

# 4-H CLUB WORK

4-H is the youth education program of Ohio State University Extension - a program that offers skills and training to tomorrow's leaders. This informal educational program is conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, The Ohio State University and county governments, and combines the work of federal, state, and local Extension personnel and volunteer leaders.

Traditionally, 4-H is open to any boy or girl in Scioto County who is at least nine years old or in the third grade and not have passed their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, as of January 1, of the current year. The Cloverbud 4-H program is open to boys and girls kindergarten (or 5 years of age) through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. 4-H members reside in every demographic area - farm, city and in between. The success of the 4-H program is attributed to volunteer leaders who are backed by the strong educational base of the land grant university staff in every county of the state.

The mission of 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is carried out through the involvement of parents, volunteer leaders and other adults who organize and conduct educational subject/project experiences in community and family settings.

4-H youth contribute to energy conservation, environmental improvement, community service and food resources. They participate in programs that aid youth employment, career decisions, health, nutrition, home improvement and family relationships. As a result of international cooperation with many countries, 4-H is also contributing to world understanding. Moreover, 4-H youth apply leadership skills, acquire a positive self-concept and learn to respect and get along with people.

Enrollment in Scioto County is through community clubs, special emphasis programs and the school enrichment programs. Opportunities for membership are available to all youth ages 5 - 19 throughout the county regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, religion or national origin. They meet in 4-H clubs with volunteer advisors and participate in a planned series of educational experiences under the direction and within the scope of The State University Extension.