

Washington County 4-H Youth Development: *An Overview*

Our Background

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. What began as a way to connect university resources to rural youth, today has grown into a global organization that teaches a range of life skills. These life skills include leadership, critical thinking, communication, empathy, teamwork and more.

4-H is dedicated to positive youth development and helping youth step up to the challenges in a complex and changing world. 4-H cultivates the next generation of leaders.

The Impact of 4-H

- ◆ 4-H youth are nearly **four** times more likely to make contributions to their communities.
- ◆ 4-H youth are about **two** times more likely to be civically active.
- ◆ 4-H youth are nearly **two** times more likely to make healthier choices.

**According to an in-depth, longitudinal study conducted by the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development, Tufts University.*

Washington County 4-H in Numbers

837 Youth members enrolled in 2017

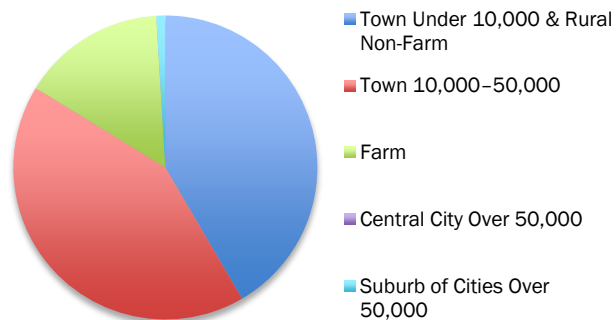
296 Adult volunteers enrolled in 2017

223 Youth leaders enrolled in 2017

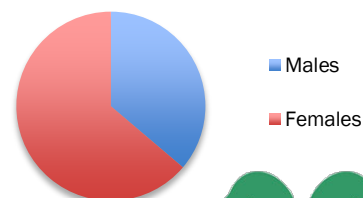
19 4-H Community Clubs in Washington County



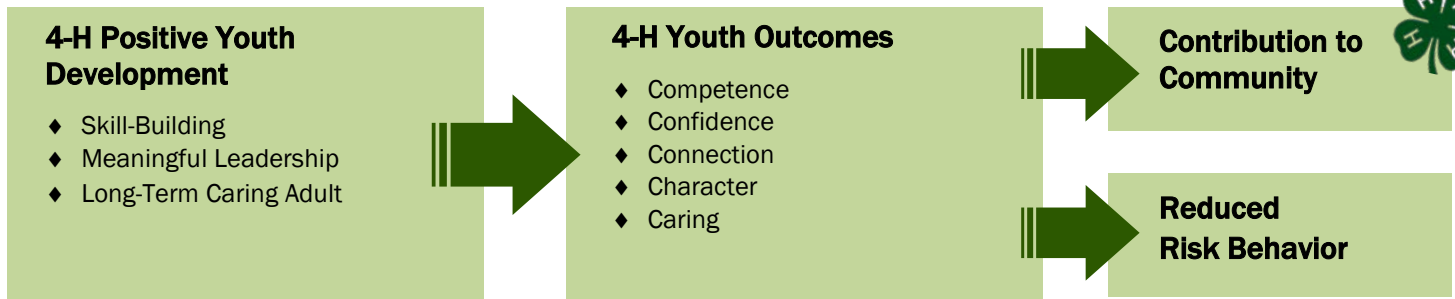
Where Washington County 4-H Members Live:



Gender of 4-H Members:



The 4-H Formula for Success!



Who Provides Leadership for 4-H?

In Wisconsin, 4-H is sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of University of Wisconsin-Extension. Nationally, it is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Local leadership is provided by 4-H Youth Development staff at the Washington County UW-Extension Office.

Who Can Join 4-H?

Washington County 4-H is open to *any* youth in grades **K5-13** (one year out of high school).

What are 4-H Projects?

A 4-H project is a series of learning experiences. Many projects have manuals to assist the 4-H'er with his or her project. 4-H members choose for themselves which projects they want to learn more about based on their learning interests. Projects use hands-on learning experiences to teach subject matter and life skills.

Most Popular Projects in Washington County 4-H

Archery 237 members

Arts 169 members

Photography 157 members

Youth Leadership 93 members

Rabbits 82 members

The "5 Cs" of Positive Youth Development

Competence	Positive view of one's actions in specific areas, including social and academic skills
Confidence	An internal sense of overall positive self-worth and self-efficacy
Connection	Positive bonds with people and institutions that are reflected in exchanges between the individual and his or her peers, family, school, and community in which both parties contribute to the relationship
Character	Respect for societal and cultural norms, possession of standards for correct behaviors, a sense of right and wrong (morality), and integrity
Caring	A sense of sympathy and empathy for others

**Source: The Positive Development of Youth: Comprehensive Findings from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development*

Learn More!

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