

Vermont

4-H

## Leader Training Series



### Highlights of 4-H History



Taken from a chronology of 4-H that includes 190 noteworthy dates, events, and actions that contributed to 4-H history.

- 4-H Clubs were preceded by corn clubs for boys and canning clubs for girls organized early in this century by public school educators.
- Cooperative Extension Service was created when Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.
- A four-leaf clover with H's standing for Head, Heart, Hands and Health replaced a three-leaf emblem after World War I, and the term "4-H" came into common usage.
- National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work was organized in 1921 to encourage private sector support.
- First National 4-H Congress was held in 1922 and the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927.
- National 4-H Pledge and National 4-H Motto were approved by state leaders in 1927.
- Increased public funding of the Extension Service, including 4-H, was assured by Acts of Congress in 1928, 1935, and 1945, and special appropriations in 1969, 1972, and 1977.
- Extension Committee on Organization and Policy created a 4-H Subcommittee to deal with policies and procedures in 1939.
- County 4-H agents organized a national professional association in 1947.
- 4-H moved rapidly to other countries after World War II.

*Adapted from: Betty Ann Smith,  
County 4 -H Agent, Middlesex  
County, New Jersey, 1990,  
revised 1994*

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### Notable highlights in the 1980's:

### Focus for the 1990's:

- International Farm Youth Exchange began in 1948.
- National 4-H Club Foundation organized in 1948, opened the National 4-H Center (a special citizenship/leadership training facility) in 1959, at Chevy Chase, Maryland.
- Division of 4-H and Young Men and Women's Programs was created in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1952.
- Increased emphasis was given science, work with low-income people, minorities, urban youth, and contemporary concerns of society in the fifties, sixties, and seventies.
- Successfully used television as a 4-H educational method in the sixties and seventies.
- Extension in 1976 issued 4-H in Century III, a 4-H program guide of 28 recommendations. Earlier guides included: 4-H in the 70's, Set for the Sixties, Ten Guideposts, and others.
- National 4-H Council was created in 1976-77 by the merger of National 4-H Foundation and National 4-H Service Committee.
- Blue Sky Below My Feet, Space Technology Video Program featuring Col. Ellison Onizuka and dedicated to Challenger Crew.
- Focus for the 1990's has been **issue based programming**, such as Youth at Risk, Workforce Preparedness, Environmental Stewardship, and other national initiatives identified by the Cooperative Extension System.

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#### **Reference:**

4-H: An American Idea 1900-1980; Wessel, Thomas & Marilyn.

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### 4-H Partners in Washington, D.C.

#### CSREES/USDA

#### National 4-H Council Services and National 4-H Center

#### Educational Aids

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The Smith-Lever Act of Congress, 1914, created the Cooperative Extension System to provide for a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges and universities located in each state. USDA sets priorities, and the Extension System at the federal level emphasizes initiatives associated with these priorities. These issues and initiatives are in turn emphasized on the state and local levels in programing.

Cooperative Extension's role changes to meet the changing needs of the nation. It is the people served who are important in Extension programming. The objective in Vermont is to help the diverse population adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve their lives through an educational process that uses science based knowledge focused on issues and needs relating to Youth and Families; Agriculture and Natural Resources; Food Safety, Quality and Health; and Community Development.

The National 4-H Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports the 4-H youth development mission and vision by working to acquire resources for developing and conducting national programs. The National 4-H Center, located just outside Washington, D.C., is owned and operated by the National 4-H Council as a training and development center for 4-H youth and adults. The National 4-H Center's mission is to offer safe, affordable learning experiences in our nation's capital.

National 4-H Council produces educational materials both printed and audio/visual, to help volunteer leaders and 4-H members successfully complete their 4-H projects. A list and order form are included in the National 4-H Supply Service Catalog, also known as the Source Book, which is published each year. Contact your regional 4-H office for a copy of the catalog.

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## Media Services

National 4-H Council's media services help tell the story to millions of readers, viewers and listeners through newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

## Educational Programs at the 4-H Center

Educational programs for adults and youth are offered year round at the National 4-H Center.

**A Washington Family Experience:** 4-H and Extension families may use the Center as their home away from home to explore the vast historical, cultural and governmental resources of the national capital area. National 4-H Center staff provide support to make your visit more meaningful. You may go any time of year when space is available.

**Extension and Other Groups:** Any group with programs related to the educational objectives of Extension can use the unique and reasonably priced facilities of the National 4-H Center. Youth groups, schools, colleges, governmental, agricultural, community and other groups are welcome to apply for use of the Center for their educational conferences in the nation's capital.

For more information about the different programs and how to register for them you can call the National 4-H Center at 1-800-368-7432.



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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. UVM Extension and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.