

EXTENSION

College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources



2023-2024 VOLUNTEER IMPACT REPORT

The dedication and efforts of 4-H volunteers play a pivotal role in fostering youth development, leadership, and community engagement. This report provides an overview of the impact made by Clark County 4-H volunteers from October 2023 to September 2024.

Drawing on feedback from our recent volunteer impact survey and end-of- year reports, we explore the incredible contributions and experiences of those who support the 4-H mission in Clark County.

Our findings reflect the collective passion and commitment of our volunteers, offering insights that will help us enhance the volunteer experience and expand the positive impact of 4-H in our community.



Key Achievements



Volunteers greatly contributed to the success of the Clark County 4-H program in 2023- 2024. New clubs expanded the program's reach and diversity, creating additional opportunities for positive youth development. Dedicated volunteers substantially increased enrollment, showcasing the community's strong commitment to supporting the 4-H mission. Participation surged across clubs, activities, events, and projects. These achievements highlight how volunteers play a pivotal role in fostering leadership, learning, and growth among 4-H youth.



The 4-H programs achieved significant growth and impact during the 2023-2024 year. Volunteers and leaders operated a total of 16 clubs throughout the year, including 9 newly chartered ones.

These clubs spanned rural, suburban, and urban communities, ensuring youth and families from diverse areas had broad access to 4-H programs.

Afterschool enrichment programs accounted for 2,657.5 hours, while special interest and short-term programs saw 1,192 hours. Volunteers dedicated 254 hours to afterschool programs using 4-H curricula. Day camps benefited from 104 hours, and organized 4-H afterschool clubs received 250 hours of support. Finally, 4-H clubs led by volunteers accounted for 1,967 hours, showcasing their deep commitment to fostering positive youth development.



Achievement 3: Increase in volunteer participation and enrollment



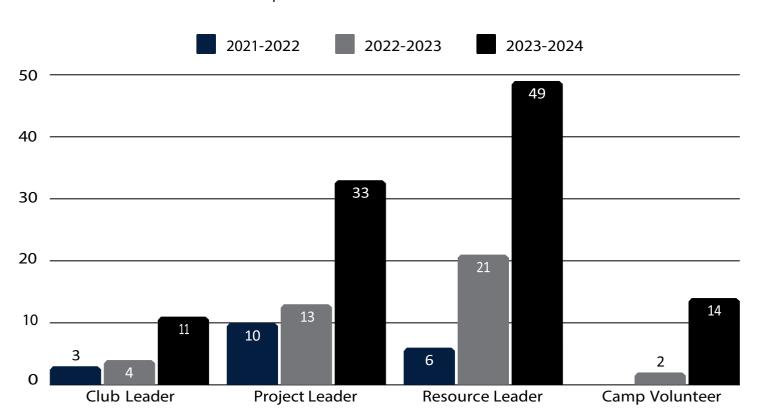
During the 2023-2024 year, volunteer participation saw a notable increase, with 107 individuals enrolled in 4-H Online, including 72 new adult volunteers. Overall, 489 volunteers engaged in various 4-H initiatives, reflecting the strong commitment of community members.

By contrast, in 2021-2022 we had 20 volunteers fully enrolled and saw 88 volunteers participate across all programs, and in 2022-2023 we had 42 volunteers fully enrolled and 407 participate across all programs. The increase from the 2021-2022 year to the 2023-2024 year is an incredible 445%!

Volunteer Roles

Clark County 4-H successfully expanded its volunteer base, with individuals filling key roles to strengthen programs and increase impact. This growth in volunteerism demonstrates the community's dedication to empowering young people and advancing 4-H's mission. Volunteers in each of the roles below contributed significantly to the tremendous outcomes achieved during the 2023-2024 program year:

- Club Leader (provides overall leadership to the club, oversees the group structure and operation, while serving as the club's contact with Extension employees and the 4-H Council)
- Project Leader (teaches members in a specific project area, such as rabbits, computers or fashion review)
- Resource Leader (serves as a resource to leaders or members in a specific project or activity area; provides general assistance to 4-H staff)
- Camp Volunteer (provides assistance and supervision at day camps or overnight camps)

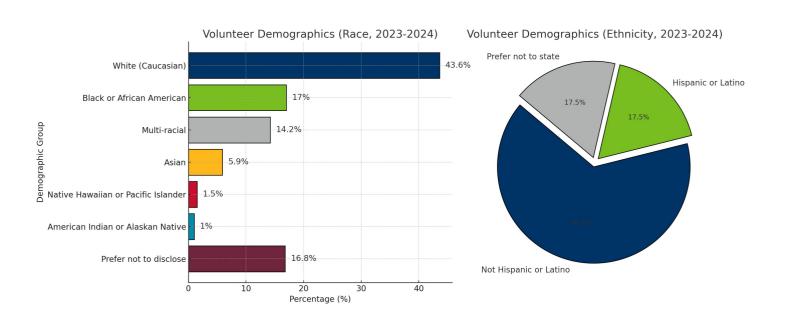


Graph 1: Number of Volunteers in Each Role

Volunteers in each role increased year over year, driving the success of the Clark County 4-H program and enabling the delivery of positive youth development programming to youth across the county.

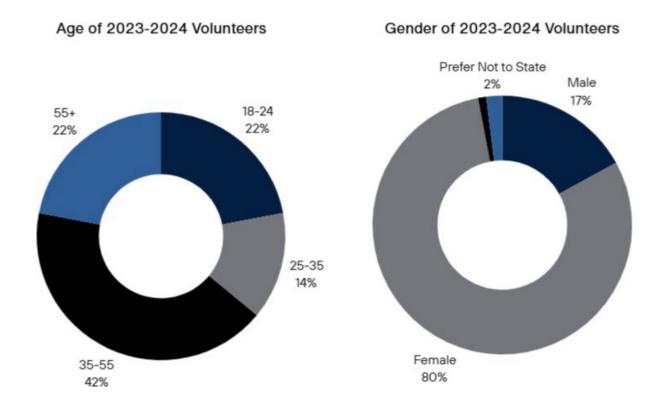
Volunteer Demographics

Clark County 4-H fosters an inclusive environment where diverse volunteers actively contribute to the growth and success of youth programs. Volunteers from varied backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives engage with the program, reflecting the vibrant communities we serve and ensuring youth feel represented, valued, and supported. These diverse volunteers bring unique skills and ideas that strengthen programs, address evolving needs, and connect with underrepresented populations. By embracing volunteer diversity, we build a stronger, more inclusive community where every young person thrives.



Graph 2: Volunteer Demographics

Graph 3: Volunteer Demographics



Our volunteer base has grown more diverse, and we aim to continue enhancing the representation of diverse demographics in our volunteer program.

Volunteer Survey Results

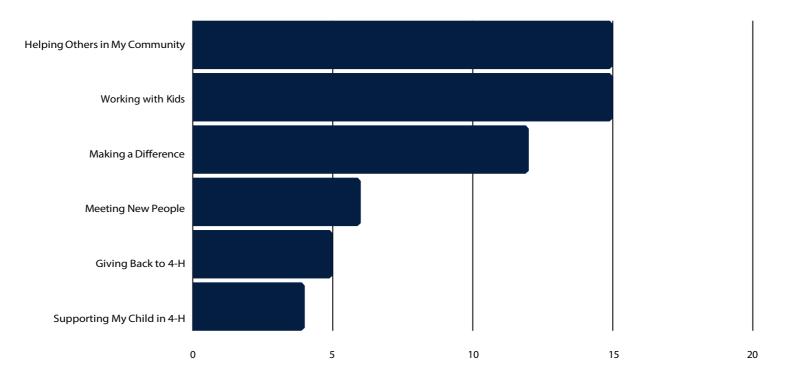


Clark County 4-H conducted a volunteer survey from September 9 to November 11, 2024, to assess engagement, participation, and the overall impact of volunteering within the program. Out of 107 volunteers surveyed, 28 responded and provided valuable insights into their experiences and contributions. The survey captured a holistic view of the volunteer journey, highlighting both the challenges they faced and the successes they achieved. Their feedback offers critical insights into how volunteers perceive their roles and guides Clark County 4-H in enhancing support and engagement efforts.

The survey asked volunteers to reflect on various aspects of their involvement, including their personal experiences, the skills they developed, and the knowledge they shared with others. Volunteers also described their role in fostering positive youth development, a core element of the 4-H mission. Respondents detailed how they mentored youth, built life skills, and created opportunities for 4-H members to thrive. Their responses highlight the significant impact volunteers make on the program and reveal how their efforts produce meaningful outcomes for youth.

Top Motivations for Volunteering

Volunteers were asked to identify their top reasons for volunteering for the Clark County 4-H program.



Graph 4: Motivations for Volunteering

Volunteers identified "helping others in my community," "working with kids," and "making a difference" as their top three motivations. These responses emphasize the importance of aligning volunteer opportunities with their core values. By providing meaningful interactions with youth, opportunities to engage in the community, and a platform for making a difference, the program strengthens and increases volunteer commitment. Additionally, fostering social connections among volunteers and actively recognizing their contributions enhances their overall experience and satisfaction.



Seeing the youth's excitement when they achieve something they didn't think was possible makes every hour worth it.

— Project Leader

Volunteer Satisfaction



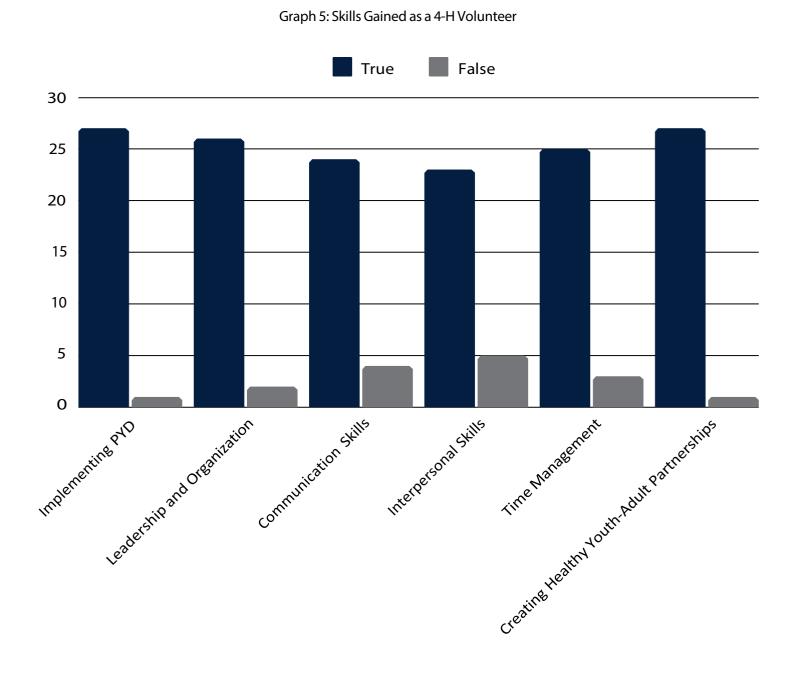
Volunteers rated their satisfaction with being a member of the 4-H Volunteer Program on a scale of 1-10. The survey revealed a strong sense of satisfaction and fulfillment, with an overall average score of 9.03 out of 10. This high rating demonstrates the program's success in meeting volunteer expectations and creating positive experiences.

Volunteers mentioned that meaningful engagement opportunities, effective support and training, and a sense of being valued within the organization contributed to their satisfaction with the Clark County 4-H volunteer program.

Clark County 4-H will enhance efforts to recognize and celebrate volunteer contributions, provide relevant training on 4-H and club management topics, and connect volunteers' work to tangible outcomes to improve satisfaction in the 2024-2025 year. By fostering an environment where volunteers feel satisfied and impactful, the program ensures long-term engagement and sustains its positive impact on youth.

Skills Gained

In the survey, volunteers identified skills they gained through their 4-H volunteering experience, showcasing the personal growth and development opportunities that come with serving others. They reported enhancing their abilities in leadership, communication, and teamwork, highlighting how volunteering strengthens both individuals and the program. These gains not only improve volunteers' capabilities but also amplify the program's impact by fostering more skilled and engaged individuals who contribute to their communities.





"Being a 4-H volunteer has taught me a great deal about leadership and working with youth. I've learned so much by working with kids and helping them grow on their own terms"

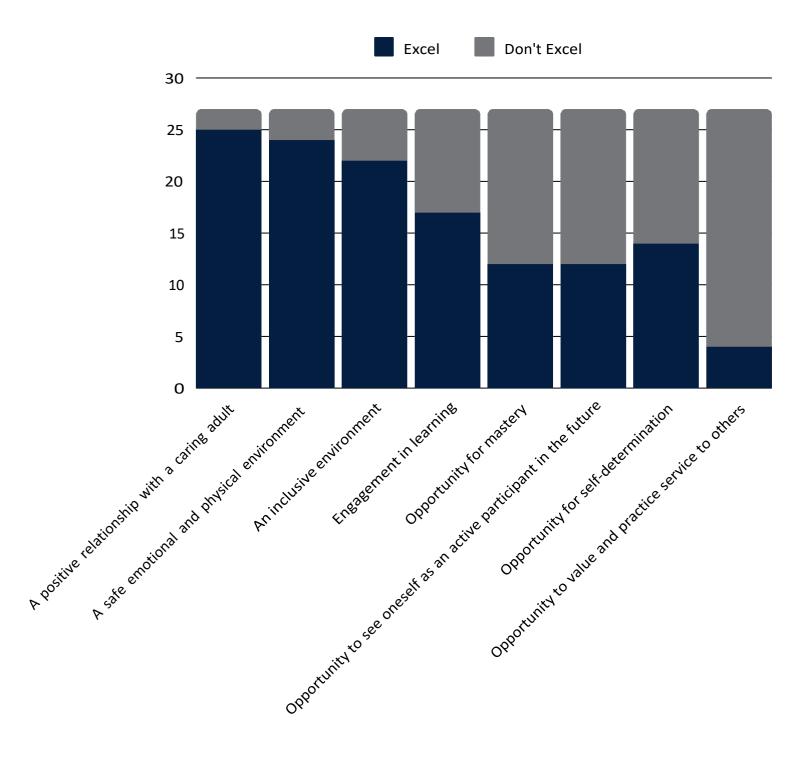
— Resource Leader

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Eight Essential Elements

Volunteers identified which of the Eight Essential Elements they excel in, providing valuable insights into their strengths. All new volunteers complete online training on this critical component of positive youth development, and the Clark County 4-H team also delivered in-person trainings on the topic. Their responses highlight the strengths volunteers bring to the program and how these elements contribute to creating a positive and impactful environment for youth development. These insights enable the program to tailor support and resources to enhance these strengths further and foster growth in other areas.

Graph 6: Implementation of the Eight Essential Elements



The survey revealed that volunteers excel in several areas, particularly in creating an inclusive environment. Volunteers ensure that youth and their peers feel welcomed, respected, and valued, regardless of their backgrounds. They also demonstrate strengths in fostering self-determination, building positive relationships, and providing opportunities for mastery. These efforts show that 4- H volunteers effectively support youth in setting and achieving goals, building meaningful connections, and developing essential skills.

The survey revealed opportunities to enhance the program's impact, particularly by increasing opportunities for service to others, which 19 respondents highlighted as an area needing improvement. These responses reveal a gap in providing all youth with meaningful service-learning experiences. Respondents also identified self-determination as an area for growth, emphasizing the need to further empower youth to take initiative and make independent decisions. Although all new volunteers complete training on the Eight Essential Elements, the survey results indicate a need for additional training to help volunteers strengthen these key areas.



"When I was growing up, I was lucky to have supportive adults around me. I want to provide that same experience to the youth in 4-H."

— Project Leader

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Conclusion

Clark County 4-H volunteers significantly impact the community through their dedication and enthusiasm. During the 2023-2024 year, volunteers made remarkable contributions by forming new clubs and engaging with youth through diverse programs. Volunteers excel in creating inclusive environments and fostering self-determination, while opportunities exist to expand service-learning and future-oriented activities.

Clark County 4-H will use these insights to further support volunteers and amplify its mission of empowering youth through education, leadership, and service. Planned initiatives for the upcoming year include advanced training modules, recognition events, and targeted recruitment to ensure a sustained impact.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Clark County 4-H mission, and we look forward to another year of incredible achievements!

Volunteer Interest Form



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