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.

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- 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.

- 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

- 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 understand

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**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.

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**Curriculum**
- ASL and Deaf Studies K-12 Curriculum Framework - my.gallaudet.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/ASLCurr/index.htm
- Shared Lesson Plans - www.aspro.com/lesson_plans/shared_lesson_plans.html (open source)

**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.

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**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/mtlcomtechlab.msu.edu
- American Sign Language University www.lifeprint.com
- Deaf Linx www.deaflinx.com
- ASL Info www.aslinfo.com
- Ohio School for the Deaf www.ohioschoolforthedeaf.org
- Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center