

Everything Parents Want to Know About 4-H

What is 4-H? 4-H is an organization for youth ages 9-19. The emphasis is on “learning by doing” through project work. The program focuses on improving leadership skills and preparing youth to be tomorrow’s citizens. The program is provided through the County Extension Office, a part of the University of Georgia.

4-H’ers are divided into age groups.... Cloverleafs (5th and 6th graders), Juniors (7th and 8th graders), and Seniors / Sigma Lambda Chi 4-H (high school students).

How does my child become a 4-H member?

All students in 5th and 6th grades are involved in 4-H as a part of the school curriculum. The 4-H staff visits with each class monthly and conducts an educational program. There is no cost involved. 4-H’ers are encouraged at club meetings to participate in out-of-the-classroom 4-H activities. There may be a minimal cost for some of these activities. County T-Shirts are also available for a small cost.

When and where are club meetings held?

Cloverleaf Club meetings are held in the classroom once a month during the months of September, October, November, January, February, March and May. Junior meetings are held during lunch. Senior club meetings are held after school. For meeting dates and times visit our county website:

www.ugaextension.com/washington

How can I keep up with what is going on in 4-H?

A newsletter is given to each child at the monthly meeting. Children are encouraged to show these to their parents. All information about events, activities, etc., is put in the newsletter. Cloverleaf 4-H’ers will also receive

a 4-H Club Members Handbook in September. 4-H’ers are encouraged to keep up with these Handbooks from month to month for Club & Individual Points. These items can also be accessed on our county website:

www.ugaextension.com/washington

What opportunities do Cloverleafs have?

4-H Point System – 4-H members are given the opportunity to earn prizes and a trip as a reward for being active in 4-H events and activities. Each 4-H member who participates in an out of county competition AND earns 200 points by the end of the school year will be invited to an end-of-the-year event/trip.

Contests are held regularly and are discussed at the monthly meeting. Details about these are in the monthly newsletter. Please encourage your child to enter these contests. Club points and individual points are given for those entering. The club with the most points at the end of the year will enjoy a 4-H Pizza Party.

Friends Books are given to 5th grade Cloverleaf 4-H’ers. These contain information which may be helpful to the 4-H family. There are four books to complete for the 5th grade: Intro to 4-H, Finding You Way to 4-H Project Achievement, Eat Well, and 4-H Summer Camp. Club and Individual points will be given upon completion of each manual.

Washington County Agricultural & Youth Fair offers many opportunities for 4-H’ers to enter contests and exhibits. Information about fair activities will be sent home after the first club meeting in the monthly newsletter. Encourage your 4-H’er to participate. This is a great activity for the family to enjoy together.

Community Service Projects are a great way for 4-H’ers to learn to give back to their community. We have monthly projects that 4-H’ers can

participate in. Information about upcoming opportunities will be put in the monthly newsletter.

Project Achievement is a presentation competition open to all 5th – 12th grade 4-H’ers. Cloverleaf 4-H’ers can choose one out of over sixty different project areas to compete in. They then prepare posters and a speech to go along with their project. Or they can choose one of the Performing Arts Projects where they can sing, dance, or play an instrument for competition. These projects have a time limit of 4 minutes. Prizes include ribbons and trophies. Once they reach the 9th grade, District winners can advance to State Congress and compete for the prestigious Master 4-H’er title. Information about Project Achievement is sent home in October. District Project Achievement will be held in Swainsboro on Saturday, March 24th.

Summer Camp

The Georgia 4-H camping program is tops in the nation, so you’ll want your child to participate in this fabulous summer experience. To help lower your cost, we offer many opportunities for 4-H’ers to earn their way to camp. We will offer a fall Coca-Cola fundraiser and a spring Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser that you can participate in. We also offer scholarship money for active 4-H’ers. Camp registration is scheduled for February 1, 2012 at the 4-H Office.

Does Washington County 4-H have any other clubs? Yes! We have several additional 4-H Clubs your child can participate in.

- Washington County 4-H JOAD Archery
- Washington County 4-H Livestock Club
- Washington County 4-H Horse Club
- Washington County 4-H B.B Gun Team

For more information about these clubs contact the Washington County 4-H Office.

Can I become a 4-H Volunteer? Absolutely! We need volunteers. There are lots of opportunities for volunteers: weekend trips, day trips, summer camp, assisting with 4-H projects, fund raising, office help, leading special interest clubs, and you can take ownership in the *NEW Washington County 4-H Volunteer Association!* To get involved, call or visit the 4-H Office.

Who do I call when I have questions about 4-H? If you have questions about a 4-H event or 4-H in general, please feel free to contact Cindy Sheram at the County Extension Office. The office is located at 158 West Haynes Street across from Sandersville City Hall and next to Mr. James' Barber Shop. The phone number is 552-2011. Office hours are 8 a.m.–12 noon, 1–5 p.m., Monday–Friday. You can also email me at:

csheram@uga.edu

For more information about the Washington County 4-H Program, including a 4-H Event Calendar, visit our County Website at:

www.ugaextension.com/washington

You can also visit the Georgia 4-H Site at:

www.georgia4h.org



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Washington County
4-H

A Parent's Overview
for 5th Graders

Frequently Asked Questions
About Your Child's 4-H
Program



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