

SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR 4-H SPARK SUPPORTER...

Thank you for helping a 4-H participant with their 4-H Project to Pathway Plan!

4-H helps young people learn important skills, gain real life experiences, and build strong relationships so they're ready for work, life, and their future. 4-H also helps youth learn how to learn!

The 4-H Project to Pathway Plan shares the main steps for completing 4-H project work. But YOU are a very important partner, making sure young people have a great experience learning how to learn!

The checklists below show how you can help a 4-H'er as they work through their 4-H Project to Pathway Plan. As you help a young person discover their spark, pick a few ways you can help them learn and grow. Your help will prepare them to be ready for work, life, and their future!



Create Opportunities for Youth to be Ready for Work

- ☐ **Relating Sparks to 4-H Project Content**
(STEM, agriculture, health, other)
- ☐ **Building Work Readiness Skills**
(professionalism, work ethic, organizational skills)
- ☐ **Supporting College Readiness**
(academics, college exploration and career exploration)
- ☐ **Fostering Leadership Development**
(navigating differences, leading others, decision making, communication, collaboration)
- ☐ **Encouraging Real Life Experiences**
(internships, apprenticeships, summer employment)

Create Opportunities for Youth to be Ready for Life

- ☐ **Promoting Personal Integrity**
(STEM, agriculture, health, other)
- ☐ **Supporting Responsibility**
(professionalism, work ethic, organizational skills)
- ☐ **Fostering Purpose**
(academics, college exploration and career exploration)
- ☐ **Promoting Caring & Connection**
(navigating differences, leading others, decision making, communication, collaboration)
- ☐ **Promoting Goal Setting & Management**
(internships, apprenticeships, summer employment)
- ☐ **Encouraging a Growth Mindset**
(internships, apprenticeships, summer employment)

Assist Youth in Developing an Individualized Post-Secondary Pathway

- ☐ **Mentoring Relationships**
(establish developmental relationships that will provide youth with the guidance and support needed to navigate their pathways)
- ☐ **Inspiring Future Pathways**
(challenge young people in their growth and expanding the possibilities to achieve their desired purpose)
- ☐ **Creating Pathway Plans**
(establishing goals and encouraging meaningful progress toward their intended purpose)
- ☐ **Preparing for Pathway Navigation**
(developing the skills and resources needed to adapt, address challenges and maximize opportunity)



Further YOUR learning as a 4-H Spark Supporter and check out these resources from Nebraska 4-H!
go.unl.edu/4-h-spark-supporter



Beyond Ready



START WITH A SPARK,

THEN SHAPE,

SHARE

AND SHINE!

Project to Pathway



Name: _____ 4-H Year: _____



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Enroll in Nebraska 4-H!
go.unl.edu/4-h-enroll

Your 4-H Adventure is About to Begin!

And your future starts here!

With the 4-H Project to Pathway Plan, you are taking the first step to find out what you like, what you are good at, what makes you happy, and where you want to go. This guide will help you make your own learning plan. It will help you learn skills for the real world and get ready for jobs, life, and whatever comes next.

The best part is that this is your adventure! You can look for new things you like, try different ways to do things, and change your mind whenever you want. Your Spark Supporter will be there to help you along the way. Every experience helps you learn more about yourself and brings you closer to a future that is just right for you.

Step 1: Spark Your Interests

What do you love to do? What do you want to learn about? What things make you say "Wow!"? What makes you feel excited?

Support

Need some help with your project? Think of someone who can be your helper, your thinking buddy, or an expert from outside. Share your cool idea or spark with them and ask if they'd like to help you explore it!



Want to find cool ideas for Nebraska 4-H projects? You can look at the Nebraska 4-H Project List. You can also visit with youth already in 4-H. Another fun way is to visit a Showcase Experience, like a County Fair or a Robotics Expo!

Explore Nebraska 4-H Projects! go.unl.edu/4-h-projects



Keep the great energy going and don't stop! Use your spark to make you curious and to help others find their sparks, too! If your project didn't turn out exactly as planned, that's okay! You can try something new. Then you can do it all again for your next 4-H Project!

Step 3: Share Your Learning

What fun things do you want to share with others about what you learned in your project? What do you want people to know about your project?

Think about where you can share your project! You could show it at a Fair, enter it in a 4-H Contest, or share it at a special Showcase. Maybe you can tell your club, share it at a community event, or find another cool place to show it off!

Step 4: Shine Your Spark

How do you want to celebrate all the awesome things you learned? How can you give a big thank you to your Spark Supporter? What new and exciting thing will you explore next?

Who can help you with your project? It might be someone from your family, an older member in your 4-H club, your club leader, or someone else in your community! They can help you learn and grow.

Step 2: Shape Your Project

Pick one spark in step one to explore. How will you learn more about it? What do you want to make, build, design, grow, or raise? Do it! Then, think about what you learned. You can use what you learned for other projects and in your life, too!

Sources and Experiences

What do you already know about your spark? What else do you want to find out? How will you learn more? Look for books, people, or fun things to do that will help you discover more!

Steps for Goals and Action

What do you want to do for your project? Write down some ideas for the small steps you will take to reach your goal. What do you need to do and by when? Think about your timeline!

Supplies

What things will you need to finish your project?

What Did You Learn in 4-H?

Think about what you learned in this project. How will it help you with your future job, your life, or anything else you do later? Your Spark Supporter might have some great ideas too!

Here are some things you might have learned as you worked on your 4-H project:

- ☐ Being Creative: Did you come up with new ideas?
- ☐ Thinking Smart: Did you figure out tricky problems?
- ☐ Being a Leader: Did you help others or guide a group?
- ☐ Trying New Things: Did you adjust to different situations?
- ☐ Knowing and Doing: Did you learn new facts or skills for a job?
- ☐ Getting Ready for Life After School: Did you think about college or other training?
- ☐ Solving Problems: Did you find ways to fix things that were wrong?
- ☐ Using Computers and Technology: Did you learn to use new tools or programs?
- ☐ Understanding People: Did you get better at working with others?
- ☐ Not Giving Up: Did you keep trying even when things were hard?
- ☐ Going with the Flow: Did you change your plans when you needed to?
- ☐ Something Else: Did you learn something special that's not on this list?



You can also explore 4-H curriculum books and resources or go to 4-H workshops, camps, and learning events in your county or state! And, some learning experiences require many supplies, while others do not! CLOVER by 4-H has web-based activities that require a few supplies.

Check out 4-H Project Learning Resources go.unl.edu/4-h-learning-resources



Make your goals **SMART!** That means they should be:

- Specific (what you want to do)
 - Measurable (you can tell if you did it)
 - Achievable (you can really do it)
 - Relevant (it matters to your project)
 - Time-bound (you have a deadline)

