



# Vermont 4-H Mission Area

## Citizenship

### WHAT IS 4-H CITIZENSHIP?

Since its inception, 4-H has placed emphasis on the importance of young people being engaged, well-informed citizens. By connecting to their communities and leaders, youth understand their role in civic affairs and are able to expand their role in decision-making processes. It is clear that civic engagement provides the foundation that helps youth understand the big picture of life and learn the skill sets that will allow them to become wise leaders for the 21st century.

With 4-H and the Cooperative Extension System's direct connection to the research and resources of the nation's 106 land-grant universities and colleges as well as USDA and other government entities, the 4-H Citizenship program has become a national priority of the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Vermont 4-H has many opportunities to experience citizenship programming that uses quality 4-H curricula designed to encourage community service, leadership, youth-adult partnerships and other forms of civic engagement. Linked to University research, program evaluation is connected to social skill development. 4-H citizenship events and club activities will demonstrate



that this area is not just a classroom subject but an important part of everyone's daily life. Activities will teach Vermont 4-H'ers about how civic engagement issues affect their lives and their communities.

### GOALS

- To foster teamwork and leadership skills.
- To provide opportunities for youth to be leaders of today, not just of tomorrow.
- To encourage civic involvement.

### PROGRAM FEATURES

User-friendly curriculum with age-appropriate lesson plans state learning outcomes that correspond with National Education Standards and 4-H's *Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development*. Lessons use low-cost and readily accessible materials and equipment; incorporate discovery learning methods, experiential hands-on activities, group interaction situations, and inductive questioning approaches to programming. Subject areas include the following:

Public Adventures  
Community Service Projects  
Day at the Capitol  
Citizenship Washington Focus  
Youth-Adult Partnerships

### Professional and Volunteer Development:

Vermont 4-H will train partner organizations to deliver non-formal citizenship programs to their youth. Webinars, online resources and other supporting resources are available, including national conferences and events. Local, state, and national events are also offered to 4-H members and friends.

For more information, please call the State 4-H Office at 1-800-571-0668.