

### What is 4-H?

Mariposa County 4-H is an organization for youth ages 5-19 that promotes hands-on learning and is based on a youth/adult partnership. 4-H welcomes all youth and adult volunteers from all backgrounds. 4-H is run by the Mariposa County Cooperative Extension Office, University of California with assistance from local volunteers and community organizations. This youth development program enables all youth to reach their fullest potential through developing their leadership, citizenship, and life skills. It also enables youth to have fun, meet new people, build self-confidence, learn responsibility, character building, and achieve short & long-term goals.

Mariposa County 4-H has many different programs including clubs, projects, camps, events/activities, and a school-enrichment program called "Ag in the Classroom" which over 800 local youth have had the experience to enjoy during this past year. Projects are the heart of 4-Her's hands-on learning. Some of the current years projects have been stained glass, rocketry, food preservation, Hi 4-H, Marine Biology, leadership, winter sports, sewing, shooting sports, and of course, livestock.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2002/03 program year will begin. Donna Wice, 4-H Coordinator, is seeking new volunteer leaders who are interested in sharing their hobby or talent with our local youth or becoming a Community Club Leader. Community Club Leaders are needed in the Don Pedro, Coulterville/Greeley Hill, El Portal/Yosemite/Wawona, Ponderosa Basin, and Bootjack areas of Mariposa County. Volunteer project leaders are always needed, so if you have an interest in mentoring youth, contact the UCCE Office at (209) 966-4829 or stop by the 4-H booth at the 2002 Mariposa County Fair over Labor Day Weekend. A few project areas we need leaders for are mountain biking, automotive, small engines, woodworking, outdoor adventure, and photography. There is an enrollment fee for youth and adults, and all adult leaders need to be cleared by DOJ, go through a new leaders orientation, and be approved by the County Director.

Take a few hours each month and share with our youth. Remember, the youth of today will be our leaders of tomorrow!

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