



OHIO 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

# 2019 IMPACT REPORT

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THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITYCOLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION**  
at The Ohio State UniversityOHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

# OUR REACH

# OHIO 4-H BY THE NUMBERS

## Ohio 4-H and the Buckeye Connection

### 1862

The Morrill Act of 1862 created the land-grant college system. Each state was granted public land to establish a college focusing on agriculture and mechanical arts.

### 1870

The Ohio State University was founded as the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College.

### 1902

A.B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio.

### 1914

The Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service, with a purpose of extending the research-based knowledge of the land-grant university to people—helping them apply information to improve their lives, businesses, and communities.

### 2019

Ohio 4-H youth development is one of four program areas offered by CFAES through OSU Extension.

## 22,933

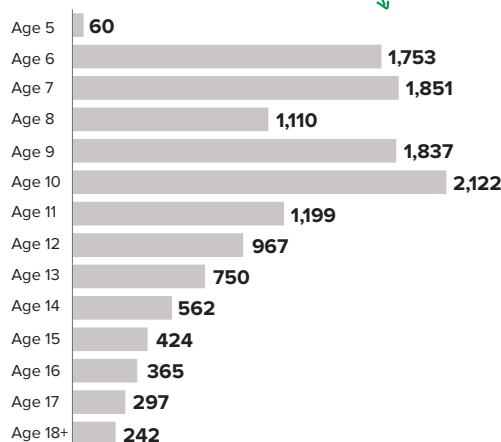
Number of Ohio residents that volunteer for Ohio 4-H programs.



**16,114** adult volunteers  
**6,819** teen volunteers

## Our youth join at any age.

Of **13,539** first-year members



## 171,983

Number of youth participants.



**47%** male



**53%** female

## PROJECT ENROLLMENT



Healthy Living  
**13,789**



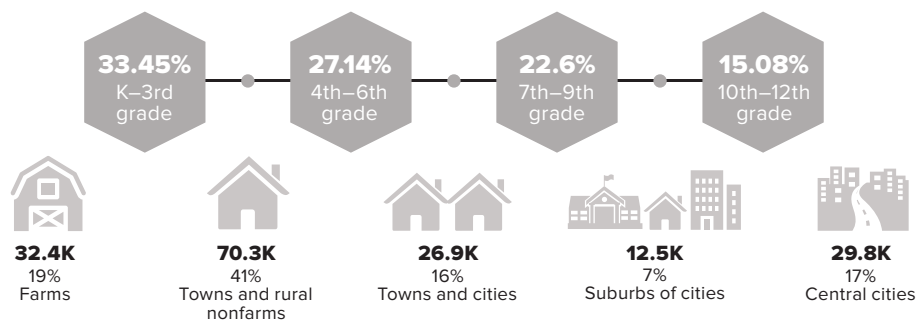
Citizenship Leadership  
**14,267**



Animals  
**80,245**



STEM  
**15,141**







## To Our 4-H Friends and Families,

At Ohio 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born; they're grown. Our statewide network of more than 140 Ohio 4-H professionals and 16,000 adult volunteers support today's youth in growing skills through project work, camps, clubs, trips, and other hands-on learning experiences.

Your continued gifts and vocal support help us continue to reach more than 170,000 young people and are providing the seeds to help us reach even more youth across the state. Our research-backed, hands-on 4-H approach provides the experiences required to develop the skills youth need to be successful in life. This leads to productive careers and strong communities.

Thank you for joining with us to ensure that 4-H grows across Ohio!

Yours in service to 4-H,

**Kirk Bloir, PhD**  
State 4-H Leader  
Assistant Director, Ohio State University Extension



## Dear Friends of Ohio 4-H,

Communities throughout Ohio are witnessing dramatic social, economic, environmental, and technical changes. Tomorrow's stakeholders are with us today.

Students need to understand and appreciate how they can create quality-of-life opportunities in rural, suburban, and urban neighborhoods. Projects enhancing leadership and workplace skills need to be developed. Dedicated mentors need to be supported, and resources ensuring success for local, regional, and state programs need to be provided.

The Ohio 4-H Foundation is proud to work with The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) and Ohio State University Extension to address these challenges. We invite you to take a look at this 2019 report, as well as join us as we promote and invest in opportunities that give Ohio 4-H members a leadership position in making a bright future.

Sincerely,

**Dale R. Arnold**  
President, The Ohio 4-H Foundation  
Board of Trustees

### OUR FOCUS



#### CREATING TRUE LEADERS

At Ohio 4-H, true leaders aren't born; they're grown. Youth grow these skills through both project work and experiences.



#### ENDOWING FUTURE 4-H SUCCESS

Gifts to Ohio 4-H endowments help provide youth with the experiences, support, and encouragement they need to thrive for years to come.



#### GROWING 4-H ACROSS OHIO

Young people need the kinds of hands-on, youth-led experiences that Ohio 4-H provides. Ohio 4-H is engaging new audiences while continuing to grow traditional programming.



#### ENSURING CAREER AND WORKFORCE READINESS

The 4-H approach gives young people the guidance, tools, encouragement, and experiences they need in life and in their careers. Through Ohio 4-H, youth make great things happen in their own lives and in their own communities.



# CREATING TRUE LEADERS

“My experience at CWF was once in a lifetime! I learned our Congress does not pass laws lightly and a lot of detail and work goes into each bill to make the U.S. even better.”—Katie Ketcham, a 2019 Ohio delegation member from Hardin County

## CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF), which promotes leadership and civic action, is a weeklong 4-H program for youth ages 14–19. Each year, Ohio 4-H sends two groups to Washington, D.C., to attend CWF and to stay at the National 4-H Conference Center. The groups enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at how our government works and get to meet with members of Congress.



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“CWF was a fantastic trip! There were lots of sessions at the National 4-H Center, where we drafted bills. Our bill was selected to go through the full process of selection, which was really cool. I loved being able to communicate our ideas.”  
—Brooke Fleshman, a 2019 delegate from Franklin County

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## BRINGING CWF HOME

During CWF, participants develop an action plan to address a need in their community. Youth from Licking and Fairfield counties received a grant from Nationwide to implement their action plans.

Licking County 4-H members Shala Graham, Michael Imbody, Malia Jones, and Trina Orr brought their 2019 CWF experience back to their county with the action plan they created as part of their experience. Their goal was to share the importance of the dairy industry by promoting dairy products and the significance of dairy in a healthy diet. Van Buren Acres, a local farm, hosted the delegates, who shared dairy-themed games and activities with more than 300 people. Thanks to the Licking County Farm Bureau, Nationwide, and American Dairy Association Mideast for supporting these true leaders!

Fairfield County youth Gabriella Gugliemotto, Hannah Kitsmiller, Cara Luallen, Corinne Somers, and Hayley Richardson focused their 2019 CWF action plan on water



quality, having seen a need to educate homeowners about runoff, proper fertilization application techniques, and maintaining water quality standards for Ohio as a whole. To address this issue, they created an educational tool to help consumers make informed decisions when purchasing items

that could run off from yards into water sources. During the Fairfield County Fair, they had a booth in the AgMazing Agriculture Center, where they had resource materials and a hands-on activity to demonstrate the importance of water quality. Over 25,000 people visited the AgMazing Agriculture Center during fair week.



## HEALTH HEROES TO THE RESCUE

When the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics was preparing a training session to educate about adolescent electronic cigarette usage, they wanted teens to serve on their advisory panel. The Ohio 4-H Health Heroes jumped at the chance.

Health Heroes Madelyn Smith, Ivy Smith, and Callia Barwick played a key role in the 2019 presentations. They led a myths-versus-facts session and presented do's and don'ts about effective messaging to teens. The regional trainings reached a total of 500 educators and health professionals in Akron, Columbus, Toledo, and Dayton.

**“We hope our presentation gave adults better insight as to how to address teens about this issue.”—Madelyn Smith**



# ENDOWING FUTURE 4-H SUCCESS

Each year, funds are awarded to county 4-H professionals through The Ohio 4-H Foundation grant process for innovative programming, which benefits youth and volunteers. These grants come from endowment funds provided by generous donors to the Ohio 4-H youth development program. In 2019, The Ohio 4-H Foundation awarded \$149,535.87 for programs. The average amount awarded annually over the past five years has been \$184,682.48. Thank you for endowing the future success of programs such as those shared here.

## OHIO 4-H CLOVERBOT CHALLENGE

Each year, Cloverbuds, the youngest 4-H members, participate in the Ohio Cloverbot Challenge. Teams work cooperatively to problem-solve using STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills. The 2019 theme was “When I Grow Up,” giving children the opportunity to explore and examine future careers. Teams researched a topic, built a working model of their ideas, and created a poster to illustrate their findings. On the day of the Cloverbot Challenge, more than 125 Cloverbuds shared their work with families and reviewers at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center.



**IN 2019, THERE WERE 8,225 CLOVERBUDS** participating in 4-H clubs.





## HONORING VOLUNTEERS

With 72 years of service, Charlotte Wagner has the distinction of being the longest-serving Ohio 4-H volunteer. She was recognized for her accomplishments at the 2019 Ohio Volunteer Conference. She knows how important it is to acknowledge youth for their project work and service. In Washington County, she organized an annual achievement program for her club. She believes 4-H involvement should not end when a youth ages out of the program, so when an advisor was needed for her club's Cloverbuds, she recruited a new 4-H alumna to oversee the group. Charlotte's deep love for 4-H embodies making the best better.



**2019 SAW 254 YOUTH ENROLLED** in the project *Your Thoughts Matter: Navigating Mental Health*. With over 1,100 copies of the book sold nationally, even youth in other states benefit from Ohio 4-H programming.



## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

The first ever Ohio 4-H teen mental health retreat was held at 4-H Camp Ohio in fall 2019, with 18 youth from 10 counties. This unique overnight experience provided hands-on learning experiences to broaden the teens' understanding of mental health concerns. Activities included roundtable discussions, stigma-combating projects, mindfulness exercises, and building a support network. Youth also were introduced to self-help strategies including journaling, yoga, meditation, goal-setting, and connecting to nature.

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**“This retreat changed the way I view myself and the way I view my life. Everyone needs a time to reflect and a time to record. Time to reflect on themselves and be honest with how they are feeling and record those feelings down. Then look toward the future with open arms.”**  
**—Grace Collins, a mental health retreat participant**





# GROWING 4-H ACROSS OHIO

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF YOUTH OUTDOORS

Happy birthday to Youth Outdoors! Since 1999, over 10,000 youth have participated in programs that connect underserved youth in Cleveland to outdoor programs.



## THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio 4-H, and the City of Cleveland has been providing “Growth Through Adventure” for 20 years.

**YOUTH OUTDOORS PROVIDES LEADERSHIP** for over 500 programs annually, reaching approximately 700 youth who participate in adventure clubs, short-term groups, and horseback riding activities. Five special events each year reach an estimated 3,000 people.

The partnership between Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio 4-H, and the city of Cleveland has been providing “Growth Through Adventure” for 20 years. Leaders of that era include Vern Hartenburg

(director, Cleveland Metroparks), Jeff King (state 4-H leader, Ohio 4-H), and Michael White (mayor, Cleveland), all of whom have explored possible ways of connecting city youth to the outdoor world using adventure recreation. Extension educator Greg Yost and recreation specialist John Rode came together to lay the foundation of what would become Youth Outdoors.

Cleveland Metroparks had the outdoor program expertise, access





to natural resources, and funding. Ohio 4-H provided positive youth development and volunteer management expertise, while the city of Cleveland provided the connection to the youth and the community through its recreation centers.

Through a series of pilot programs, barriers were identified, solutions were created, and adaptations were made to create an adventure club model. A small group structure was then initiated, including 10–12 children, ages 8–18, along with at least two caring adults who went on monthly outings. Programming grew from basic hiking and fishing outings to include activities such as biking, kayaking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, camping, and horseback riding.

Not all Cleveland youth have equal access to the outdoors, so free resources were needed to alleviate the inequity of inner-city youth participating in adventure recreation. Youth Outdoors programming has addressed the needs of Cleveland's inner-city youth and youth-serving organizations. Equipment, weather-appropriate clothing, transportation, food, and expert-led programming have been provided at no cost to overcome the challenges of underserved neighborhoods.

The results are impressive. More than 9,000 programs have taken place over the past two decades, and Youth Outdoors has collaborated with over 100 community groups. These partnerships span several months-long pilot programs to 19 years of working together.

Establishment of the Youth Outdoors horseback riding program in summer 2000, with the help and leadership of Valley Riding, Inc., is an example of a successful collaboration that continues to serve the inner-city youth of Cleveland today.

The program allows youth to stay connected for multiple years, and youth are able to grow with the program. Many have progressed from participant to youth volunteer and are now adult volunteers.

Seasonal positions are often filled by previous youth participants, allowing them to give back to the community. The Youth Outdoors mission to enrich, inspire, and connect Cleveland youth through outdoor adventure will continue with this next generation.



**MORE THAN 9,000 PROGRAMS** have taken place over the past two decades. Youth Outdoors has collaborated with over 100 community groups.





# ENSURING CAREER AND WORKFORCE READINESS



## WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H YOUTH LEARN ABOUT ELECTRICITY

Understanding how circuits work sparked the interest of more than 70 youth when they used Snap Circuits products to explore electricity at the 2019 Washington County 4-H Open House Summer Reading Program offered at the local library. The products were also used throughout 2019 at school literacy nights and at 4-H camp sessions. Snap Circuits products teach electronics through the use of plastic pieces that snap together on a base grid. The pieces and base work together like a printed circuit board.

Tyler Hartline, a camp counselor who led sessions featuring Snap Circuits products at camp, said “using the Snap Circuits at 4-H camp gave the kids a creative outlet expressed through science. The campers loved it, and the circuits allowed them to explore basic scientific thought while having lots of fun.” Camp participants built projects that included a flying saucer, a doorbell, and alarms. They learned about volts, amps, resistance, switches, and circuits.

As a result of the Snap Circuits products used in 2019, enrollment in 4-H electricity projects increased, and plans are in the works to incorporate electrical sessions using Snap Circuits products at the 2020 Washington County Fair.



**IN 2019, THERE WERE 500 YOUTH**  
enrolled in electricity projects.



## EXPLORING AG CAREERS

Teens from Adams, Jackson, Pike, and Scioto counties traveled to Columbus to learn about careers through CFAES. Ohio 4-H members toured Ohio State's Columbus campus, ate lunch at Ohio Union, and visited a residence hall to enjoy the full college experience.

In a follow-up evaluation of the day, all of the teens indicated that they had a better understanding of programs offered through CFAES. A highlight was a visit to the CFAES Department of Animal Sciences' Meat Lab, complete with a presentation from Professor Lyda Garcia. Scioto County 4-H member David Brown said, "I learned so much from Dr. Garcia. She explained how our 4-H meat science projects result in really high-quality products. It connected what we do in 4-H with what happens in meat processing and production in the real world."

This trip was made possible by a grant from The Ohio 4-H Foundation.



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**"I've always been told I had the potential to be a leader, but I never cared. But then when I came here, I could really be something different. It makes you step out of your comfort zone."—Don'yale Walker, Adventure Central**

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## JOB EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Youth participating in the Job Experience and Training (JET) Program at Adventure Central learn skills to prepare them for the world of work.

Adventure Central is a partnership between Ohio 4-H and Five Rivers Metroparks in Dayton. Minority youth ages 11–17 participated in a comprehensive, work-based learning program that emphasized the job skills needed for park-related careers.

During the eight-week summer program, participants worked as camp counselors and served in administrative and clerical positions. They also worked with nutrition programs and helped with other park programs. They even learned employment basics such as interview skills and how to complete a job application.

Youth who completed the program in 2019 indicated an increase in their self-confidence, leadership skills, knowledge about the workforce, and time management skills.

**THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION**  
at The Ohio State University

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save  
the  
date

# 4-H CELEBRATION OF YOUTH

## Pathways to the Future

PRESENTED BY THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION

### SATURDAY, OCT. 3, 2020

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Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center  
Event begins at 5 p.m.  
Formal invitation to follow  
For questions, please call 614-292-6943.

