



4-H VOLUNTEERS MENTOR AND EDUCATE STATE'S YOUTH

Challenges

- Young people, particularly those ages 5 to 18, need outstanding role models and education in life skills that will prepare them for adulthood.
- Organizations do not have the resources to address the needs of the state's youth, particularly when young people need individualized assistance.
- Rural communities in particular may lack the resources to develop comprehensive educational and life skills activities.

EXTENSION RESPONSE

4-H has a statewide network of **3,000** volunteers who donate **120,000** hours to work with around **69,800** Mississippi youth in educational and life skills programs.

- Extension recruits qualified 4-H volunteers to expand the organization's scope and reach more Mississippi youth than would be possible otherwise.
- 4-H volunteers undergo an application and screening process to ensure the safety of both volunteers and 4-H'ers.
- 4-H volunteers provide individualized instruction in 56 project areas.
- 4-H volunteers impart life skills proven to be valuable in adulthood.
- Not all 4-H volunteers have direct contact with 4-H'ers, but all volunteers are vital to the program's success.
- 4-H volunteers are vital to the future of the program and provide valuable insight into the needs of communities and success of the program.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- 4-H volunteers are not paid, but the time they donate has an economic value, and they are likely to incur substantial expenditures while fulfilling their roles.
- In 2024, the direct value of 4-H volunteer activity in the state was **\$3.2 million**.
- 4-H volunteer expenditures could support an estimated 45 jobs earning **\$2.6 million**.
- 4-H volunteer expenditures also could support **\$3.6 million** in value-added in the state's economy and an estimated **\$4.5 million** in total output for the state.
- This program could support the generation of an estimated **\$2,616** in municipal taxes, **\$6,639** in local special district (e.g., school district) taxes, and **\$5,352** in county government taxes.
- In addition, these volunteers could generate estimated state taxes of **\$77,280** and federal taxes of **\$508,328**.



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