



A CHRONOLOGY OF NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM ISSUES IN 4-H

- 1902 - Albert B Graham, superintendent of schools in Clark County, Ohio started holding club meetings in the basement of the county building on Saturday mornings while parents went shopping. The first projects completed were tests on the soil on their farms with litmus paper and selecting the best corn from their father's crop for future planting in test plots.
- 1904 - A school fair in Iowa contained nearly 4,000 exhibits from school clubs ranging from wood collections to reports on cattle sales and maps of county farms, roads, and woodlands. At the fair, young people spoke on their projects and their results.
- 1905 - E. C. Bishop was appointed to expand corn growing, sewing, and baking projects in Nebraska' Boys' Agricultural Association and Nebraska Girls' Domestic Science Association as a means of advancing rural youth education was an idea whose time had come.
- 1908 - Students in Page County, Iowa gained pride in their school through the girls' projects in baking, sewing, and basketry. The boys' projects included seed selection experiments, milk tasting, and road improvements.
- 1910 - Ella G. Agnew established the first girls' tomato canning club in Virginia.
- 1914 - Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, creating the Cooperative Extension Service and the educational movement that came to be 4-H would have a permanent home. At that point 4-H and Extension grew and flourished.
- 1918 - The term 4-H Club appeared in a federal document, this one authorized by Gertrude Warren
- 1919 - 4-H Leaders met in Kansas City and established the general structure of local clubs, encouraged an expansion of projects and defined the relationship between clubs and vocational education.
- 1922 - First National 4-H Club Congress and Fourth Annual Club Tour was held in Chicago
- 1923 - The first International 4-H Leadership Training School took place. The program was structured to take advantage of the organization of the Cooperative Extension Service. The experience created a pool of experienced and motivated club leaders for the future.
- 1924 - Four-leaf clover emblem was patented and the use of the name 4-H and symbol gave individual members a sense of belonging to an organization that reached beyond their immediate area. This sense of belonging also provided means for individual members to make specific contacts outside of their community.
- 1927 - First national 4-H camp was sponsored by USDA in Washington D.C. and was founded to reward and develop junior leaders in club work and acquaint club members with their government and provide a meeting of all state leaders. Delegates were housed in tents on the grounds of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 1927 - National 4-H Pledge written by Oris Hall, Kansas State 4-H Leader, and 4-H Motto prepared by Carrie Harrison, botanist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA approved by state leaders.
- 1928 - Testimony by Maryland 4-H members and a Virginia volunteer leader impressed Congress and helped gain passage of the Capper-Ketcham Act that increased Extension funding.
- 1929 - 4-H Club Sunday, an outgrowth of Rural Life Sunday was established.
- 1931 - National 4-H Fellowships for young Extension professionals - one man and one woman.

- 1935 - Land-Grant College Association established a special national committee to study club work and its future needs, direction, and policies.
- 1936 - Nationally 4-H enrollment passed the million mark in 1936, as it expanded greatly during the depression thirties.
- 1939 - 4-H Citizenship Ceremonial was held at the National Camp. The ceremony quoted parts of the Declaration of Independence without embellishment, factually describing the government, and pledging the member to the ordinary duties of a citizen.**
- 1945 - Extension service received additional public support and 4-H was recognized as one of nine Extension responsibilities in the Bankhead-Flannagan Act passed by Congress.
- 1948 - National 4-H Club Foundation of America was organized
- 1952 - Creation of a Division of 4-H and Young Men and Women's Programs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave 4-H equal status with other divisions in the Extension Service.
- 1953 - A Citizenship Improvement Study defined citizenship in 4-H and established programming guidelines.
- 1955 - The 25th Anniversary of National 4-H Club Camp was observed.
- 1956 - 4-H was invited to participate in the first meeting of the President's Council on Youth Fitness.
- 1959 - First citizenship short course was held at the National 4-H Center at the request of Buchanan County, Iowa 4-H members.
- 1960 - National 4-H Club Foundation published a 4-H edition of *The American Citizens Handbook* through special arrangements with Senior Citizens of America.
- 1963 - Local citizenship activities and programs were enhanced by the start of Citizenship-in-Action grants.
- 1973 - Secretary of Agriculture issued USDA policy statement regarding the involvement of youth in community development.
- 1981 - A comprehensive statement, *This is 4-H*, describing the program and its mission, was approved by ECOP and its 4-H subcommittee in June 1981 and distributed by the 4-H unit, Extension Service, USDA.
- 1990 - Greater concentration was put on making the community a better place to live through helping young people learn to make their communities better.
- 2002 - A National 4-H Conversation on Youth Development was held in Washington DC. Over 900 youth from across the United States gathered to discuss the direction and prioritize the goals of the youth's national agenda.
- 2005 - National 4-H Conference known as "The Secretaries Conference", celebrated its 75th Anniversary.
- 2008 - National 4-H Headquarters created a Citizenship Mandate Task Force to research and develop interest related to the Citizenship Mandate for 4-H

Sources:

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The mission of National 4-H Headquarters is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by creating opportunities for youth. For more information, visit www.national4-headquarters.gov



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