

# Launching into the Next Millennium

## 4-H Achieves Liftoff!



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## ***Introduction***

"Houston? This is the Space Shuttle Columbus."

"Good morning, Columbus. Is everyone aboard?"

"That's affirmative, Houston. We have assembled our group of 4-H members and volunteer leaders and are destined for educational experiences and hands-on individual and group activities which are out of this world."

"Roger, Columbus. Have you loaded sufficient resources to insure these educational experiences in orbital flight?"

"That's affirmative, Houston. We brought the 'Liftoff!' notebook and will begin instruction on using it, once we reach cruising speed in orbit."

"Columbus, we need some additional input in order for the computers to begin processing this information."

"No need to plug in the computers, Houston. The 'Liftoff!' notebook is simple and easy to use."

"Could you describe it for us, Columbus?"

"Affirmative, Houston. The 'Liftoff!' notebook is an educational resource, written by Extension professionals at The Ohio State University. It is arranged in Countdown Chapters, and will assist 4-H members and volunteers in getting their 4-H programs off of the ground."

"Tell us more about these Countdown Chapters, Columbus."

"Each Countdown Chapter focuses on a specific subject matter area in the 4-H Program. These include:

- Ten: Clothing
- Nine: Entomology and the Environment
- Eight: Engineering
- Seven: Human Development
- Six: Equine Science
- Five: Field and Garden
- Four: Food and Nutrition
- Three: Citizenship, International, Careers, Leadership, and Communications
- Two: Livestock
- One: Small Animals and Veterinary Science

“One last question before countdown, Columbus. How will you utilize this revolutionary new resource?”

“That’s an important question, Houston. There is a seemingly endless list of ways to utilize the ‘Liftoff!’ notebook in 4-H clubs, meetings, and activities.”

“Could you focus in on some of them, Columbus?”

“Affirmative, Houston. Here are a few of them:

- A volunteer in a project club might utilize only activities from one Countdown Chapter, which pertain specifically to the focus of that club, and the interests of its members.
- The leader of a community or organizational club might select different activities from different Countdown Chapters, depending upon the kinds of projects which the 4-H members are enrolled in.
- A volunteer could select two or three activities, duplicate enough copies of the original so that each 4-H member had one, and let everyone work on them individually.

“Are all of these activities designed to be administered individually, Columbus?”

“Negative, Houston. These activities can be completed either individually or in groups. Let’s cite some additional examples.”

- 4-H members could work in pairs or in teams. 4-H members choose their own teammate, or they could be matched up in any of a number of ways. These could include a random order, older members paired with younger members (in a mentoring relationship), more experienced members could be matched with less experienced members (in an information sharing mode) or groups of youth could be teamed (in a cooperative learning style).

“Are there any other ways in which these activities can be implemented, Columbus?”

“Affirmative, Houston.”

- A volunteer could delegate the teaching responsibility to a 4-H member. The 4-H member could select the activities and instruct the other youth on how to complete them.
- These activities could be utilized by volunteers as “busy work” for 4-H members who arrive early and those whose parents are late to pick them up. This will keep them busy on an educational activity.

“Can these activities be utilized if a volunteer is unfamiliar with the subject matter?”

“Affirmative, Houston. Each workshop includes objectives and instructions, with the answers printed on the back. The volunteer may choose not to duplicate the answers, but could provide them at the end of the experience.”

“Roger, Columbus. You’ve answered all of our questions. Are you ready for liftoff?”

“That’s affirmative, Houston. We’re ready to set forth on this exciting new journey.”

“We’ll start our countdown now, Columbus. Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one, and liftoff! Congratulations, Columbus. We have achieved Liftoff!

And congratulations to you, as well! You’re about to embark on an exciting new journey. A journey filled with discovery and learning. Each of the activities contained in this notebook have been designed for use with 4-H club members and are arranged in a subject matter area. But these activities are designed to teach a lot more than subject matter information. Learning to make decisions, work together, and communicate effectively, to name just a few.



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Countdown Chapter 6

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Countdown Chapter 3

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This resource is dedicated to all Ohio 4-H volunteers and 4-H members, with the hope that this tool will make their 4-H club meetings, programs and activities more educational and more fun, thereby strengthening the Ohio 4-H Program at the grassroots level.

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