

## Brief History of 4-H

The first official 4-H club began in 1901 as a response to young people and their need for better agricultural education. To help meet this need, A.B. Graham, a school principal in Ohio, began to promote vocational agriculture in rural schools in out-of-school "clubs." In 1902, Graham formed a club of boys and girls with officers, projects, meetings, and record requirements. He sought assistance of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and Ohio State University. At the same time the club concept was adopted in Iowa by O.H. Benson in Wright County and Jessie Field Shambaugh in Page county.

These club models engaged youth in activities that put their knowledge to practical use, thus creating the "learn by doing" mantra.

## 4-H Mission:

The University of Arizona 4-H Youth Development Program provides quality youth education by building positive relationships and life skills. We develop competent, caring and actively engaged citizens who strengthen Arizona communities.

## 4-H Vision:

Arizona 4-H is the preferred choice for young people and parents who want the extra edge for life success provided through 4-H's research-based, hands-on learning experiences led by caring adult volunteers.

## 4-H Educational Philosophy:

The phrase "*Learning by Doing*" sums up the educational philosophy of the 4-H program. Young people learn best when they are involved in their learning.

## 4-H Pledge:

The pledge tells what 4-H is about. The 4-H goal is the four-fold development of youth: Head, Heart, Hands and Health. The pledge was adopted by the delegates of the 1927 National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D.C. State club leaders voted for and adopted the pledge for universal use. The phrase "*and my world*" was added in 1973. The saying of the pledge has a prominent place in 4-H activities, at regular 4-H meetings, achievement days and other club events.

## 4-H Motto:

The motto "*To Make the Best Better*" is intended to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better through participating in educational experiences.

## 4-H Emblem:

The green four-leaf clover with the white letter "H" in each leaf is the National 4-H Emblem. Green and white are the 4-H colors. Green is nature's most common color and symbolizes youth, life, and growth. White stands for purity and high ideals.

## 4-H Creed:

- I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.
- I believe in the training of my **HEAD** for the power it will give me to think, to plan and to reason.
- I believe in training of my **HEART** for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.
- I believe in the training of my **HANDS** for the ability it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.
- I believe in the training of my **HEALTH** for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease and to work efficiently.
- I believe in my country, my State and my community and in my responsibility for their development.
- In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.