

More than 530,000 students from all parts of the State, intercity to rural, age 5 to 19 in 4H and for FFA Seventh thru Twelfth grade are learning critical life skills through their participation in these two organizations. Excused absences allow students, without academic penalties, to attend and partake in camps, seminars, classes, competitions, conventions, training, etc. These life skills include:

- career preparation through on-site contact with leaders, business owners, workers, others involved in the fields of Science, Business, Technology, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Retail, Mining, Fishing, Logistics, Transportation, Government, Law Enforcement, Medicine, Tourism, etc. These visits may result in a summer job, a future apprenticeship, or a student/ mentor arrangement.
- student Leadership, developing public speaking skills, conduct and participate in meetings, manage financial matters, strengthen problem-solving abilities, assuming civic responsibilities.
- building of knowledge, skills, and attitudes and the demonstration of the competent use of this knowledge and skill by a proficient practitioner through local, state and national competitions.
- to see firsthand areas that interests the student or possibly something new, that the student had no knowledge of but following a visit would like to investigate further. Such a visit may also show a student, that despite a previous interest, the area was not for them. On-site visits prove to be extremely important in shaping future life choices and a belief in the student, that they have an impact on life's events rather than passively submitting to the will and whims of others. Youth must develop a sense of influence over their lives, exercising their potential to become self-directing, autonomous adults.
- opportunities to learn, value and practice service to others by being exposed to and interacting with different communities, people, and cultures first hand.

All of these things benefit the students, communities, and the State of Ohio by helping to create better future business owners, better workers, better citizens, and better leaders.