



## Welcome parents of new 4-H members of Jackson County!

Welcome to the nation's largest, outside of school, positive youth development organization. For more than 100 years, 4-H has offered opportunities for youth and families to master new challenges, experience growing independence, feel a sense of belonging and know what it means to be generous. As your family participates in the 4-H program, we encourage you get involved and enjoy the journey. If we can help you with anything along the way, please don't hesitate to contact your 4-H leader or, if they can't help, a staff member. We're here to make this a good experience for youth, volunteers and their families. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

### What is 4-H?

4-H is a youth development program. Its purpose is to provide partnership and opportunities with families and volunteers to create an educational atmosphere where youth can gain life skills while participating in various project areas. These projects are tools to help youth gain life skills through competition, team work, community service, challenges and success. Through the 4-H experience, your son or daughter has potential to grow in knowledge, skill, citizenship and leadership. The opportunities your child may experience include:

- Work with adult volunteers
- Work with a diverse group of youth as a team
- Feel a sense of accomplishment
- Develop and practice leadership
- Receive recognition for their efforts
- Participate, at all levels, in a safe environment
- Service to others
- Have Fun!

### How Can I Help?

You are an integral part of your child's success in 4-H. Not only will you help provide guidance, transportation and financial support, you also will be teaching. Your child will often follow your lead. You can help guide him/her to take winning and losing graciously and always demonstrating good sportsmanship. Your child's ethical choices will also tend to follow yours. Making good choices is a life skill that takes practice—opportunities abound in 4-H; you have an opportunity to help your child develop their decision-making processes.

In addition to your character-building opportunities, you can always volunteer to help. Just because you are not the "club leader" does not mean you can't volunteer. Offer to help out with a fundraiser, build a tack box, teach a skill, or supervise a practice, meeting or community service.

Enjoy your family's participation in 4-H. It's a fun time with opportunities to meet great people all with at least one similar goal—to provide an outstanding educational and fun time for your child.

### How do I stay informed?

Staying informed about events and opportunities is critical to participation. When you sign up using 4hOnline you will receive our Monday Morning Minute email and the quarterly edition of the 4-H Newsletter. Or keep up with last minute changes to our program on our Facebook page at Jackson County 4-H -Oregon State. Upcoming events, contests, shows and skill-building workshops will have details and registration materials in these communications. Also visit our website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/4h>

I also encourage you to read the 4-H Fair Book sections that pertain to your child's project area. This is a list of 4-H offered classes, their rules and guidelines and the expectations for 4-Hers in all their Fair activities.