



Putting a New Spin on a 4-H Project Group

SPIN is short for “SPecial INterest. 4-H SPIN Clubs are a new way of bringing youth and adults with similar interests together for a unique learning experience. A SPIN Club can be started with as few as one adult volunteer and five youth with an interest in a particular topic. The adult provides expertise and guidance, while youth take an active role in learning new skills and running their own club. For adults and kids alike, it creates a fun, “learn-by-doing” environment.

SPINs are a great way to attract members and volunteers who may not consider being part of 4-H otherwise. SPINs can meet a specific number of times over a few months rather than the tradition of once-a-month throughout the year. Today’s on-the-go lifestyle makes a year-long commitment sometimes difficult for youth and volunteers.

Youth in SPINs are involved in 6 or more hours of learning. For example: A robotics or sewing club might meet once a week for six weeks or twice a week for three weeks. Six hours gives youth a chance to learn multiple skills and concepts about the topic of special interest to them. Sessions are opened with a short business meeting, followed by one or more hands-on learning activities.

4-H is all about positive youth development. The goal of 4-H is to create a safe, inclusive learning environment under the supervision of caring adults, where all youth ages 9-18 are welcome, regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin. Youth are engaged in active learning and have the opportunity to explore special interests to the extent that they master the related knowledge and skills. Youth have the chance to see themselves as active, self-directing participants in the future and practice service to others.

Kentucky’s SPIN Clubs are an adaptation of similar clubs in Illinois 4-H.

For more information and resources, go to www.Kentucky4-H.org. Click on the “SPIN Clubs” tab under “About 4-H.”