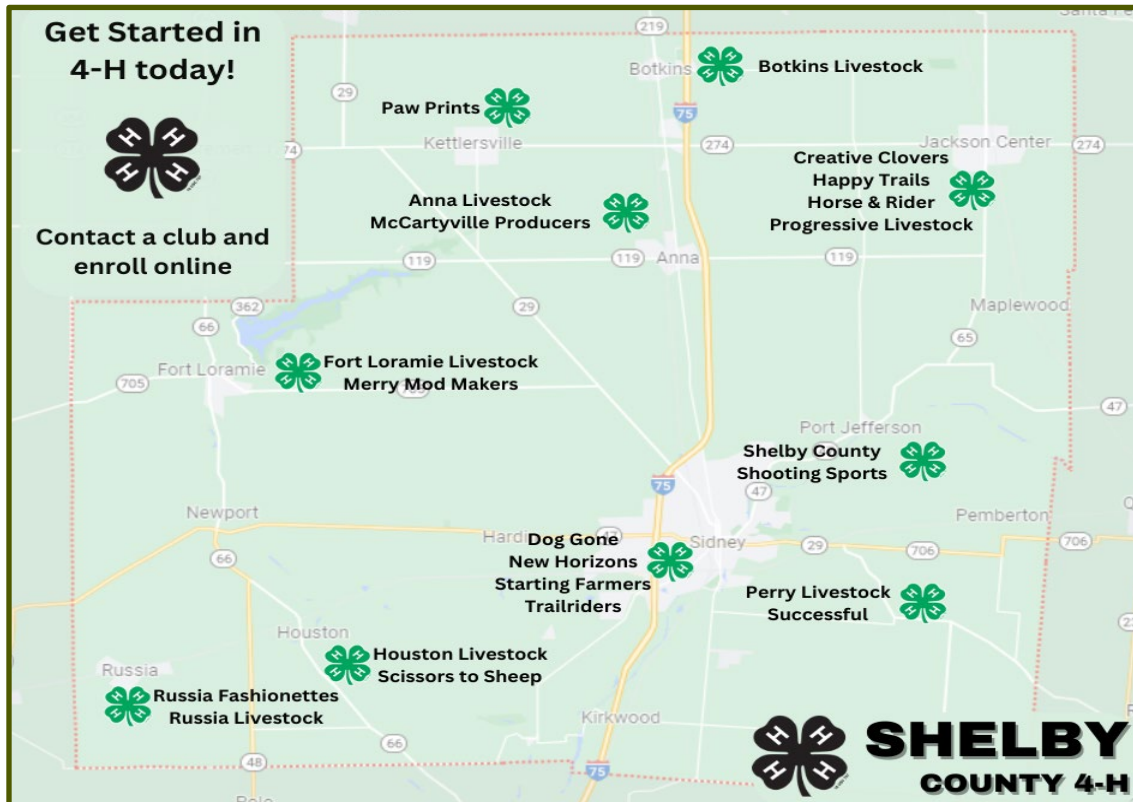


Shelby County 4-H New Family Guide



Welcome

Welcome to the Shelby County 4-H Program! We are happy to have you join us! We know that 4-H can be overwhelming initially, but we are here to help. 4-H is a youth development program that empowers young people with the skills to lead a lifetime through “learn by doing” activities. This family guide includes information that we hope will be helpful and will provide you with the tools necessary to have a positive start to your 4-H career. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions!

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Eligibility & Enrollment

Enrollment in Ohio 4-H is open to youth ages 5-18. Youth ages 5 (and in Kindergarten) through 8 are eligible to join as Cloverbuds. These members participate in hands-on, fun educational opportunities that are non-competitive. Youths ages 9 (or eight and in the 3rd grade) through 18, as of January 1st of the current year, can join 4-H as youth members. These members are eligible for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events. Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate count 4-H enrollment process. 4-H enrollment starts November 1st at go.osu.edu/shelby4henrollment. New members have until May 1st.

All About 4-H

Ohio 4-H Mission: The mission of Ohio 4-H is to empower young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime.

4-H Emblem: Four-leaf clovers with the letter “H” on each leaf. The emblem is federally protected. The Hs stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The “18 USC 707” marking that appears along the right lower leaf is coding that protects the use of the clover.

Motto: “To make the best better.”

Slogan: “Learn by Doing.”

Colors: Green and White. Green is nature’s most common color and represents youth, life, and growth. White symbolizes purity and high ideals.

4-H Pledge: I pledge

My head to clear thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service, and

My health to better living,

For my club, my community, my country, and my world.



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What is Expected of a 4-H Member?

- 1. Find your Interests:** Check out the Ohio 4-H Family Guide and 4-H Project Central to determine which projects interest you. There are hundreds to choose from!
- 2. Join a 4-H Club:** This packet includes a map and a list of our clubs in Shelby County. Select a club that is the best fit for you! Contact the club to ask about enrolling as a new member.
- 3. Enroll in 4-H Online:** Once you have selected your club, it is time to enroll in 4-H. You must create a profile (or re-enroll with last year's profile if this is not your first year or you have siblings in the program). The instructions to enroll are included in this packet. The new member 4-H enrollment deadline is May 1st!
- 4. Attend your club meetings:** Attending club meetings is essential to your success in 4-H. It's the best way to get involved, make new friends, stay informed, and have fun! To be a member in good standing, you must attend at least six club



Shelby County 4-H member sharing her project with a judge at 4-H Project Judging

meetings (unless otherwise specified by the club) per year.

5. Pick your 4-H Project: Did you know that 4-H has over 200 projects to choose from? There are plenty of options to fit your interests. If you still don't find a project you will enjoy, you can create your own by taking a self-determined project. There's no limit to the number of projects you can take, but we suggest only taking one or two your first year!

6. Complete your 4-H project: Each project has its own set of requirements. Enjoying your project and having fun is essential to us. If you need any help, contact our office; we will gladly assist. Your club advisors are fantastic resources as well!

7. Participate in project judging: To complete your 4-H year, you must complete your

project book and participate in interview judging. Each year, project judging is held the week before the fair (referred to as Pre-Fair Week).

8. Showcase your project at the Shelby County Fair!: 4-H clubs can set up booths in our Booth Building to showcase their projects. If you are taking a livestock, horse, or dog project, you can also show your animal at the fair. The fair is an excellent way for our 4-H community to come together and celebrate the incredible year we've had! Members who fulfill their project requirements and are in good standing will get a free pass into the Shelby County Fair.

Parent Role

Purpose: Provide support to your child during their journey in 4-H.

How to Help your Child:

- Learn about 4-H: what it stands for, how it operates, etc.
- Become involved in their experiences and learn alongside them with their projects
- Attend club meetings with your child so that you can stay informed about the latest happenings, get to know their club advisors, and learn about upcoming events
- Support the club by helping when needed (bringing a snack or helping with a community service project)
- Make 4-H Club work, family work! We often see the greatest success when 4-Hers make their involvement a family activity.
- Stay informed! There are great opportunities available to 4-Hers, but you can only take advantage of them if you know of their happenings!

Interested in Volunteering?:

Parents are not expected to become 4-H volunteers, but we are happy to have you! If you are interested, please contact Katie at miller.11920@osu.edu for more information.

Costs

The cost to join 4-H in Shelby County is \$5 per family. This fee is used to cover the expenses of keeping our families informed! Some clubs charge minimal club dues to support the operations of the 4-H club (\$5-10/ per member). Other clubs will do fundraising to help offset the costs of snacks, program supplies, and other materials.

Other costs that you can expect to incur are 4-H project books. Most project books are \$8, but a handful are over \$10. Depending on the projects you choose to take, some costs will be associated with the project. For example, with a sewing project, you are responsible for fabric, thread, and pattern costs. If you choose to participate in any of the optional county or state opportunities, such as 4-H camp, there is a fee associated with these activities.

4-H Lingo

The lingo may be confusing, but hopefully this list will help you get started!

4-H Camp: 4 days and three nights of hands-on outdoor education, adventure, fun, and challenges that develop leadership, citizenship, and life skills in young people.

4-H Club: Led by caring adult volunteers who provide organized leadership to ensure all families have the information necessary to succeed in 4-H.

4-H Online: Used at the county and state level to track 4-H enrollment, this is where you make your 4-H enrollments. Only open to 4-H members!

CloverStem: Weekly blog that features the latest postings and updates regarding the Shelby County 4-H program. Visit online at go.osu.edu/cloverstem

County Fair: The fair is a great way for our 4-H community to come together and celebrate the great year we've had! Members have the opportunity to display or exhibit the project that they have taken for the year. The Shelby County Fair will be held on July 21st through the 27th, 2024!

Enrollment Deadline: The deadline for those new members joining the 4-H program. The enrollment deadline for 4-H Online is May 1st!

FairEntry: FairEntry is a secondary website to 4-H Online. This is used for 4-Hers to specify exactly what projects/livestock they intend to bring to the Shelby County Fair.

Family Guide: This is your place to connect to our entire collection of Ohio 4-H project books for the year. You can pick up a copy at the Shelby County Extension Office or visit the online version of the [2024 Family Guide!](#)

Junior Fair Board: This board comprises 28 youth representatives (2 from each township in Shelby County). They are responsible for helping plan, coordinate, and execute all Junior Fair and other 4-H events throughout the year!

4-H Lingo

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OSU Extension Office: This is where you can visit us with questions, pick up project books, or stop in to say “Hello”! Our Extension Offices are branches of OSU that reach each county and share the latest research and information from the University. Ohio State provides leadership and partial funding to 4-H in Shelby County in partnership with the Shelby County Commissioners.

Pre-Fair Week: An opportunity for youth to present what they have learned throughout their 4-H projects. This includes the following projects: Foods, Clothing, Photography, Creative Arts and Creative Writing, Special Interest, and Woodworking!

Project Books: Each project book contains a wealth of information and activities for planning and conducting a project. Project books can be purchased through your 4-H club or at the Extension Office. Each book is \$8 unless otherwise stated.

Quality Assurance (QA): This program teaches 4-H youth how to use best practices that support the production of quality and safe animal products for consumers, and responsible animal handling. All livestock exhibitors (market or lactating species) must either attend a QA program or successfully test out of QA to be eligible to exhibit livestock at the Shelby County Fair.

Re-Enrollment Deadline: The deadline for those members that have been enrolled in a previous 4-H year. The re-enrollment deadline for 4-H Online is February 1st!

Resource Handbook: Each resource handbook contains essential species-specific information for that project. They include topics like selection, nutrition, reproduction, and many more. These are excellent resources to study for the skillathon!

4-H Lingo

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Skillathon: An opportunity for youth to demonstrate their knowledge and skills learned by doing livestock project work. All livestock (market or lactating species) must participate in at least one Skillathon before the Shelby County Fair.

Tag-In/Pick-Up: Beef, goats, and sheep must be tagged with a county tag for identification. Beef (market and dairy steers & market heifers) are typically done in January, and goats and sheep are usually done in May. Each livestock project will still need to be identified on FairEntry!

WhitePages: Nickname for the Shelby County Junior Fair Rules, Regulations, & Entry Information Book, a great place to find **ALL** things Shelby County Junior Fair. We **highly recommend** that families read through this book before to fair!!

Office Hours & Location

The local 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator manages the county 4-H program daily. Feel free to use any of the means listed below to contact us with any questions throughout the year!

Ohio State Extension- Shelby County Office:

810 Fair Road, Sidney, OH 45365

Phone: 937-498-7239

Website: shelby.osu.edu

There is also a drop box available on the outside of our office, to the left of our entrance door!

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
(unless otherwise posted)

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How Do I Stay Informed?

We have several ways that we keep our families informed about what's going on in the 4-H program throughout the year!

Follow us:



Ohio State University-
Shelby County Extension



Download our app in the
app store: 4-H Now

- Then search for Shelby County 4-H

CloverStem

Shelby County 4-H

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