



4-H Youth Development Is an American Idea: The world's largest, dynamic, informal educational program for young people is based on democratic principles.

Learn by Doing: This idea is alive and well in all of Michigan's 83 counties where 4-H Youth Development takes Michigan State University's Land-Grant University knowledge and expertise to youth in rural, suburban, and urban communities. Youth are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities that emphasize the "learning by doing" philosophy of 4-H Youth Development. Hands-on projects range from citizenship to expressive arts, consumer science, environmental education, leadership, and technology as well as animal and plant sciences.

Seven Million Youth: The bottom line is that nearly seven million youth nation wide and 1200 youth from Sanilac County, ages 5-19, participate in 4-H Youth Development experiences. 4-H Youth Development is the only youth program that ties both public and private resources to the single purpose of supporting the positive and successful development of youth. A two-year study in New York State found that young people who participate in 4-H Clubs:

- perform better in school,
- are motivated to help others,
- make lasting friendships, and
- develop skills in leadership, public speaking, self-esteem, and communication planning.

4-H reaches these youth through a network of 3,500 professional educators and nearly 600,000 volunteer leaders nation wide. Sanilac County counts over 400 volunteer leaders among its 4-H family.

Direct Access to Michigan State Land-Grant Universities: As the only youth program with direct access to technological advances in agriculture, life sciences, human development, social sciences, and related areas that result from Land-Grant University research, 4-H Youth Development is helping young people become more mature, competent adults capable of participation and leadership in their communities and entry into the workforce.

100 Years of Reaching Youth: 4-H Youth Development has just celebrated its centennial - 100 years of a great idea. This cooperative venture is organized around the notion of building community spirit and creating opportunities for youth to develop skills and confidence. Today, 45 percent of youth reached by 4-H are from rural areas and towns up to 10,000, and 55 percent are from larger cities, their suburbs, and from large inner cities. Thirty percent of 4-H youth are from racial and ethnic minorities.

