

Clover Clips



The 4-H Newsletter for Nevada

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Beyond Ready: Advantages of Learner-Centered Approach

Education models that place the educator or program leader as the central authority responsible for shaping the learning experience automatically places students in the passive role of absorbing and memorizing information (Dewey, 1916).

More recent research indicates learner-centered models emphasize active involvement and autonomy among students in their own learning journey. Proponents of this approach argue that learners construct their knowledge through meaningful interactions, experiences, and reflection. Centering the learner seeks to foster critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a deep understanding of concepts by tailoring instruction to individual needs and interests, and shape better outcomes. This model shifts the focus from a passive absorption of information to active engagement that prioritizes youth agency and self-direction. However, this approach requires effective classroom and group management skills and prioritizes engagement at the risk of potentially neglecting foundational content. Striking a balance between active and passive engagement is essential to creating inclusive and effective educational and social experiences for youth.

Research on youth reward systems has explored the impact of different incentive structures on motivation, behavior, and overall well-being. Studies suggest that intrinsic motivation, which aligns with learner-centered models, tends to be more effective than extrinsic rewards in fostering long-term engagement and learning among youth.

Moreover, researchers have emphasized the importance of considering individual differences in responding to reward systems, highlighting the need for personalized approaches that recognize diverse motivations among young individuals. The literature on diversity in youth skills and goals underscores the significance of acknowledging and valuing a range of talents and aspirations among young people. Understanding and supporting various skill sets, including both traditional/academic and non-traditional talents, can contribute to more equitable, empowering, and

rewarding educational and social environments for youth from different backgrounds.

More recently, researchers have emphasized cultivating growth-oriented attitudes among youth. Studies indicate that individuals who adopt a growth mindset, believing that abilities can be developed through effort and learning, tend to exhibit increased resilience and higher levels of achievement. However, performance alone no longer appears to be the end goal for many young people.



Researchers identified four “life currencies” that are key for youths’ transitions from school to work. Rather than a rote checklist of life tasks (graduate high school, attend college, get job, make money, retire), they emphasize agency and motion in life as young people develop dynamic **competencies**, pursue **credentials** that represent their skillsets, actively develop and nurture human **connections**, and possess or find the cash (resources) to make it all work. Competencies, in this use of the term, share a lot of meaning with internal assets identified by the Search Institute. However, rather than presenting competencies as static assets youth either have or don’t have, this definition frames them in a way that centers youth agency and action. Interestingly, many of the competencies essential for youth to succeed in their future landscapes conflict with many of the harms linked with their digital lifestyles (focus, creativity, problem solving, health and wellness, socio-emotional intelligence, endurance, empathy, mindfulness, authenticity, and introspection). Along those same lines, the constantly social and online nature of today’s youth might grant them unprecedented access to the “connections that matter most”, but they may have limited competencies to meaningfully engage with them.

These connections- in the form of lifelines, door openers, and navigators- are key developmental relationships to help youth understand their options when it comes to learning, skill-building, and attaining credentials. Specifically, connections help youth know

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Help Make Washoe Float for Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade

Join Members and Volunteers from Washoe County 4-H as we plan for this year's float decorations and design for the Spark's Hometowne Christmas Parade happening on December 6, 2025! All clubs are welcome to join in the float making and parade. The theme this year is "Toyland"! We will be meeting at the Washoe Extension Office (4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV, 89502) on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 from 6 p.m-7:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!



Wreaths Across America

On December 13, 2025, Wreaths Across America volunteers will gather at local cemeteries and memorials to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom by laying wreaths at places of memory such as headstones and remembrance walls.



Learn more and sign up to volunteer with your 4-H club at - www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org

Learner Centered Approach

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what credentialing is necessary for their specific interests and goals, if they have what it requires to obtain it, if it is the optimal path for them, and if it provides support while working toward it.

The final “C” - **cash** - is a great need for youth that is both a standalone dilemma and intricately connected with competencies, connections, and credentials. Many young people's relationships with financial resources are based on fear and scarcity. They have watched their parents and grandparents struggle through recessions and pandemics and crippling debt. This perceived financial fragility has fueled a surge toward open-source access to knowledge, free/frugal skill-building and microcredentialing, and avoidance of traditional (i.e., expensive) higher education paths. At the same time, youth have learned that skill development and job mobility can lead them to better paying jobs with the flexible structure they desire.

However, financial literacy is at an all-time low and because effective financial management is critical for overall life satisfaction, this is a critical need for young people. Because of increasing life expectancies, tomorrow's workers are projected to work into their 70s and 80s (AARP, 2023). The quality and lucrative nature of that work and their ability to retire successfully will be dependent on their ability to manage finances over a longer period of labor participation than previous generations.

So, what do today's young people need to thrive now and down the road? Piecing together empirical findings with trend data and youth narratives, it seems to boil down to four key factors: These are not new components of success. But the contexts in which they are needed, developed, and utilized are rapidly evolving. Institutions and organizations that are tasked to support youth towards success need to correspondingly shift to meet and reflect those changes. The tangible skillset young people need are largely technology-driven, which requires rapid re-skilling opportunities as tech advances. While knowledge is important – the emphasis here is experiential. This is a prime space for 4-H programming to step in and give young people hands-on opportunities to learn and develop key skills. Similarly, the development skills needed are primar-

ily relational in nature – but not just with other people. Today's young people need to actively focus on their relationship with themselves to foster self-awareness, mindfulness, empathy, and creativity while also developing interpersonal and professional skills that will be critical for navigating the future. They also need to develop interactive skills with products and machines as artificial intelligence and automation has reshaped labor landscapes and requires a rethinking of who/what constitutes “coworkers”. Growth is the key mindset that drives continual skillset development and retooling, the grit to seek out and pivot among multiple jobs and careers, and the entrepreneurial spirit that is essential in emergent “gig” economies.

Developmental relationships – a core value of 4-H – are instrumental in orienting youth toward purpose-driven mindsets. Beyond chronological age, the course of life is not very linear for many people who are coming of age now and in the foreseeable future. So, youth need early developmental guidance through alternative and higher-level thinking in non-linear ways that increase their capacity for purpose-based living. This circles back to learner-centered approaches to working with youth that de-emphasize performance-based progress and, instead, prioritize diverse experiential skill and relationship-building opportunities focused on achieving a shared purpose.

Recent research highlights the importance of cultivating growth mindsets, aligning with the evolving needs and aspirations of the youngest generations entering the workforce. Conceptual models from 4-H and the Search Institute reinforce the need for enriching developmental climates that go beyond traditional education, preparing youth for a future marked by autonomy, flexibility, and lifelong learning. The contexts in which basic life skills are formed are evolving rapidly. The role of 4-H programming emerges as pivotal in providing hands-on opportunities for skill development and cultivating the qualities essential for the success of today's youth and the workforce of tomorrow. In essence, the pursuit of thriving youth requires a comprehensive and adaptable approach that aligns with the evolving dynamics of education, work, and personal development.

-Condensed from Nation 4-H Council- Responding to Readiness: A Positive Youth Development Approach

4-H Washoe County C-A-L Ranch Gift-Wrap Fundraiser

Fundraiser opportunity for Washoe 4-H Clubs - this December Reno's local C-A-L Ranch store at 3400 Kietzke Lane welcomes Washoe 4-H in their stores on Saturday December 13, Saturday December 20, and Wednesday December 24, to wrap gifts for customers. Donations received from this event will go to the clubs who volunteer their time. Sign up to attend by contacting Amy Zimmerman at whipstirs4h@gmail.com



4-H Paper Clover with Tractor Supply

Help 4-H empower tomorrow's leaders with our Paper Clover Fundraiser- in-store or online. Any time you make a purchase from Tractor Supply between November 28 and December 14 you can donate to 4-H and get a Paper Clover recognizing your support.

100% of funds raised through the bi-annual Paper Clover campaign directly benefits 4-H youth. 90% of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state where the funds were raised, and the remaining 10% supports the overall mission and growth of 4-H nationally.



Washoe County - Join us at Tractor Supply to represent 4-H during this fundraiser! Contact Rachel Kaiser-Schoen for more information.

rkaiserschoen@unr.edu or 775-336-0235

2025-2026 4-H Year has Begun

The new 4-H year (2025-2026) began October 1, 2025. One of the things that this includes is 4-H Online re-enrollment for all 4-H members, Cloverbuds and Leaders.

If you have been enrolled in Nevada before, you do not need to create a new profile. All of your information from the previous year is still in 4-H Online. Program ages and years in a program are automatically updated. Families are responsible for updating grade levels, and changes in schools.

This is an opportunity to change or add clubs and projects if necessary.

Please note: There were some issues on October 4. Some clubs and projects were not accessible by 4-H Online. There are still a couple of issues to solve, but much of the earlier problems have been repaired.

Online 4-H Events Calendar

There are a few ways to find out what events are happening in 4-H across the state. One of the best ways is to go online to the 4-H Events Calendar (<https://extension.unr.edu/4h/calendar.aspx>)

The calendar shows events both upcoming and ongoing in counties across the state. Each entry shows the time and place of an event along with other pertinent information and a map to the location.

First Clinic for Washoe 4-H Horse Clubs

Washoe County 4-H Horse Leaders have a field trip to Sierra Feed and Saddlery (7460 S. Virginia Street in Reno) Attendees will hear from a hay grower who supplies hay to Sierra Feed and will learn about the several kinds of hay that are available in our area as horse and other animal feed.

The field trip is Saturday, November 8, 2025 starting at 10:00 a.m. This will be the first clinic of the new 4-H year for the Washoe horse clubs. It is a free clinic (no cost)

Dress warmly, as this will mostly be outside. Hot chocolate and treats will be served inside after our outside clinic concludes.

RSVPs are required by Sierra Feed (from us) by November 6, 2025. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Sam Mitchell, samm@unr.edu or 775-336-0259

Washoe 4-H Leader Nominations

Each year at the Washoe County 4-H Year End Awards we celebrate the outstanding achievements by Washoe County 4-H members and leaders.

Do you know a leader who deserves recognition? Nominate them for a Leader Award. New Leader of Merit, Project Leader Service, and the Outstanding 4-H Leader Award are presented at the awards ceremony. There are also forms for nominating Friends of 4-H and 4-H Partners (companies and organizations that worked directly with 4-H).

The deadline for nominations is November 3, 2025. Forms go to Bethany Stiener at Washoe County 4-H, 4955 Energy Way in Reno.

A copy of the nomination form, was emailed to every Washoe 4-H family of record on October 24. If you would like a copy sent to you, please contact Sam Mitchell at samm@unr.edu or 775-336-0259.

Ready to do something wickedly good?

A simple act of kindness can spark a ripple of good—and you can be the spark! Beginning on 4-H For Good Day (October 9) to the highly anticipated release of Wicked: For Good on November 21, we're celebrating your power to make a difference.

Just like Elphaba and Glinda in Wicked: For Good, your choices can change the world. Whether it's writing a heart-felt note, helping a neighbor, or brightening someone's day, your good deed matters.

This challenge is a chance to show the world what it means to be 4-H Beyond Ready—ready to lead with heart, take action with purpose, and inspire others through kindness.

To find out how to join the #4HForGood Challenge go online to <https://4-h.org/4hforgood/>



4-H Member Earns Pilot Certificate through Innovative 4-H Program

One club in northeast Clark County is showing youth that the sky's the limit with the pilot program that hit the runway last year.

When University of Nevada, Reno Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program in Moapa Valley launched its youth aviation pilot program last fall, it was an ambitious idea: to spark students' interest in flight and create a pathway to a pilot's license. Today, the program has not only taken flight, but is soaring, with its first member, 19-year-old Talon Newsom, earning his private pilot certificate, and with new partnerships, expanded community involvement, and other youth eager to follow in his footsteps.

It all started with a conversation during a hike, when Newsom, a member of the 4-H Teen Leadership Corps in Moapa Valley, shared his dream of becoming a pilot with Extension 4-H Program Officer Dianna Walker, but he didn't see a clear path forward.

Walker began to explore how the 4-H Program could support Newsom's ambition. She discovered that the U.S. is facing a major shortage of pilots and wondered how 4-H might fit into solving this problem. Just by coincidents, weeks later, local pilot and community leader Tim DeBarardinis reached out to Extension about starting a youth aviation initiative.

Walker saw this as an opportunity for 4-H, which teaches leadership skills and civic engagement and uses STEM education to engage youth, to develop a program that would afford participants the opportunity to graduate with their pilot's license.

"When Tim reached out about the aviation club, I thought, 'Alright, we're supposed to be doing this,'" Walker said.

From there, a partnership with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), the Perkins Field Flying Club, and Moapa Valley High School began to take shape, and the 4-H Youth Aviation Club emerged.



Talon's mom, Becca Newsom, volunteered to be his first passenger.
- Photo by Becca Newsom

What started as a small club has evolved into a structured program blending ground school, flight simulators and in-air instruction. Local pilots volunteer countless hours mentoring students, providing access to planes and teaching aviation fundamentals.

Greg Witter, president of the local EAA chapter, emphasized the value of this partnership.

"I don't see us having the success that we have without EAA or without the 4-H component,"

Witter said. "[Without EAA] 4-H wouldn't have the flying aspect, curriculum or airplanes. Without 4-H we wouldn't have access to the kids, the simulators and the support in the community."

To help 4-H youth in this program reach even more, Extension recently purchased two state-of-the-art Redbird Flight simulators. One simulator is already installed at the Extension's 4-H Teen Innovation Center in Mesquite. The other will soon be housed at the Moapa Valley High School College of Southern Nevada building.

Newsom, who says he's been a 4-H member his whole childhood, started in 4-H with livestock projects, including chickens, rabbits and swine, before eventually becoming the first male member of the 4-H Teen Leadership Corps. Now, as a member of the 4-H Youth Aviation Club, he's the first member to earn his private pilot certificate. His dream of training to become a pilot has become a reality.

November Dates to Remember

Nov. 2 - Change back to Daylight Standard time (set clocks back one hour)

Nov. 11 - Veterans' Day (Offices Closed)

Nov. 27-28 - Thanksgiving Day and Family Day Holidays (Offices Closed)

Find it in  **4-h.org/clover/**

Science: Outstanding science programs start with a strong understanding of the infrastructure needed for success. Learn more about the logic model, checklist, competencies and inquiry-based learning.

Science Competencies are the "demonstrated capacities" that are integral for facilitating high-quality learning environments with meaningful educational outcomes. All of the 4-H Science core competency tools are designed to be flexible.

Get the Science Smart Competency Guide and more at <https://4-h.org/resources/professionals/science/>

4-H is a program of University of Nevada, Reno Extension

Clover Clips 4-H Newsletter is now distributed statewide to all 4-H families, 4-H staff and interested parties. This monthly publication is sent via email around the first of each month. To submit an article for possible use in Clover Clips, please email the text and any graphics to samm@unr.edu by the 20th of each month for following month's newsletter.

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