



## 4-H Citizenship Program

*Connecting, learning, engaging, leading and impacting*

### Definition:

4-H Citizenship is the knowledge, skills, attitudes and motivation that give youth the capacity to move beyond one's individual self-interest and to be committed to the well-being of some larger group.

### Vision:

Youth will make a positive difference by engaging in learning opportunities that give them a heightened sense of responsibility and capacity to connect as active members of their communities, nation and world.

### Key Focus Areas

- **Civic engagement**
  - Voice
  - Advocacy
  - Activism
  - Deliberative, informed decision making
- **Service**
  - Community service
  - Service learning
  - Community youth development
- **Civic education**
  - Government principles, processes and structures
  - Personal roles and responsibilities
  - History and cultural heritage
  - Global understanding
- **Personal development**
  - Leadership
  - Mutual respect and understanding
  - Character development
  - Critical thinking and problem solving

**Effective 4-H Youth Citizenship programs will allow young people to:**

- **CONNECT** –Be active partners in a larger community as they recognize, appreciate and respect human diversity and commonality; understand their part in shaping change and work together towards the common good.

- **LEARN**- Learn from others, self and environment to develop informed perspectives, empathy, ethics, pro-social values, positive self identity and sense of social responsibility.
- **ENGAGE**-- Engage in political education and awareness, social justice, advocacy, negotiation, public problem solving, community service, etc.
- **LEAD**-- Develop leadership skills where youth use their voices, work, ideas or behavior for the greater good.
- **IMPACT**—Make a difference in community, country and world

**Effective 4-H Youth Citizenship programs will include the following strategies for learning & positive youth development:**

### **Learning**

- Based on appropriate national and state learning standards
- Meet youth where they are
- Mentorship
- Experiential learning providing opportunities for practice, application and reflection including critical thinking and problem solving.
- Motivation--achievement, affiliation and power/influence (McClelland's Motivational Model)
- Learning styles
- Using appropriate technology

### **Positive Youth Development**

- Youth/Adult Partnership approach—youth and adults work together in a positive and respectful environment, contributing their unique strengths to the project and their relationship.
- Youth are engaged in the identification, planning, implementation, leadership and evaluation of the program.
- Youth in Governance
- Includes the **Essential Elements** of Positive Youth Development—mastery, independence, belonging and generosity
- Parent/guardian component running in parallel
- Provide a continuum of developmentally appropriate experiences and opportunities

**This is a guiding document created at the National 4-H Citizenship Mission Mandate Program Summit in Baton Rouge, LA in September 2010.**

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