

"To Make The Best Better"



Focus on 4-H Youth Development

LSU AgCenter



Focus on Project-based Learning

Research indicates that students engaged in project-based learning not only gain a deeper understanding of content knowledge but also build vital workplace skills and lifelong habits of learning. Project-based learning allows students to learn cooperatively and develop twenty-first century skills while addressing community issues, exploring careers, using technology, and presenting their work to audiences beyond the classroom. Additionally, PBL has been shown to motivate students to higher academic engagement. (*Barron and Darling-Hammond, 2008*)

Focus on "Learning By Doing"

Our goal is to provide a comprehensive experiential learning experience for youth members and their families that is integrated with school policies and coordinated with school procedures to fully engage students in hands-on learning linked to life skill development.

Program delivery promotes differentiated instruction through self-paced activities that encourages students to think and learn across the curriculum and offers both intrinsic and extrinsic motivational incentives. Program objectives are linked to the National Core Competency Standards and include embedded assessments, including portfolio and journal records, surveys and archival evidence.

Focus on The 4-H Essential Elements

Our objectives are centered in the four key concepts established as the Essential Elements of Youth Development: Belonging, Independence, Mastery and Generosity. In Madison Parish, we are developing learning experiences that engage multiple intelligences to enhance these concepts in meaningful ways to empower youth to "Learn By Doing."

- **To build belonging**, youth are urged to "Look what you could be doing!" by utilizing a mobile technology lab to explore websites, tutorials and learning games which introduce 4-H projects in a wide range of interests
- **To encourage independence**, youth participate in hands-on experimentation in the activity arcade stations and discover, "Wow! I can do that!"
- **To motivate mastery**, youth realize, "Wow, I did that!" when they are supported in sharing their accomplishments in the 4-H Exhibit Fair, in project-based contests and through portfolio/record keeping and journaling.
- **To inspire generosity**, youth become invested in their community and gain a greater sense of well-being by taking part in service-learning when they aspire to "Be the change!"

Focus on 4-H Facts

4-H curriculum offers more than 40 different projects.

The three primary content areas, referred to as the 4-H Mission Mandates, include:

- Citizenship
- Healthy Living
- Science, Engineering & Technology (SET)

4-H utilizes the hands-on learning approach through an experiential process. This "learn by doing" includes:

- Experience (Do)
- Share & Process (Reflect)
- Generalize & Apply

4-H supports inquiry-based learning by encouraging youth to explore, evaluate and interpret results.





Focus on Madison 4-H 2012-13

Elementary grades 4-6 select this year from nine subject matter areas offering structured activities designed to guide youth through the project-based learning experience.

Project areas include:

- Horses (SET)
- Environment (SET)
- Photography (SET)
- Clothing (SET)
- Pets (SET)
- Babysitting (Healthy Living)
- Gardening (Healthy Living & SET)
- Nutrition & Fitness (Healthy Living)
- Financial Management (Citizenship & Healthy Living)

Middle and High School grades 7-12 are encouraged to develop a project based on their interests to manage independently or in small groups.

Project areas include:

- Leadership
- Citizenship
- Healthy Living
- Service-Learning

Focus on Learning Styles

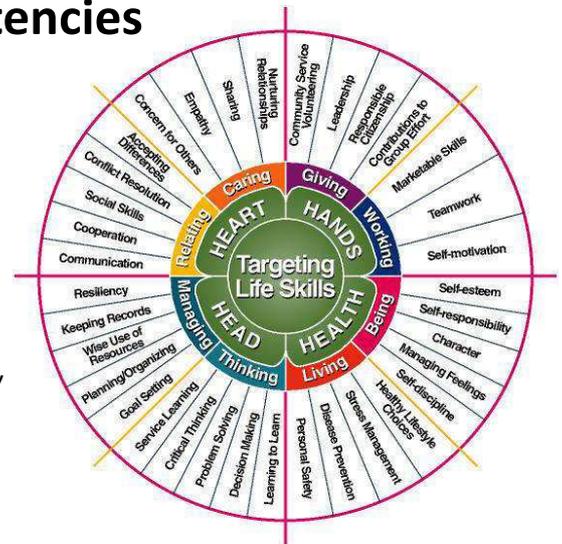
Madison Parish 4-H programming incorporates numerous learning experiences and environments in both school-based and after school activities. The 4-H Club Day permits freedom of movement from computer-assisted learning to hands-on learning stations. Youth work cooperatively sharing their skills to successfully achieve their goals. After school programming, such as workshops, contests, trips and camps, foster multiple intelligences and make learning fun and exciting. 4-H members further gain self-confidence through incentives such as certificates, ribbons, medals, prizes, and scholarships. In addition, members earn Cloverbucks redeemable for gifts and fees for special events.

Focus on Youth Competencies

The **4-H Pledge** provides the base for a framework to help youth meet their basic needs and develop competencies for future success. This framework supports skill development for positive growth and healthy living.

THE 4-H PLEDGE:

"I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to greater service, and my HEALTH to better living, for my Club, my Community, my Country and my World."



Head	Heart	Hands	Health
Thinking <i>Learning to learn Decision-making Problem solving Critical thinking Service learning</i>	Relating <i>Communications Cooperation Social skills Conflict resolution Accepting differences</i>	Giving <i>Volunteering Leadership Responsibility Contribution to group</i>	Living <i>Healthy choices Stress management Disease prevention Personal safety</i>
Managing <i>Goal setting Planning & organizing Wise use of resources Keeping records Resiliency</i>	Caring <i>Concern for others Empathy Sharing Nurturing relationships</i>	Working <i>Marketable & useful skills Teamwork Self-motivation</i>	Being <i>Self esteem Self responsibility Character Managing feelings Self discipline</i>

Adapted from 4-H S FS 101.0. Retrieved from <http://4h.ifas.ufl.edu>

Visit our website at www.lsuagcenter.com for up-to-date information on local, regional and state-wide events and activities.

Additional information on 4-H Youth Development programming may be found at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/res/youthdev_policy_factsheets.html



Louisiana 4-H is an educational program of the LSU AgCenter.