4-H prepares youth for success and the challenges that face North Dakota. It contributes to the development of new leaders, encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, teaches good stewardship, and helps youth acquire important life skills that prepare them to be career- and work-ready.

Current priorities include helping youth develop science interests, skills and abilities in the areas of agriculture, energy, environmental stewardship and technology. Youth learn the importance of food access, where their food comes from, and how to make healthful food choices and live healthy lives. They develop leadership skills and understand the importance of giving back to their communities and society.

Youth throughout the U.S., including North Dakota, participated in research to define and measure positive youth development (Source: Lerner and Lerner 2011). Compared with their peers, youth involved in 4-H programs are:

- **98%** of youth who attended GEAR-Tech-21 camp reported they would feel comfortable teaching robotics to others
- **75%** of youth participating in the Drone Discovery/National Youth Science Day Experiment reported it made them more interested in science
- **2X** more likely to participate in STEM activities
- **2X** more likely to make healthier choices
- **2X** more likely to be civically active
- **4X** more likely to give back to their communities
- **76%** of youth attending Civic U reported an increased effort to allow everyone to have a voice in decision making
- **1,000+ youth** demonstrate leadership skills through 4-H club offices, 4-H Ambassadors, or special projects
- **777** volunteer service hours contributed to the state by North Dakota 4-H Ambassadors
- **49 blankets made and donated** to the Project Linus program by youth attending the Extension Youth Conference

**North Dakota 4-H Camp**
- record **558** youth at North Dakota 4-H Camp near Washburn
- **86%** of campers reported learning new skills
- **89%** of campers made new friends
- **59%** of campers demonstrated more independence
- **50%** of campers are more willing to participate in other activities
- **50%** of campers improved in problem solving

**North Dakota 4-H in 2015-16**
- **29,306** youth participants
- **6,247** enrolled 4-H members
- **1,007** youth in 4-H camping programs
- **2,534** volunteers
- **342** youth volunteers

For more information on these and other impacts of the NDSU Extension Service, go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/extension or contact Brad Cogdill at 701.231.7259 or brad.cogdill@ndsu.edu.