

4-H Events and Activities

Achievement Days

Counties may host an Achievement Days event in their county to provide a forum for youth to share what they have learned in their 4-H project areas. All 4-H members (e.g. community clubs, 4-H Afterschool, school enrichment, military clubs) are eligible to participate. Cloverbuds may enter static and small animal exhibits; however, they do not receive a ribbon placing. Certificates of participation or "Cloverbud ribbons" may be given instead. Cloverbud exhibits are not eligible for the State Fair.

The exhibit lots available and the rules for entry at a county's Achievement Days are determined by the county Extension office, in consultation with the 4-H Leaders Association. 4-H volunteers work with the county Extension office to arrange for exhibits to be judged. The Danish system of judging, consisting of purple, blue, red and white ribbons, is used for awards.

An Achievement Days clean-up will also be held the week before Achievement Days is held. 4-H members are expected to help clean the grounds and set everything up in preparation for Achievement Days.

State Fair

The South Dakota State Fair is held each summer in Huron, South Dakota. The State 4-H Office publishes the "South Dakota State Fair 4-H Division Fair Book" each year with guidelines for the schedule of events, registration deadlines, exhibit parameters, member eligibility, Youth in Action events, live animal policies, special awards, sponsors, and other information and regulations. In general, 4-H members are limited in the number of exhibits they may enter in the state fair. 4-H members interested in exhibiting their exhibits must pre-register their exhibits before the State deadline.

Youth in Action Contests

Youth in Action events are 4-H contests and activities that provide 4-H members with an opportunity for additional educational experience at the club, county, and state level. These events involve the member as an active participant in an activity related to the youth's 4-H project work. Participation is designed to help the youth practice important life skills, such as communication, decision making and time/work management.

Fashion Revue

Fashion Revue is an event that enhances members' skills in clothing selection, coordination and construction. Each participant constructs or buys their own garment to model for a panel of judges. During this process, 4-Hers learn about wardrobe selection, accessorizing, poise and presence, and consumer awareness. A public Fashion Revue Show is held during Achievement Days, where the 4-Her is encouraged to model their garments on stage.

Judging Schools

Judging provides a fun way for 4-Hers to learn more about their projects and how to make decisions. County facilitated judging schools may include the following areas: Consumer Decision Making, Horticulture, Livestock and Horse. 4-Hers must compete in a county contest to be eligible to judge for state judging teams.

Public Presentations

By giving prepared talks in front of judges and audience members, 4-Hers are able to gain knowledge and develop presentation skills. There are four public presentation categories members can choose from:

1. **Demonstrations** - Presented before an audience, a demonstration is an original, true and accurate step-by-step process of actions and explanations that results in a finished product. The audience learns by watching and listening. Individuals or teams use actual products and materials, and may also share personal, family or club experiences. Demonstrations may include charts, illustrations, posters and other types of visual aids. Maximum length: 25 min. – Individual or Team
2. **Illustrated Talk** - Presented before an audience, individuals or teams give original, true and accurate illustrated talks showing how something is accomplished using a combination of speaking about and showing one or more visual aids (power points, charts, pictures, slides, miniatures or real objects, flannel board, flip charts, chalkboard, drawings and cutouts). Personal, family or club may also be shared. In the illustrated talk, there is no finished product; rather an explanation of results that is illustrated with visuals. Maximum Length: 25 min. – Individual or Team
3. **Public Speaking** - Public speaking is telling about your experiences or what you learned about the topic. In public speaking, a 4-H member chooses a subject or topic which relates to an aspect of 4-H (project area, 4-H promotion, etc.). Public speaking may or may not use visual aids. It is more formal than other presentation categories, and must deliver a platform during the presentation. Speeches must be original, true and accurate. Participants may use notecards, if desired. Min Length: 3 min. Max Length: 6 min. - Individual
4. **Project 'Why'** - This type of individual presentation teaches the 'why' as well as how to 'use' a specific topic. For the purpose of gaining knowledge and understanding, and through the use of research, facts, principles and experiments, this presentation type informs others of the 'why'. It should encourage, excite and motivate curious minds to study the topic further. 4-H members prepare a 3x3 foot exhibit to use to accurately explain a true 'why' principle. Participants must furnish all equipment, including a card table or stand, and must stay with their exhibit for a one-hour period to present information and answer questions. Repeats several times during a one hour period – Individual or Team

Special Foods

This event teaches members skills in food preparation, food safety and nutrition. Members prepare a dish and a table setting to be evaluated by a judge. Nutrition facts are judged through an interview process. This experience helps members learn how to make healthy, nutritious meals and smart food choices.

Project Workshops

Throughout the year there will be a variety of project workshops offered to assist members in the development and preparation of projects to be entered in Achievement Days.

Quiz Bowl

Quiz Bowl helps youth increase their knowledge of the 4-H project area. In addition, the youth practice important life skills, especially learning to organize, learning to access information, and learning to lead. Senior 4-H members may qualify for the national quiz bowl in their subject area.

Teams are made up of four senior 4-H members. Junior 4-H members may be part of a team; however, they are not eligible to attend a national quiz bowl competition.

Hippology

Hippology is a comprehensive contest related to horse science and husbandry. It is held in conjunction with the State 4-H Horse Show in the summer in Huron, South Dakota. Each county may enter one senior team consisting of 3 or 4 members and one junior team consisting of 3 or 4 members. The event consists of four phases: written test, station identification, judging, and a team problem.

Skill-a-thon

A Skill-a-thon is a contest based on knowledge about a specific 4-H project, such as livestock. 4-H members compete by progressing through several stations, where they complete a series of activities related to the project. For example, one station may ask the 4-H member to label or identify parts of an animal or object. Skill-a-thon covers the following areas: livestock, technology, other topics as deemed appropriate.

4-H Camp

Camp is an exciting opportunity for all 4-Hers. It allows members to meet fellow 4-Hers from across the state in a fun and experiential learning environment. The traditional camp is for 4-Hers between the ages of 8-12.

State 4-H Teen Leadership Conference

A leadership conference is held every summer, generally at South Dakota State University in June. All youth in the state ages 13 through 18 are eligible to participate. The conference is designed to involve teens in working together, learning new skills and making friends from across the state. The conference is open to all youth, not just 4-H members. The Teen Leadership Conference is planned by the South Dakota 4-H Youth Council, working with 4-H/Youth Development specialists and educators.

Performing Arts

This program is a theater arts educational experience for 4-H members, adult volunteers and paid staff interested in developing skills in drama, music, dance and technical theater. There is a preparatory performing arts camp held in Aberdeen each year to assist 4-Hers in perfecting their performance for the SD State Fair.

Trips

4-H members may be eligible for trips to national conferences or contests based, in part, on their participation in 4-H over a period of several years. For national conferences and contests, applicants must be 4-H members who have passed their 14th birthday by January 1 of the calendar year in which the trip is taken. They must be in at least their third year of 4-H and must have received or be eligible to receive a project medal in the category for which the application is made. They can attend each national event only once. Application deadlines are published by the State 4-H Office.

Scholarships

4-H members are eligible for college scholarships that have been funded by 4-H supporters and donors. There are several scholarships available, ranging from \$100 to \$500. Information about the various scholarships, eligibility and application requirements are published by the State 4-H Office on or before January 1, annually. Aurora County 4-H Leaders sponsor two scholarships in memory of past leaders.