Nebraska 4-H School Enrichment

4-H is the premier youth development program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Originating in the early 1900’s as “four-square education,” the 4-H’s (head-heart-hands-health) seek to promote positive youth development, facilitate learning and engage youth in the work of their community through the Cooperative Extension Service to enhance the quality of life. For more than a hundred years, 4-H has been dedicated to creating research based learning opportunities for youth that broaden skills and aspirations nurturing the full potential of youth. (4-H National Headquarters Fact Sheet)

4-H SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DEFINITION:
School enrichment programs are groups of youth or children receiving a sequence of learning experiences in cooperation with school officials during school hours to support the school curriculum. Involves direct teaching by 4-H staff, trained volunteers or teachers.

4-H School Enrichment Purpose:
The purpose of a 4-H school enrichment program is to:
• Encourage long-term involvement in 4-H for enhanced positive youth development.
• Enhance the relationship between 4-H and the school system (public or private).
• Provide non-formal education to complement formal education, leading to better educated youth.
• Enhance the subject matter area being studied.
• Foster and promote enthusiasm and support for participation in 4-H program, events, and activities.

4-H School Enrichment Membership:
4-H school enrichment membership includes all youth engaged in participating classrooms.

Structure of a 4-H School Enrichment Experience:
• Conducted during school hours in partnership with the classroom instructor.
• A minimum of six hours of programming.
• Engages youth in hands-on learning opportunities that support the school curriculum.

4-H SCHOOL ENRICHMENT QUALITY STANDARDS:
What does a quality experience look like?
• Delivered by 4-H staff, trained volunteers or teachers.
• A sequential and varied learning experience supporting the school curriculum.
• Youth are able to articulate that this is a 4-H sponsored project.
• An evaluation is completed by teachers and/or school participants.
4-H BEST PRACTICES

What are 4-H School Enrichment best practices?

• Uses experiential learning—learning by doing—as a primary teaching approach.
• Shows evidence of fostering the Essential Elements of 4-H Youth Development.
• Includes planned opportunities to learn and apply life skills such as leadership, citizenship, community service and public speaking.
• Provides experiences to develop in-depth knowledge about science, engineering and technology; leadership and citizenship; healthy living; agriculture literacy; and college and career readiness.
• Provides programs, curricula, and procedures that are based in research and are developmentally appropriate.
• Provides participants and volunteers access to resources of land-grant universities and to county, state, and national 4-H opportunities.
• Fosters youth-adult partnerships that encourage active involvement and participation by youth and adults.
• Provides safe and healthy physical and emotional environments.
• Offers projects in a wide range of subject matter areas relevant to the Land Grant University knowledge base to meet youth needs and interests.

GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING

How do I report youth participating in school enrichment on the ES237?
Refer to the Access 4-H Definitions pdf at http://4h.unl.edu/Access_4-H
Additional resources to be developed.

ESTABLISHING AND SUSTAINING A SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

How do I start a new school enrichment program?
What resources are needed?
    More information to come.