

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

National 4-H Week
October 2-8, 2022

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, this year's National 4-H Week theme, "Opportunity4All," reminds us that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us, and 4-H brings opportunity and experience to young people from all backgrounds so this year we celebrate access and equity for ALL. We commend 4-H participants and alumni across the country, as well as the 4-H educators who deliver life-changing programs to millions of young people each year; and

WHEREAS, for 120 years, 4-H has served America's young people to make the best better, and is now the Nation's largest youth development organization. The 4-H idea is simple: help young people and their families gain knowledge and skills to reach their full potential to improve their communities and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, 4-H programs are delivered by Cooperative Extension—a community of more than 100 public universities across the Nation—that provides experiences for young people to learn by doing. 4-H welcomes young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving kids a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better; and

WHEREAS, 4-H connects young people and adults to their communities, preparing them for work and life through experiential and inquiry-based learning while providing emerging research for positive youth development. Through life-changing 4-H programs, millions of young people, supported by caring adult volunteers, have taken on critical societal issues, addressing community health inequities, engaging in civil discourse, and advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for all; and

WHEREAS, supporting future leaders in science, agriculture and community leadership is an important imperative for U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture 4-H program; and

WHEREAS, expanding from its strong agricultural roots, 4-H helps young people explore the world around them and grow into productive adults by promoting healthy youth development in order to give young people the capacity to act as responsible members of society and agents of change, and by understanding the complex experiences young people face and promoting high-quality youth leadership development, 4-H helps young people meet the challenges of adolescence and successfully transition to adulthood;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS J. VILSACK, United States Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim October 2 through October 8, 2022, as National 4-H Week, and call upon all Americans to learn more about and celebrate promoting 4-H opportunities for all young people and to express their appreciation and gratitude to our Nation's 4-H alumni and educators for their important contributions and tireless service to our Nation's youth in making the best better.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of September 2022, the two-hundred forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary