



An introduction to UConn Extension Tolland County 4-H:



When you join 4-H, you choose what interests you. Here are some examples of hands-on opportunities:

- exploring the environment and nature
- growing your own food
- learning about science and technology
- developing photography skills
- caring for animals
- speaking in public and in front of audiences
- addressing needs in the community through community service
- starting or running a small business
- sewing, spinning and textile arts
- repairing small engines

You can be part of a club, be an individual member, attend 4-H Camp, go on a field trip or show off your new skills at a 4-H Fair. In the process, you meet new friends, solve problems and make a difference in your neighborhood or even in the world.

4-H is open to any youth who is at least 7 years and not 19 years of age on January 1st of the project year. 4-H Explorers is open to youth ages 5 and 6 on January 1st of the project year.

- There is no charge to become a member (but clubs may have dues to cover costs of materials)
- Interested youth should contact their local Extension Center where they will either be referred to an existing club leader, guided through the steps to start a new club or provided information on independent
- Filling out an enrollment form and code of conduct form and returning to the local Extension Center completes the process. Forms are available at www.4-h.uconn.edu

A 4-H member in good standing meets the following guidelines:

- Connecticut 4-H members must be at least 7 years and not 19 years of age on January 1st of the project year
- Selects projects for in-depth study
- Records what they learn (record books)
- Attends meetings regularly (if a member of an organized group) and is an active participant
- Completes a community service project (or becomes involved in a group community service project) and participates in some form of public presentation
- Has the opportunity to have projects and activities evaluated at the Tolland County 4-H Fair*

Start a club: If a club is not available in your area, we are here to help you

4-H Club: You, have at least 5 interested youth age 7 – 18 who want to meet and work together, and want to make a positive difference in a young person's life. Training and support provided by the Tolland County 4-H office. **2017-2018 Tolland County 4-H Community Clubs** in your area available upon request.

*4-H Explorers Club** for ages 5 and 6 is an organized family or small group meeting regularly with youth using the 4-H curriculum for guided exploration of the many 4-H projects. This club model does not work on a yearlong project nor competes at the 4-H Fair. Can exhibit in a non competitive class at the 4-H Fair.

Independent Member: Does your schedule not "fit in" with others? Do you have a special interest that you want to pursue? As an independent member you can work on your project, at your own pace, with the help and guidance of a local Extension professional. And as an independent member you can participate in county, state, regional and event national 4-H programs!

For more information, contact the TC 4-H office at 860-875-3331 or mackenzie.white@uconn.edu