# The 4-H Emblem, Motto, Slogan, and Pledge



The green four-leaf clover with a white ‘H’ on each

leaf was officially adopted as the 4-H emblem in

1911, and patented in 1924. The 4-H emblem

symbolizes the interactive nature of effective

learning and development. The four H’s are:

**HEAD** - Problem solving: ability to sort out complex problems.  
**HEART** - Emotional development: developing good attitudes toward work and learning; developing acceptance and appreciation of other people.   
**HANDS** - Skills development: ability to do, skill in doing and habit of doing.   
**HEALTH** - Physical development: understanding and appreciating physical growth and change

The 4-H Name and Emblem are protected by federal statute (Title 18 USC 707) and may be used only in accordance with statute requirements.

**‘To Make the Best Better’**

The motto as proposed by Carrie Harrison, a botanist with the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry, was officially adopted in 1927, the same year the 4-H Pledge was introduced.

**‘Learn by Doing’**

The slogan reflects the 4-H educational philosophy.

**The 4-H Pledge** The 4-H pledge, written by Otis Hall of the Kansas

State College of Agriculture, was officially adopted at the first National 4-H Camp in June 1927. The pledge was changed in 1973 to include "my world."

**I pledge...**

**My head to clearer thinking,  
My heart to greater loyalty,  
My hands to larger service,  
My health to better living   
for my club, my community,   
my country and my world.**

More background information is available online [nifa.usda.gov/resource/4-h-name-and-emblem](http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/4-h-name-and-emblem).