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.
- Interact with the Deaf community by learning the basics of ASL.
- 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.
- Recognize and sign numbers 1-10 in ASL.
- Learn to sign phrases you would use in a store (what is the price? Is it on sale?)
- 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 and tomorrow.
- Recognize and practice appropriate nonmanual markers.
- 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.
- Learn to ask for and give directions using ASL.
- 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 community, improve their character or establish connections.

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.
- Learn about the American Disabilities Act and survey how it influences building design in your community. Assist willing businesses in becoming more ADA compliant.

**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.
- Research the sources and decibel levels of noises around the home. Teach others about the dangers of noise and the importance of hearing protection.

**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 TDD, TDY, cochlear implant, hearing aids and closed captioning.

**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 understand the unique abilities of deaf individuals.
- Teach others how to fingerspell using the American Manual Alphabet.

### Connections & Events

**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.

### Curriculum

- ASL and Deaf Studies K-12 Curriculum Framework - [my.gallaudet.edu/bbcswebday/institution/ASLCurr/index.htm](http://my.gallaudet.edu/bbcswebday/institution/ASLCurr/index.htm)

### 4-H Record Book

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.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit [http://ucanr.edu/orb/](http://ucanr.edu/orb/)

### 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](http://www.signingsavvy.com)
- American Sign Language Browser [aslbrowser.com/mtechlab.msu.edu](http://aslbrowser.com/mtechlab.msu.edu)
- American Sign Language University [www.lifeprint.com](http://www.lifeprint.com)
- Deaf LInx [www.deaflinx.com](http://www.deaflinx.com)
- ASL Info [www.aslinfo.com](http://www.aslinfo.com)
- Ohio School for the Deaf [www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org](http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org)
- Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center [www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center.html)
- National Association of the Deaf [www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org)

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