

Leah Mehling
Grand Forks County 4-H
15 years old
10 years in 4-H

There are many ways that 4-H has impacted my life. I am going to tell you about several ways that 4-H has positively impacted my life and real-life experiences.

First, there are many educational opportunities that 4-H has offered me, such as meat and livestock judging, and Project Expo. These events have taught me how to do public speaking, to prepare ahead, and learn more about what I like.

Second, 4-H has been a very fun experience for me and my peers. There have been many events that I didn't want to go to. I went anyway and ended up having a lot of fun. What makes 4-H so fun? The environment is always welcoming and you don't have to worry about doing something wrong.

Another way 4-H has impacted my life is that it is eventful. There are many events each month and the best part is that they aren't the same thing. For example, there are cooking, fashion and livestock events. This keeps me out of trouble.

Finally, 4-H has impacted me because it has provided a way for me to meet new people. I met new people by going to events like LAW, which stands for Leadership Awareness Weekend and Project Expo. When I go to these events, I don't just sit in a corner, I want to make more friends and I DO!!

What can I say, 4-H has grown on me throughout the years. There was a time when I hated going to any 4-H events. My parents still made me go. They thought 4-H would help me become more outgoing because I was a very shy kid. This happened for many years, but as I got older, I still went not just because my parents made me, it was because I really liked it. I started going to more events and I keep going to more and more. Now, I'm at every event I can go to. There are even events that I go to not as a 4-H member, but as a 4-H leader, helping with the event.

I have been so much more confident since I started 4-H. It may have taken a while, I got there and that's why I am able to talk in front of all of you. So, thank you!