

## **WHAT IS 4-H**

For more than 100 years, the 4-H Program of Texas has been engaging youth in activities that help develop skills for a lifetime. These skills range from communication to community service and from goal setting to leadership. Regardless of the skill learned, the benefits gathered from a young person participating in the 4-H Program are priceless.

The 4-H Program is a nationwide youth development program that has more than 6.5 million youth involved in it annually. Administered in Texas by the A&M AgriLife Extension Service of the Texas A&M System, 4-H serves youth in all 254 counties in the state through a network of 250 County Extension Offices. 4-H is managed jointly by both a professional and volunteer staff. Texas 4-H, the largest 4-H program in the country, has more than 660,000 youth participants and more than 32,800 volunteers working together to deliver the more than 95 projects, opportunities, and events offered annually through the program.

4-H is unique in that it offers experiences to the most urban young person and youth in rural areas by providing the opportunity to participate in community 4-H clubs, learning experiences in school classrooms, day and overnight camps, and other special interest opportunities. Texas 4-H also serves the sons and daughters of our military personnel through the 4-H Military Program located throughout the state, primarily on military bases.

Youth members can participate in a variety of projects in the areas of technology, human sciences, animals and household pets, science and engineering, natural resources, and wildlife. Beyond the excitement of learning something new through a project, youth have the opportunity to participate in leadership conferences, travel the world, become involved in their community through service, and meet new friends in a safe and comfortable setting. A young person's experiences in 4-H makes a difference for a lifetime by allowing them to grow and appreciate the importance of being a good citizen, a strong leader, and a person of character.

If you would like to learn more about 4-H, or have a family member wanting to join 4-H, contact your local County Extension Office or visit the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website at: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>.