

4-H Traditions

The 4-H Clover Emblem and Pledge Explained

The first 4-H emblem was a three-leaf clover, introduced sometime between 1907 and 1908. The three "H's" represented head, heart and hands. In 1911, at a meeting of club leaders in Washington, a fourth "H" representing health was added and the current 4-H four-leaf clover emblem was approved. It is protected by the U.S. Congress. More information on [Clover logo usage](#) is available.



The 4-H pledge was worded by Otis Hall, Kansas state 4-H leader. It was approved at the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927 in Washington, D.C. The words "my world" were added to the pledge in 1973. Their addition is the only change ever made to the 4-H pledge.

- **HEAD** stands for clearer thinking and decision-making. Knowledge that is useful throughout life.
- **HEART** stands for greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self concept, concern for others.
- **HANDS** stands for larger service, workforce preparedness, useful skills, science and technology literacy.
- **HEALTH** stands for better living, healthy lifestyles.

4-H Pledge

I pledge....

my Head to clearer thinking,

my Heart to greater loyalty,

my Hands to larger service,

my Health to better living.

For my Club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H Motto

To make the best better.