

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION



MINNESOTA 4-H

Dodge County program report

Dodge County 4-H empowers youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.



In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. 4-H youth are innovators who use their passions to advance society. 4-H provides opportunities to learn and lead in a global society while being informed and engaged community members. In 4-H, youth build the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Because of your investment, 4-H grows true leaders in Dodge County.

LOCAL PROGRAM DATA

- 298 youth members
- 221 youth participants in the Dodge County Fair
- 81 new youth members
- 76 adult volunteers

PROGRAM FEATURES

Youth in 4-H make positive choices



4-H youth are twice as likely to make healthy choices than their peers.

Source: Lerner, R.M., Lerner, J.V., 4-H Study of positive youth development

Val S. is a Dodge County 4-H'er who is building leadership and teaching skills as a Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador. She is one of 30 young people chosen through a competitive application process. Many youth leaders in Dodge County 4-H, just like Val, help younger youth participate in 4-H learning activities and make positive choices.

Through the 4-H learning-by-doing philosophy, Dodge County youth take action, reflect on their experiences, and apply what they learned in new and different situations. This process builds the critical ability to make healthy choices throughout life.

"Because of 4-H, I've built leadership skills like teamwork, communication, and facilitation. I've also gained connections and experiences that few my age are able to have. In 4-H, I found a place where I am valued for who I am, and get to make a difference in my community and state."

—Val S., Milton Climbers 4-H Club

Youth in 4-H learn to communicate effectively



Eighty-six percent of 6th-8th grade campers reported they learned how to better work through disagreements.

Source: 4-H Regional Camp camper evaluation

Nearly 180 Dodge County youth participated in 4-H camps last year. Camp is a great opportunity for kids to experience hands on learning and build their communication skills.

Carter E. is preparing for his second summer as a 4-H camp counselor at Whitewater State Park. Training, hands on practice, and mentorship from 4-H staff is equipping Carter and 15 fellow camp counselors with confidence to communicate effectively in a variety of situations. Because of 4-H, youth like Carter become more careful listeners, compassionate leaders, and enthusiastic presenters.

Camp is just one of the many ways youth gain confidence through 4-H.

"4-H has made a positive impact on my life. It can do the same thing for other kids too. I want to get others involved so they can learn like I have."

—Carter E., Zumbro Rockets 4-H Club and summer camp counselor





Youth in 4-H contribute to our local and global community



Youth in 7th-12th who participate in 4-H are four times more likely to contribute to their community than peers.

Source: Lerner, R.M., Lerner, J.V., *4-H Study of positive youth development*

Throughout the year, 4-H youth from across Dodge County engage in service learning projects ranging from ditch clean ups, care and share projects, and food drives.

One of those youth is Mason K., who organized a Texas flood relief drive during Marigold Days this past year. Because of his leadership, the community of Dodge County, including businesses, came together to support others in need. 4-H provided Mason with the confidence to boldly invite others to contribute and the organizational skills to pull off a huge relief effort.

Mason is one of many youth who are doing great things for and on behalf of Dodge County. They are contributing to our local and global community.

"In 4-H I see the incredible way people help others. Through community service projects locally and around the country, we can help people who have been effected by natural disaster."

—Mason K., Eden Progressive Gophers 4-H Club



Youth in 4-H build connections with peers, adults and communities



Ninety-two percent of youth said they had an adult encourage and help them learn more in 4-H.

Source: 2017 4-H Monitoring and data report

Last year, 32 Dodge County youth participated in competitive team projects where they gained knowledge and built skills like teamwork, perseverance, problem solving, and confidence. Caring adults coached the youth toward deep, strong and supportive teamwork in experiences including animal science project bowl and livestock judging.

In competitive team projects, youth explore job opportunities, current industry norms and issues facing their local communities. The connections youth make with each other help them discover ways to positively impact their families, communities and their own lives too.

"I've learned so much from volunteering with 4-H. I have seen firsthand how 4-H makes youth more confident and outgoing as adults. I am grateful to be part of such a wonderful organization."

—Tammy Donley, 4-H volunteer





FUTURE FOCUS

We believe more youth deserve access to 4-H



Thirty-three percent of Dodge County youth are not yet engaged in enrichment experiences outside of school.

Source: MN Compass Data

Dodge County 4-H is working to reach even more local youth with high-quality out-of-school enrichment.

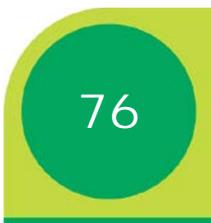
We want to reach underserved youth. One example is the DC Pumas 4-H Club. This Spanish-speaking club serves 38 Hispanic youth. They have become connected with caring adults, explored colleges, and gone to county and state fair. They are learning to be leaders and contributors in Dodge County.

With your help, we will continue to expand access to 4-H for more Dodge County youth. In 4-H youth build skills they need to lead. We are excited to connect the positive impacts of 4-H with the youth who need it the most.

“In 4-H my mind and imagination can go all over! I can use things at home and transform something easy into something productive and beautiful.”

—Alondra, DC Pumas 4-H Club

Caring adults empower youth to learn and lead



Dodge County has 76 screened adult volunteers who support and encourage youth to be leaders.

Source: 4-H enrollment data

4-H volunteers expand the impact of local staff as they mentor, encourage and learn alongside youth. Volunteers understand that cross-generational relationships are essential for growing youth who are connected and committed to their community.

In Dodge County, 4-H volunteers serve as teachers, club leaders, coaches, chaperones and more. According to MN Compass data, 62% of students in Dodge County feel connected to a caring adult in the community.

Relationships with caring adults are key to helping youth avoid risky behaviors, develop resilience, and thrive on their path to adulthood.

“4-H is an incredible program that I am happy to volunteer in. I do what I can to help and hopefully make a difference in youth’s lives.”

—Scott Schley, 4-H Volunteer

LOCAL STAFF

Kelly Vincelette

Dodge County 4-H
Program Coordinator
507-635-6327
kelly521@umn.edu



Paula Rud

Administrative Assistant
507-635-6325
pmrud@umn.edu

