



There's More to 4-H Than Clubs: 7 Ways 4-H Reaches Youth

When most people think of 4-H, they think of 4-H clubs. Although 4-H clubs are the most commonly known, there are six other ways 4-H reaches youth. Each "delivery mode" serves a different purpose, but all are equally important. 4-H staff also use these as categories to report participation in 4-H to government agencies at local, state, and federal levels.

In New Jersey, educational programs are offered to youth, grades K-13 (one year out of high school) through the following delivery modes:

1. Chartered 4-H Clubs

A chartered club is an organized group of at least five youth from three families, led by an adult, with a planned program that is carried on throughout the year. 4-H clubs may meet in any location and have elected officers and also a set of by-laws approved by the county 4-H staff. Standard 4-H clubs involve youth in grades 4-13 and focus on in-depth learning of one or more projects. 4-H Cloverbud clubs provide youth, grades K-3, with an introduction to 4-H in a non-competitive environment. 4-H clubs might meet in the community, in schools during school hours, in after school settings, or on military installations. All 4-H clubs must obtain an official charter in order to use the 4-H name and emblem.

2. 4-H Special Interest/Short-term Programs/Day Camps

A group of youth may meet for a specific learning experience for one or more sessions, which involve direct teaching by 4-H staff or trained volunteers, including teachers. Such a program is not part of school curriculum and cannot be restricted to members of 4-H clubs. This delivery mode does not usually continue for as long as a 4-H club. Examples might be a three-week babysitting course or a weekend 4-H state teen conference if enrollment is open to the public. Day camping consists of multiple-day programs, with youth returning home each evening.

3. 4-H Overnight Camping Programs

Youth may participate in a planned educational experience of group living in the out-of-doors which includes being away from home at least one night (resident, primitive, or travel camping). Most 4-H summer camps fit this description if enrollment is open to the public.

4. 4-H School Enrichment Programs

Groups of youth may participate in a sequence of learning experiences in cooperation with school officials during school hours to support the school curriculum. An example might be a volunteer visiting a school to present a special program on science to youth during classroom hours and promoting 4-H while doing so. 4-H staff might teach specific topics or train school nurses or classroom teachers to directly teach 4-H lessons.

5. 4-H Individual Study/Mentoring

Individual youth may choose to experience a project independently with the help of an adult mentor. Examples include self-study, home study courses, advanced placement courses, mentoring and/or shadowing with an "expert." 4-H staff supervise the independent study and assist the mentor with planning and implementation.



6. 4-H After School

These after school educational programs using 4-H curricula are offered to youth outside of school hours, usually in a school or community center. The primary purpose is to provide care, as well as developmental and educational experiences for children and youth while parents are working or unavailable.

7. 4-H Instructional TV/Video/Web Programs

Youth may also be offered learning experiences via broadcast or closed circuit television, including satellite transmission, or videotape replays of such series. May also include instruction delivered by internet.

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Reference: *New Jersey 4-H Facts In Brief*

For more information on New Jersey 4-H, please visit www.nj4h.rutgers.edu.

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