



4-H SIGN LANGUAGE PROJECT



In this project, youth learn American Sign Language (ASL), the fourth most commonly used language in the United States. Nationally, more than 15 million people have a hearing impairment and nearly 2 million are considered deaf. 4-H youth will learn that deafness is not simply a physical limitation in hearing ability, but has cultural aspects too.

- Learn how to “talk” with their hands and “listen” with their eyes using ASL.
- Explore the language, culture and history of the Deaf community.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you’re having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Recognize and produce each letter of the American Manual Alphabet.
- Fingerspell a variety of names or titles.
- Know the common handshapes used in ASL.
- Sign the 4-H Pledge.
- Learn the signs for common words and phrases.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Research the life of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.
- Recognize and sign food-related words.
- Learn to sign a song and present your song at a club or community event.
- Recognize and sign a variety of animals.
- Learn how to sign time concepts such as past, yesterday, today, future

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Use ASL to tell a personal story.
- Job shadow a professional ASL translator.
- Change the meaning of signs by modifying the way you sign them .
- For one meeting, agree to only use ASL to communicate.
- Compare and contrast mainstream programs and special programs for Deaf children.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Citizenship

- Identify an organization in your state or community that advocates for the Deaf. Partner with this organization to increase community awareness about Deaf culture.

Healthy Living

- Think about how you receive messages about health and nutrition. Identify a health message and create a plan for communicating this message to individuals with impaired hearing.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Visit an audiologist to learn more about hearing tests and how deafness is diagnosed.
- Research modern technologies that assist the Deaf and hard-of-hearing, such as

Leadership

- Teach your 4-H community club how to sign the pledge of Allegiance and/or the 4-H Pledge.
- Visit a preschool and read a children’s book about the Deaf. Help children under-

Resources

- Book: *Signing for Kids* by Mickey Flodin
- Book: *Signing Is Fun! A Child’s Introduction to Signing* by Mickey Flodin
- Book: *Gallaudet Survival Guide to Signing* by Leonard G. Lane
- Signing Savvy www.signingsavvy.com
- American Sign Language Browser aslbrowser.com
- American Sign Language University www.lifeprint.com
- Deaf Linx www.deaflinx.com
- ASL Info www.aslinfo.com
- Ohio School for the Deaf www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org
- Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center

Connections & Events

Curriculum

4-H Record Book

Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.

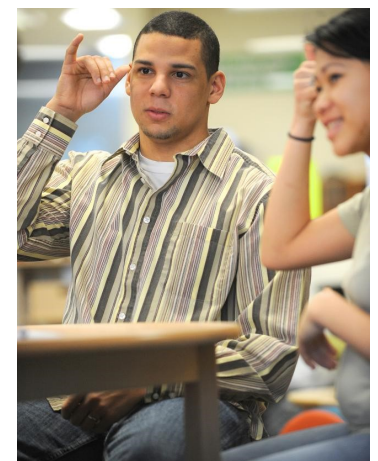
Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.

- ASL and Deaf Studies K-12 Curriculum Framework - my.gallaudet.edu/bbcswedav/institution/ASLCurr/index.htm
- ASL University Lessons - www.lifeprint.com/asl101/lessons/lessons.htm
- Shared Lesson Plans - www.aslpro.com/lesson_plans/shared_lesson_plans.html (open source)

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.



University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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