

4 - H A F T E R S C H O O L



Extraordinary Learning Opportunities





DEDICATING
OUR **HEAD, HEART,**
HANDS AND
HEALTH TO YOUTH

A Great Asset in the After-School Marketplace

4-H Afterschool is a vibrant nationwide initiative raising awareness of the need for positive youth development during after-school hours. It increases the quality and availability of after-school programs in urban, suburban and rural communities by:

- Creating learning opportunities suitable for any after-school setting
- Delivering enriching, hands-on curricula
- Training staff and volunteers to work more effectively with youth

Programs bolstered by 4-H Afterschool come in many shapes and sizes, from academic enrichment to entrepreneurial and computer clubs. They respond to distinct local needs while helping youth reach new levels of social, emotional, physical and academic success through experiential learning.

4-H Afterschool is a focused effort within the 4-H Youth Development Program, which works in every U.S. county and engages more than 7 million youth. After-school organizers anywhere can benefit from 4-H's unmatched experience, vast resources and wide range of expertise.

Quality, Learn-by-Doing Curricula

4-H AFTERSCHOOL IN ACTION:

In the Students Teaching Students program, New Jersey high school youth work with amateur astronomers, university students and teachers to acquire the knowledge and skills to teach astronomy to fourth-graders. They organize learn-by-doing activities and stargazing parties to excite elementary students about this fascinating subject. In the process, they improve their organizational and leadership abilities.

HEAD FIRST TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

4-H Afterschool curricula help youth develop skills in critical areas, such as:

- Learning to learn
- Decision making
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Goal setting

4-H Afterschool fosters a unique combination of fun and learning that helps youth develop lifelong skills, such as leadership, critical thinking and teamwork.

In fact, 4-H Afterschool offers a wealth of research-based, ready-to-use, “learn-by-doing” curricula on a wide array of topics, including:

- Communication and expressive arts
- Consumer and family science
- Environmental and earth science
- Plants and animals
- Science and technology
- Leadership

Strengthened by the Cooperative Extension System — a partnership of county, state and federal governments and land-grant universities — 4-H Afterschool curricula reinforce important education milestones and academic standards.



Building Teams Through Training

4-H AFTERSCHOOL IN ACTION:

4-H Afterschool Computer Club runs at more than 80 after-school sites throughout Missouri, including Boys and Girls Clubs, community centers and libraries. By supporting these sites with training, software and add-on activities, 4-H is helping to build computer skills in youth who otherwise wouldn't have adequate access to this vital technology.

To run a successful after-school program, organizers need staff and/or volunteers who can anticipate the needs of youth, understand their learning styles and speak their language.

4-H Afterschool is making it easier than ever for organizers to build these youth-savvy teams via specialized training in:

- Child development
- Discipline and support
- Health and nutrition
- Special needs
- Working with parents and the community



NURTURING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AT HEART

The training delivered through 4-H Afterschool empowers staff to teach youth how to:

- Improve their social skills
- Develop empathy
- Accept differences
- Resolve conflicts
- Communicate effectively

HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

After-school programs encourage youth to serve their communities through:

- Volunteering
- Responsible citizenship
- Contributions to group efforts
- Teamwork
- Self-Motivation



Establishing the Extraordinary

4-H Afterschool provides a basic “how to” process for starting 4-H clubs in after-school programs. 4-H Afterschool provides critical technical assistance that will help organizers:

- Find the right after-school setting
- Recruit and train staff and volunteers
- Involve parents and other community members
- Plan interesting activities
- Market after-school programs to youth

4-H AFTERSCHOOL IN ACTION:

Project Magic, a 4-H Afterschool program based in Nevada, helps first-time juvenile offenders — youth ages 12 to 17 — become productive members of society. Pre- and post-testing indicates that this initiative significantly improves decision-making, conflict-resolution and goal-setting skills. And by graduating 900 rural youth who have not re-offended, Project Magic has helped save Nevada’s taxpayers an estimated \$5.4 million in incarceration costs.



LEARNING HEALTHY LESSONS FOR LIFE

4-H Afterschool enables youth to live healthier, more productive lives via:

- Improved self-esteem
- Sound lifestyle choices
- Stress management
- Disease prevention
- Personal safety

VISIT OUR ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER

Now organizers can get everything they need to establish or improve their afterschool programs quickly and easily at www.4hafterschool.org. Our site offers resource guides packed with vital information and curricula, as well as brochures, stickers and other helpful items.

Get Involved!

To learn more about how 4-H Afterschool provides extraordinary learning opportunities, please visit www.4hafterschool.org or call us at 301-961-2814.



Accomplishing Great Things Together

JCPENNEY AFTERSCHOOL FUND MISSION

The JCPenney Afterschool Fund — through collaboration, funding and volunteer support — will work with our partners and providers of after-school care to raise awareness of the need for after-school programs and maintain and increase the number of programs available in order to cultivate our most valuable resource — our children — while helping them “Power Their Potential.”



4-H Afterschool is a collaborative effort of the Cooperative Extension System — state land grant universities, state and county governments and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture — and National 4-H Council.

4-H Afterschool and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund first partnered in 2002 to expand and promote 4-H’s involvement in after-school programs for youth in communities across America.

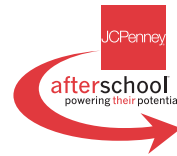
The partnership is built on a foundation of collaboration between 4-H and the other JCPenney Afterschool Fund partner organizations: Boys & Girls Clubs of America, YMCA of the USA, Junior Achievement and the Afterschool Alliance.





WWW.4HAFTERSCHOOL.ORG

WWW.JCPENNEYAFTERSCHOOL.ORG



4-H Afterschool is committed to a policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, sex, religion, religious creed, ancestry or national origin, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, physical or mental disability. Mention or display of trademark, proprietary product or firm in text or figures does not constitute an endorsement by 4-H Afterschool and does not imply approval to the exclusion of suitable products or firms.

