

4-H IS A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

For more than 100 years, 4-H has been the nation's leading youth organization to welcome young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving youth voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.



"TALENT IS EVERYWHERE. OPPORTUNITY IS NOT."

As the youth development arm of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia 4-H works throughout the commonwealth to help all youth learn by doing to help them become the best versions of themselves. 4-H youth are empowered to be upstanding citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and around the world.

Virginia 4-H helps youth find their voice to be leaders in their communities and empowers them to make positive change.

Virginia 4-H believes that diverse perspectives, values, and beliefs help generate better ideas to solve the complex problems of a changing—and increasingly diverse—world. Likewise, we believe that we must create opportunity for all regardless of the individual's background or identity.

To achieve this, Virginia 4-H will continue to promote opportunities within multiple delivery modes and in the areas of Agriculture, Civic Engagement, Healthy Living, STEM, and beyond while embracing what makes each 4-H member and volunteer unique. We are committed to being intentional in our approach by embracing the essential elements described here as well as other core tenets of positive youth development.

OUR ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

01

BELONGING

Positive relationship with a caring adult
Creating an inclusive environment
Creating a safe environment

02

MASTERY

Engagement in culturally relevant learning
Opportunity for mastery

03

INDEPENDENCE

Opportunity to build efficacy and to see oneself as an active participant in the future
Opportunity for self-determination

04

GENEROSITY

Opportunity to value and practice service for others
Opportunity to take a critical stance on justice



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<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth.html>



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Credit: Alyssa W. Walden, State Program Leader-Youth, 4-H Extension Agent, Stafford County