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[www.plymouthcounty4h.org](http://www.plymouthcounty4h.org)

# 101 Ways To Celebrate 4-H!

October is 4-H Month

## Easy things to do for free!

*(Contact the 4-H Office for lots of "freebies" to promote National 4-H Week.)*

1. Give away 4-H balloons to all new members or prospective members with an invitation to join your club.
2. Get 4-H tattoos and distribute them during the week!
3. Give a clover sticker to everyone you find smiling or just being nice.
4. Swap "Clover-tines," like Valentines! Make your own cards with funny 4-H sayings. Add candy or treats if you like.
5. Distribute 4-H pencils to all new members.
6. Replace your voice mail with "Happy 4-H Week!"
7. Add a 4-H Week message to your school's website.
8. Use the Discovery School Puzzlemaker (online at: <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/>) to make a word puzzle. Use as a fun activity or contest during club meetings and other special events.
9. Give every member a special ribbon with a 4-H message on it.
10. Hang a huge National 4-H Week banner across the street in front of the school. Contact the 4-H Office for information about how to order one for free!
11. Invite teen 4-H'ers or 4-H alumni to talk about their 4-H experiences.
12. Plan a "Balloon Release." Have members place 4-H messages in balloons, fill with helium and release.
13. Have local grocers place a 4-H message in grocery bags. Use the "Talking Points" (available on our website) or make up your own.
14. Place 4-H promotional food tray liners in your school cafeteria or at local restaurants.
15. Decorate your town's mascot! Most towns have a statue in their center square. Dress it in a 4-H T-shirt, green cap, pennants/flags, signs, etc. Be sure to get permission first!
16. Fly the 4-H flag at your school for a day.
17. Present a thought-for-the-day each morning.
18. Print and distribute 4-H Bookmarks.
19. Ask local businesses to use their signs to promote 4-H. Make up slogans to use, like I Bleed Green, 4-H is AWESOME!, or 4-H is 4-U!
20. Provide the local newspaper with articles written by members, volunteers, alumni and donors.
21. Make a spirit sign for an athletic event showing support from your 4-H Club in honor of 4-H Week.
22. Have a picnic! Bring sack lunches and meet outside for games or contests, such as hoola-hoop marathon, high-count paddle-ball tournament or double-dutch jump rope drills.
23. Organize a 4-H Week committee for next year's events!

## Easy things to do for under \$10!

24. Sell raffle tickets during the week for one of the new 4-H Beanie bears and recognize the winner at a theme party.
25. Use green food coloring to make green bottles of bubbles (like the kind used at wedding receptions) and distribute to members for a green bubble-blowing 4-H party.
26. Advertise an "I Bleed Green Day" where everyone wears something green. Distribute green and white mints with invitations to the next meeting or special event to everyone who wears green that day.
27. Distribute sticks or packs of gum with notes attached that say: "I'm STUCK on 4-H!"

28. Have a "Cutest Clover" design contest. Use our clover outline (see our website) or create your own. Use markers, fabric or ribbon scraps, stickers, photos, computer graphics, etc. Give awards for Most Original, Most Creative, Most Colorful, Cutest, Most Unusual, etc.
  29. Distribute green and white mints to all members, teachers, etc.
  30. Serve limeade (awesome recipe available on our website) and distribute "4-H Talking Points" at a reception at school or public place, like the courthouse, school board meeting, etc.
  31. Cover your school or community with 4-H posters! Encourage EVERY 4-H'er to bring a 4-H poster. Form a committee of 4-H'ers and volunteers to distribute signs in businesses and public places. (Example on website.)
  32. Make "Thank You" posters for windows of local businesses.
  33. Take a jar of green jelly beans to each meeting. Let members guess how many jelly beans are in the jar.
  34. Use a local cable station (Channel 5) to convey 4-H messages and announcements.
  35. Line the halls with pictures of 4-Hers in Action! Use pictures of members busy with their 4-H projects. Add information, such as name, 4-H Club, project name and a description of what they are doing in the photo.
  36. Use green plastic cups to spell a 4-H Week message on a fence around your school.
  37. Decorate a bulletin board with 4-H Clovers and pictures of every new member. Add to it as new members are recruited.
  38. Have members offer face painting with cute animals, clovers, or other items representing 4-H projects or interests. Charge a small fee to cover supply costs if necessary.
  39. Distribute something 4-H'y for bulletin boards in every classroom.
  40. Ask your church to acknowledge 4-H Sunday (October 1) and all the 4-H members who are present. Present the minister (pastor, priest, rabbi, etc.) with a 4-H gift of appreciation.
  41. Honor an adult volunteer, teen leader or donor with a card, gift or certificate of appreciation.
  42. Write thank you notes to local supporters. Contact the 4-H Office for a list of people who deserve a BIG thank you for all that they do.
  43. Sponsor contests for T-Shirts, posters, bumperstickers, 4-H displays, PSA's, essays and feature stories. Use them for publicity all week.
- Things that cost more but mean a lot!**
44. Celebrate Louisiana style with a 4-H Mardi Gras party. Distribute 4-H Mardi Gras beads (available at [www.4-Hmall.org](http://www.4-Hmall.org)) and wear purple, green and gold. Serve King Cakes and green punch.
  45. Give 4-H items for door prizes at club meetings and special events (4-H pencils, pens, T-Shirts, etc.) by drawing 4-H membership cards.
  46. Make 4-H badges or buttons to wear and distribute.
  47. Have a popcorn and/or movie party for all new members.
  48. Sell green cotton candy at concession break with a note: 4-H is 4-U! Green Sno-cones are fun, too.
  49. Have a "Best Chocolate Chip Cookie" contest. Award prizes and package the cookies in plastic bags with green ribbons. Give to cafeteria staff, school secretaries, custodians and bus drivers.
  50. Make and sell green candy apples. Attach a note, such as "4-H – GOOD 4U!" or "Happy 4-H Week!"
  51. Take orders for 4-H T-shirts from members. If your school dress code requires uniforms, ask your principle to declare a 4-H Day when students can wear their T-shirts to school.
  52. Prepare refreshments for school staff and place them in the teacher's lounge.
  53. Make clover-shaped cookies to deliver to hospital or nursing home patients.
  54. Have a contest for 4-H bumper sticker designs. Let a local printer or artist select the winning entry. Print and distribute the bumper stickers during 4-H week.
  55. Distribute "4-H Survival Kits" to 4-H sponsors and school principals (green life savers, 4-H pencil, sticky notes, markers, etc.).
  56. Make and deliver jars of green and white jelly beans to your school principal, sponsor and other special people.
  57. Give a plant or floral arrangement for the school office. Stick a paper 4-H clover on a florist stem in the pot and tie it up with a big green ribbon!

58. Invite a donor or other supporters to lunch in the school cafeteria each day during 4-H Week.

59. Sell 4-H grows stickers

### **Fun things that require a little planning!**

60. Sell Clovergrams (4-H cups filled with candy treats, 4-H stickers, tattoos and other promotional items).

61. Decorate a 4-H float. You don't have to have a parade to have float! Just park it in front of the school or stadium to celebrate 4-H Week.

62. Have a National 4-H Week Pageant. The boy and girl who collect the most contributions for the club wear the crown as Mr. and Miss 4-H.

63. Plan a 4-H Night Out for bowling, skating, miniature golf, paint ball or laser tag, movies, etc. Members pay their own way (plus small transportation fee if necessary). Parents and volunteers can chaperone.

64. Have a 4-H Rocket Launch. Build rockets with plastic 2-liter bottles and launch them into the sky. Use a homemade altimeter to track them and measure the distance they traveled. Give prizes, such as Most Successful Flight, Biggest Dud, Craziest Journey, Flashiest Design, etc. (Rocket patterns/ launcher available from the 4-H Office.)

65. Have an assembly and show the latest video (or PowerPoint) of 4-H highlights from the past year.

66. Select 4-H members and/or adult volunteers to present at PTA, School Board and civic club meetings.

67. "Make-your-own Banana Split" with 4-H'ers, parents, and teachers at an open house event. Invite school board members, parish volunteers or local officials. Show off your project books, portfolios and exhibits.

68. Kick off 4-H Week with a Talent Show. Collect a small admission fee as a club fundraiser.

69. Broadcast short feature stories or highlights about 4-H as Public Service Announcements (PSA's). Let members tape spots for local radio stations, TV or school public address system.

70. Decorate classroom doors. Members can pair off or pick teams and draw for room numbers. Recognize the winners with prizes or awards.

71. Have a 4-H Carnival.

72. Have fortune cookies made with a 4-H message inside each one. A local oriental restaurant may help. Distribute them during lunch at school.

73. Sponsor a National 4-H Week Pet Show or Bicycle Rodeo.

74. Initiate a 4-H'er of the Week newspaper feature during 4-H Week. Let a panel of volunteers select the featured 4-H'er including all ages and interests. Maybe even have a 4-H'er of the Day *everyday!*

75. Use 4-H promotional/educational exhibits at businesses, fairs, schools, banks and supermarkets.

76. Ask a local radio station to sponsor a contest: Have members make up questions on 4-H history and 4-H today. Provide callers who give correct answers a prize. Use 4-H camp T-Shirts, 4-H pens and pencils and other promotional items.

77. Sponsor a billboard design contest. Have a local sponsor purchase billboard space in the community and unveil the winner during 4-H Week.

78. Sponsor a 4-H Family Chili Cook-off at an athletic event. Sell bowls of chili for a fundraiser.

79. Have an "I Bleed Green Scavenger Hunt." Find green items around the school (or hide some yourself), provide clues and watch the fun as members scout them out during the week. Give prizes for the winners.

80. Sponsor a "Free Car Wash" for school staff, invited supporters, etc.

81. Form a committee to plan an activity for "Make a Difference Day," October 28. For more information, visit [www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html](http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html).

82. Have 4-H'ers deliver original singing "Thank-you-grams" to local supporters.

83. Have a 4-H Project Fair. Members bring items made in their projects and display them in categories. Invite volunteers to judge the event and give ribbons for outstanding entries. (Ribbons are available from the 4-H Office.)

84. Grow or transplant real shamrocks to deliver to donors and other supporters during 4-H Week.

85. Have a puppet show. Create hand puppets from socks, paper bags, or construction paper and wooden sticks. Make up wacky names for your characters. Use popular songs, TV shows or movies, children's stories, etc. for inspiration.

86. Present an original 4-H skit at a club meeting or special event.

87. Plan a trail ride. Make sure to take some 4-H flags and banners along for the ride. You may want to collect donations for a charity event to involve more people.
88. Plan a service-learning activity. Identify a need in your community and collaborate with other groups, businesses, or agencies. Do a needs assessment through interviews, research, surveys, observation, etc. Set goals and develop a plan of action. Keep a journal to reflect on what you've learned. Celebrate your success by recognizing members in a fun way.
89. Have members prepare a meal and invite their parents as guests of honor.
90. Have a 4-H Play Day. Schedule heats in various track-type events as well as fun games and give ribbons, trophies or prizes to the winners.
91. Have parents prepare little care packages for the members and drop them off at school. Deliver them with a note as a surprise.
92. Make a 4-H quilt from old 4-H T-shirts. Have members bring T-shirts (younger members may need to raid their older siblings closet... with their permission, of course!). Raffle it off as a fundraiser.
93. Make a video (or audio tape) of members telling about a 4-H project, doing show and tell demonstrations, club meetings, etc. Mail copies to local TV and radio stations to use for PSAs.
94. Sponsor a cooking contest or 4-H food eating contest.
95. Paint the town green with 4-H Clovers! Sell 4-leaf clover cards for 25 cents or more and ask local businesses and agencies to let you post them in their windows. Collect them all at the end of the week and draw for a small 4-H related prize.
96. Have fashion show with members showing off the coolest new fashion trends. Include some old 4-H uniforms as a reminder of how 4-H has changed since it began in 1914! (Pattern available.)
97. Contact a local hospital about sponsoring a "National 4-H Week baby!" The first baby born during 4-H Week in the parish is named the 2006 4-H Baby. Get sponsorship from local vendors for diapers, gasoline to bring baby home, milk/formula, flowers, baby clothes, etc. Give the new baby an honorary 4-H membership card.
98. Have a Membership Marathon. Members participate in a "Recruitment Race" for new members. Sponsor a real marathon to coincide with the contest where members make laps around the track, or jump rope, play dodge ball or ping pong tournaments. Plan a special field trip or event for the top recruiters and their new members as well as the marathon winners.
99. Create a media event by getting a commitment from every 4-H'er for individual service projects during National 4-H Week. Print their pledges in the newspaper and supply photos of their work.
100. End the week with an awards banquet. Give out awards like: Most Enthusiastic 4-Her, Most Original Idea, Hardest Working 4-Her, etc. Give the event a new twist with a funny theme, like make-your-own-omelet, world's longest sandwich supper, late-night breakfast, chili cook-off, salad supper, fish fry, outdoor chicken barbeque, finger-food-fellowship, the 4-H Diner, funniest 4-H video contest, 4-H Academy Awards, a TV Guide party (with 4-H related spoofs from a variety of shows), Unsolved 4-H Mysteries (with skits about 4-H'ers and leaders), Wheel-of-4-H Night to guess major 4-H successes from the past year, a 4-H Survivor event, or 4-H Millionaire.
101. **Check out the service learning projects conducted by other 4-H'ers by visiting the National 4-H website at: [www.4h-usa.org](http://www.4h-usa.org).**



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