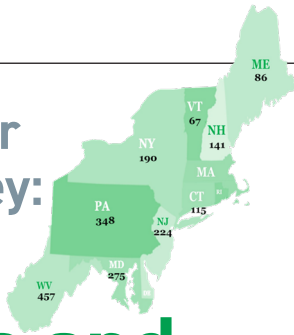




4-H Volunteer Impact Survey:

Volunteer Perceptions and Connections

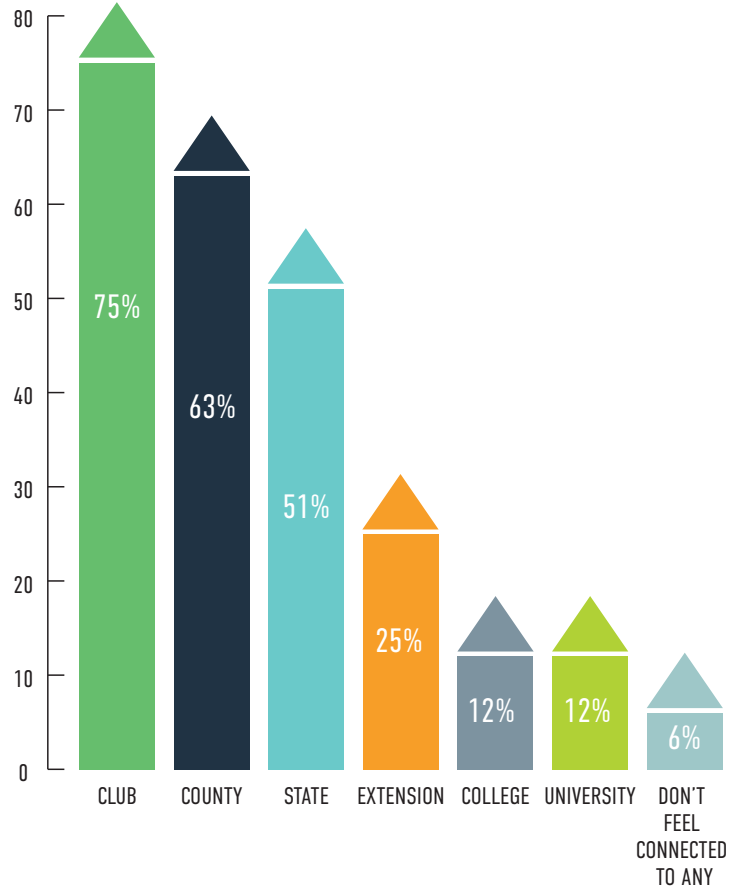
North East Volunteer Impact Survey- Volunteer Perceptions



Connection- from club to university

Volunteers indicated they feel a strong connection to their local 4-H club(s) and county 4-H program. However, a drastic drop was noted when asked if they saw themselves as a representative of their Cooperative Extension or land-grant university (LGU).

How connected do 4-H volunteers feel?



Introduction

The Northeast Regional Volunteer Impact Survey was designed to gather service data along with volunteers' perceptions of their impact on the youth, their community, and the organization with which they serve.

1,903 volunteers from 9 states participated in this survey in 2020. Thank you to all who participated and to everyone that supports 4-H!

Here is an overview of the results:

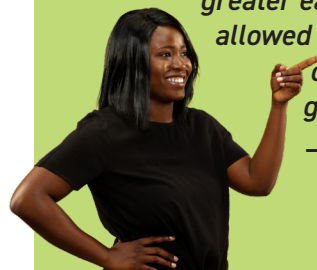
58% of survey respondents identified themselves as being 4-H members as youth.

88% of survey respondents indicated they have learned skills during their 4-H experience that they use in their other volunteer roles.

Skills Gained/Improved	% of responses agree/strongly agree
Positive Youth Development	88.6%
4-H Project Skills	87.7%
Program Management	82.3%
Leadership/Organization	82.2%
Educational Design and Delivery	81.9%
Communication	81.8%
Interpersonal Characteristics	80%
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	77.3%
Time Management	74.9%

“Communication, critical thinking and empathy have greatly improved due to my 4-H experience. In both my personal and professional I am better equipped to manage difficult individuals and situations that arise. I am better able to see, negotiate and many times divert potential dangerous situations with a greater ease and better outcomes. 4-H has allowed me more training in this area over the last 24 years and I am greatly thankful.

- 2020 4-H volunteer



“ 4-H club members look to me for references for employment, scholarships, and other statements of support. They also turn to me for guidance and encouragement as they plan for life after high school.”

- 2020 4-H volunteer



Volunteer support/experience

When asked how 4-H could improve their volunteer experience, several themes emerged including:

- ▶ more connection/networking/training for volunteers (every state)
- ▶ reduce or make the paperwork process easier
- ▶ support from the local office
- ▶ more professional staff
- ▶ respect and value of our older, more experienced volunteers- listen to them

Developmental relationships

Volunteers are essential to the developmental context that help spark youth's passion and imagination, learn, and thrive through 4-H programming (The 4-H Thriving Model, Arnold, 2018).

4-H volunteers in this study see themselves as being either effective or very effective in each element of developmental relationships which include:



expressing care
providing support
sharing power



expanding possibilities



challenge growth

Top reasons people become 4-H Volunteers

Based on survey responses to the question “Why did you start volunteering?”, it appears that most people volunteer with 4-H because

- ▶ they see 4-H as an important organization for youth and teaching skills, and want to be a part of it.
- ▶ they were inspired and impacted by 4-H as a youth and want to give back.
- ▶ they have a child or children enrolled in a 4-H club and want to help out.
- ▶ they were asked, invited or encouraged by a 4-H professional, volunteer, friend or family member.

“Being a 4-H leader is overall a wonderful life experience. Seeing youth grow and develop into caring, confident and accomplished young adults is priceless.”

- 2020 4-H volunteer



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