

# 4-H Volunteer Impact Study

Exploring the personal, organizational and public value of being a 4-H volunteer

## What is this study about?

The North Central Region 4-H Volunteer Impact Study was conducted with volunteers in the 4-H Youth Development program across 12 states.

The purpose of the study was to better understand the value of being a 4-H volunteer. 1,000 randomly selected volunteers from each state were asked to reply to an electronic survey. This report focuses on Missouri findings.



## Who completed the study?

194 Missouri Volunteers Responded

## Top reasons for volunteering



#1 Support child in 4-H

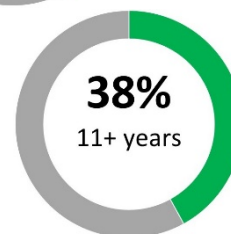
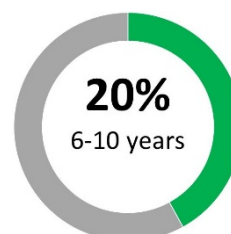
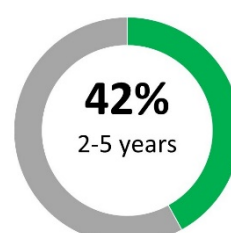
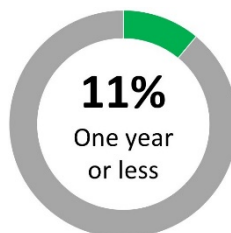


#2 Help others

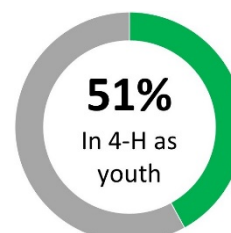


#3 Make a difference

## Volunteer years of service



## Childhood participation in 4-H



51% of volunteers were part of 4-H as a child  
49% were not part of 4-H as a child

## How does the individual benefit?

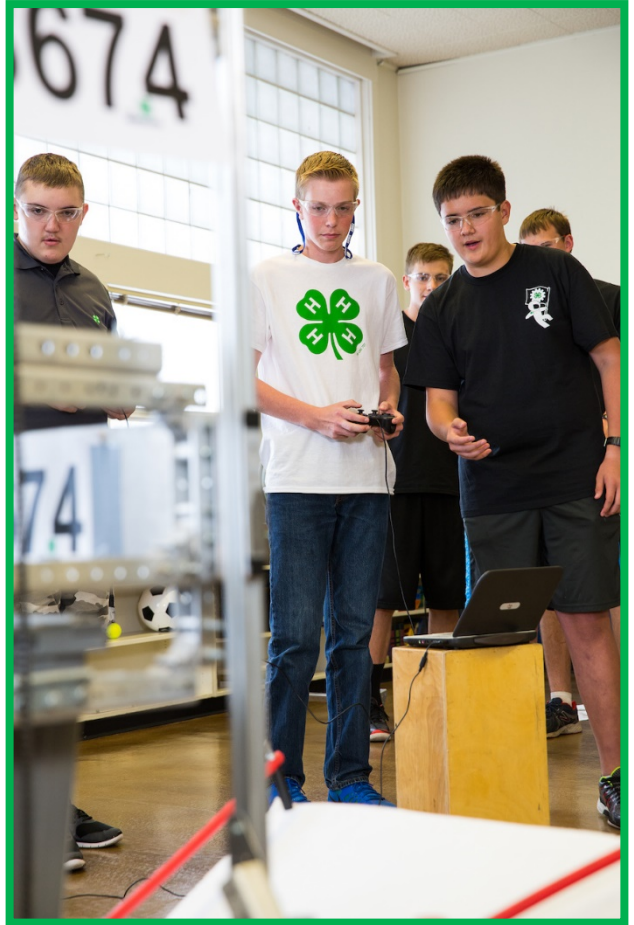
### Volunteers personally benefit from their 4-H involvement.

Volunteers come into the 4-H program hoping to support youth and make a difference. In the process, they gain skills in teaching, leadership and communication. These skills transfer to other environments in which volunteers work and live.

92%

built new relationships with youth

*"Many have fond memories of 4-H and give credit to their leaders for helping them become the person they are today. As a volunteer I do not need credit- Just seeing them become a working, community minded adult and good parent is enough for me. I just wish every kid in the world could experience 4-H."*



86%

gained skills that are useful in other settings

*"I have shared my 4-H experiences with other adults in my community to encourage them and their children to become a part of a 4-H club in our county. I have shared with other adults (who don't have any 4-H youth) in the community about the positive benefits 4-H can have on the youth in the community."*

79%

increased my confidence as a leader

*"Watching clover kids grow into youth leaders, parents learn new skills and become mentors, community partners gain understanding of 4-H, life skills and achievements gained by youth as well as parents are the most memorable."*



## How does our organization benefit?

### 4-H Youth Development benefits from volunteers.

Volunteers give their time, talents and energy to the 4-H program. On average volunteers give 9 hours per month, an annual contribution valued at \$2,421\*. In addition to time, 93% of volunteers contributed supplies and 85% of volunteers contributed financially.

Volunteers serve as primary ambassadors for 4-H. They tell others about the importance of youth development, recruit new youth and volunteers, and expand community partnerships.

87%

Positively impacted the community through 4-H

*"We often join others in helping them accomplish large community service projects. We use our leadership and teamwork skills to accomplish good things for others."*

86%

Made a difference in the lives of youth

*"I have been working with the same group of 4-H members for the last 7 years. I have enjoyed watching them grow from shy youth to young adults who are very assure of themselves and willing to help others."*



97%

Help youth develop leadership skills

*"I believe the difference we make in the lives of the youth are most rewarding. These kids learn leadership skills without being in a classroom. They learn to appreciate their community more."*

86%

made new connections in the community on behalf of 4-H

*"A group of members from our club has partnered with the Volunteer Fire Department in our town to start a Junior Firefighters Program. This is a huge thing in our town."*

86%

spoke about the value of the 4-H program to members of the community

*"4H allows kids to build relationships within a community, which in turn, strengthens a community. For example, sitting at the local farm supply store raffling off a pig to raise money for the club allows kids an opportunity to present and talk about 4H to lots of different people. So many skills are practiced."*



## How does the community benefit?

### Communities are stronger because of 4-H Youth Development volunteers.

Volunteers have a positive impact where they live and work. They make communities stronger, connect communities to each other, improve community health and increase overall civic involvement. The value of 4-H volunteers extends far beyond the scope of youth development into every part of their community

*“4-H volunteers have the opportunity to model for youth on how to help in their community through community service projects, and providing youth the opportunity to help others and give back to their community beyond 4-H projects. 4-H volunteers are the models that youth may inspire to be like and follow.”*

**87%**

said volunteering with 4-H makes communities stronger



**82%**

said volunteering with 4-H contributes to better connected communities



**85%**

said volunteering with 4-H improves the health of communities

**79%**

said volunteering with 4-H increases civic involvement

*“The more you volunteer the more of a difference you can make. Helping kids to gain the courage to think for themselves and be productive, involved citizens is the end goal.”*

### Volunteers matter and they make a significant impact.

The 4-H program would not be possible without volunteers. Through their service, volunteers grow personally. They enrich the 4-H program and youth. They make our communities stronger.

Learn more about 4-H in Missouri. Call your local MU Extension office.

Locate your local office at <https://tinyurl.com/yxogh1cb>



**Extension**  
University of Missouri

*Data in this report are from a 2018 evaluation project of 4-H volunteers in the North Central Region. Response rate for Missouri volunteers was 25.5%.*

\* Direct value of volunteer contributions based on Independent Sector hourly rate of \$24.13.

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