Welcome to Brown County 4-H!

With the start of the new 4-H year, it’s a great time for new families to learn about everything that is 4-H. Each month, you’ll receive the Exploring 4-H handout which is specifically intended for families that are new to 4-H.

Each handout will cover a new topic and will be 2 pages, front and back. The front page is meant to give adults a more well-rounded understanding of 4-H. The back page is meant for youth 4-H members to either go through on their own, or with a parent, to explore how 4-H operates and fits their own interests.

While Exploring 4-H will cover a wide variety of topics, it’s completely normal to have more questions. Never hesitate to ask more questions about 4-H. You are surrounded by a huge number of people that want to help. Your club leader, other families in your 4-H community, and 4-H staff in the Extension Office are all great resources.

Additionally, a number of helpful resources can also be found online. The Brown County 4-H website (https://www.browncountywi4h.org) has information specific to Brown County. The Wisconsin 4-H website (https://4h.extension.wisc.edu) also has information about statewide programs and opportunities.

Tell us how we did! Once you have had a chance to peruse this month’s edition of Exploring 4-H. Please fill out this 2-minute survey: https://forms.gle/ENeo5qzTVwc32cbd6

My contact information is below. Please reach out if you ever have a question or need clarity on any 4-H topics.

I’m so glad that you’ve decided to join 4-H! I can’t wait to see the amazing things your family experiences in 4-H.

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What does 4-H stand for?

Head, heart, hands, and health represent the 4 H’s. Each meeting begins with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the 4-H Pledge. While the 4-H pledge has a very direct meaning for our 4-H clubs and members, there are additional ways that parents and guardians can apply the pledge before, during, and after club meetings and events.

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking
It’s normal for kids to have questions or be unsure about things. Give your child the information you can to help them see things clearly and make wise decisions.

My heart to greater loyalty
Success is awesome. Failure is inevitable. Encourage and support all youth, and especially your own, through successes and disappointments.

My hands to larger service
While our certified 4-H volunteers are awesome, they have limits as well. Help your family’s club in whatever way you are able. If you don’t have the time to be a volunteer, you can help in many equally important ways. If you do want to learn more about volunteering, contact the Extension Office!

My health to better living
In addition to doing all we can to keep our kids physically healthy, it’s important that we provide a space and time that is physically, mentally, and emotionally safe. Without a safe space, our kids are not likely to have a positive experience.

for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H does not happen without supportive parents, guardians, and volunteers who serve as positive role models. Stay involved as a family as best as you can, it makes the experience much richer for everyone. The more successful our 4-H members are, the more impactful they are upon the world around them.

Please share your thoughts by filling out this 2-minute survey
https://forms.gle/ENeo5qzTVwc32cbd6
The 4-H Pledge
4-H meetings start with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the 4-H Pledge. In each leaf of the clover below, write what each “H” might mean for you!

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.

I would like to learn...
My hobbies...
We could help our community by...
Just for fun we could...

At some time during the year, your club leader might ask for ideas about things you’d like to do, ways you’d like to help your community, or topics you want to learn more about. Don’t be afraid to speak up and share the ideas you wrote at your next club meeting!

Adapted from Design Your Own Clover, Dr. Darlene Z Millard, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension by Ben Hoppe, Brown County 4-H Program Coordinator, UW-Madison; Division of Extension

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