pins** for each project that 4-H members completed, and the **Gold Star Award**.

The Gold Star Award is the highest achievement that a 4-H member can be awarded at the county level. It is awarded each year to two outstanding senior-level (9th - 12th grade) 4-H members based on their total 4-H career. In addition to other requirements, the 4-H'er must submit a Record Book in the year he or she applies for the award and must have completed projects in at least three project areas. This award is only awarded once in a member's 4-H career. **NOTE:** Award opportunities are subject to change as decided by the Adult Leaders' & Parents' Association.




Camps

Throughout the year, 4-H camps are offered on the district and state levels. See the district-wide camps offered annually listed below and visit, <https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/> for more information about camps held at the Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood, Texas:


- **Junior Leadership Lab** is held in the fall for 4-H members who are in 3rd - 8th grades. Participants gain valuable project knowledge and skills they can take home and implement in their local county 4-H program. The activities offered are designed to explore creativity in leadership roles, enhance teambuilding skills, and develop communication and public speaking skills
- **Senior Leadership Lab** is held in June for 4-H members who are in or are entering 9th grade - 12th grade including those just graduated seniors. The event is designed to prepare District 5 4-H members for various leadership roles at the county, district, and state levels.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT 4-H ACTIVITIES & EVENTS





Nacogdoches County 4-H

- **4HOnline Broadcast Emails** - All enrolled 4-H families will receive relevant 4-H information such as event announcements, updates, and reminders via the 4HOnline email system from the county, district & state 4-H offices. Please be sure that the contact information listed on your family 4HOnline profile is valid and current as this is our primary means of communication.
 - **4-H Newsletter** - Monthly newsletters will be sent out via 4HOnline to highlight upcoming events, member accomplishments, and exciting 4-H activities happening throughout the county.
 - **4-H Club Meetings** - Members can stay up to date on club, county, district, and state 4-H activities by attending club meetings.
 - **Social Media:**
 - Nacogdoches County 4-H:  <https://www.facebook.com/NacCounty4H>
 - Nacogdoches 4-H Club:  <https://www.facebook.com/Nacogdoches-4H-Club-216650638422147/>
 - Nacogdoches County Extension Service:  <https://www.facebook.com/NacExtension/>
 - **Website:**
 - Nacogdoches County Extension Service: <https://nacogdoches.agrilife.org/>
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District 5 4-H

- **District 5 4-H Contest/Events Schedule** - Every year, the District Office releases a schedule of district, state, and national-level 4-H contests and events. This schedule will be released in September and is updated periodically throughout the year. This schedule will be sent to all 4-H families through 4HOnline.
 - **Social Media:**
 -  <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063621068355>
 - **Website** - On the District 5 4-H website you can find district contest and event information such as registration dues, deadlines, rules/guidelines, and more.
 - **District 5 4-H Youth Development:** <https://d54-h.tamu.edu/>
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Texas 4-H

- **Texas 4-H Website** - The Texas 4-H website is the go-to resource for all things Texas 4-H. On this website, there are resources for 4-H projects, club managers and officers, guides for navigating the 4-H online system, information for Texas 4-H events, and so much more!
 - Texas 4-H: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>
- **Social Media:**
 -  <https://www.facebook.com/texas4h>
 -  <https://www.instagram.com/texas4h/>
 -  <https://www.youtube.com/user/tx4h>
 -  <https://twitter.com/texas4h>

RESOURCES

4H ONLINE & ENROLLMENT

- **Welcome to 4-H Handout & Enrollment Tips (2023-2024):** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/4honline_family_guide_welcome.pdf
- **4HOnline Website:** <https://v2.4honline.com/>
- **4HOnline Family Guides:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/4honline/>
- **Event Registration Instructions:** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/4honline_family_guide_event_registering.pdf

PROJECT & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INFORMATION

- **Texas 4-H Project List (2023-2024):** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_projects_23_24.pdf
- **Project Resources:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/>
- **Ambassador Programs:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/ambassadors/>
- **Texas 4-H Opportunities Handbook/Clover Guide (2023-2024):** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_clover_annual_opportunities_23_24.pdf
- **Self-Directed Project Guide to Success (2023-2024):** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_self_directed_projects_23_24.pdf

4-H MANAGEMENT & ADULT VOLUNTEERS

- **Declaration of Eligibility Form:** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_adjunct_faculty_declaration_23_24.pdf
- **4-H Club Management Resources:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/management/>
- **Financial Management Guidelines (2023-2024):** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_financial_guide_23_24.pdf
- **Rules & Guidelines (2023-2024):** https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/management_rules_guidelines_23_24.pdf
- **Curriculum & Resources:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/resources/>
- **Program for Minors:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/minors/>
- **Volunteer Involvement:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/volunteer/>

RECORD BOOKS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Record Book Guides & Resources:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>
- **Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarships:** <https://texas4hfoundation.org/types-of-scholarships/>

TEXAS 4-H

- **Texas 4-H Website:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>
- **Events and Activities:** <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/activity/>
- **Texas 4-H Center Camps:** <https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/>

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

