

WELCOME TO 4-H: A New Family's Guide



Morris County

2020-2021

WELCOME TO 4-H...

Did you know that 4-H members and leaders live all over Kansas, in all 50 United States, and in 82 other countries around the world! 4-H members are 7-19 years old, and live in cities, towns, and farms. There are over 22,000 4-H members in community clubs across Kansas!



4-H is youth having fun and learning with their friends... **welcome to the Morris County 4-H Program.** We understand that you may have many questions your first few years in the program and this guide will be there to help! Also know that you can always call your 4-H community club leader or the Extension Agent for questions that arise.

The basic philosophy of 4-H is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral, and social development of boys and girls, thereby, helping develop desirable citizens and leaders. The main objective is the development of boys and girls through participation in projects, events, and other various activities. 4-H is intended to supplement, not replace, the three primary educational institutions... namely school, church, and home.

EMBLEM, COLORS, PLEDGE, & MOTTO:

The four-leaf clover is the official 4-H emblem. The four “H’s” stand for head, heart, hands, and health.

The colors of 4-H and meaning are:
Green- life, springtime, youth
White- fresh, clean



4-H PLEDGE I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,
my **HANDS** to larger service,
and my **HEALTH** to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world. 

The 4-H motto is: “To Make the Best Better!”

4-H members and volunteers should learn the pledge and try to follow it in their daily life. The motto is to remind us to always strive for improvement, to continually set goals and give every effort your best.

HISTORY of 4-H

4-H began in the early 1900's. The first groups were called Boys and Girls clubs. Girls participated in canning clubs, and boys participated in corn and pig clubs. In 1914, Congress passed an act that established Cooperative Extension and 4-H across the country. There were corn, poultry and garden clubs as early as 1905 in Kansas. The first county agents were hired about 1915 and the first State 4-H Program Leader was hired in 1916.

4-H has certainly changed since its early days! 4-H is no longer a program strictly for rural kids! While we embrace our rich history, 4-H has evolved to meet the needs of today's youth. With learning experiences designed to develop boys and girls of all ages, there is something for everyone!

4-H MEMBERSHIP and CLUBS IN MORRIS COUNTY

Youth wanting to join 4-H must be 7 years old by January 1 and not have passed their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year in order to be eligible for 4-H. Members can live in towns, in the country, and on farms. 4-H is open to all youth regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.

The 4-H year runs from October 1 thru September 30.

Kinds of 4-H programs available in Morris County are:

- **4-H Community Clubs:** A group of youth organized with officers, appropriate to the group, and with one or more leaders under the sponsorship of K-State Research and Extension. Most clubs hold monthly meetings, normally the same night of the week each month. Clubs have a planned program at each meeting. Club activities can include demonstrations, project work, community service, and social events. There are 5 clubs in Morris County for the 2020-2021 4-H year.
4-H Clubs in Morris County include: Burdick Hustlers, Dwight Sunflowers, Flint Hills, Neosho Valley, and Willing Workers.
- **4-H Cloverbuds:** A group of 5-6 year olds who learn cooperatively and are activity focused. Members can attend local club meetings and events are planned each month for only Cloverbud members.



WHO HELPS IN 4-H?

4-H is really a family program. Your parents and family are important in 4-H. They help you with project work and other activities.

4-H members are also helped by volunteer leaders. Every 4-H club needs one or more adult leaders. These leaders teach youth, organize the club, help officers, assist at meetings, and orient new parents about 4-H.

There are various kinds of leaders in 4-H:

- **Community Club Leaders:** responsible for the general organization of the 4-H club
- **Project Leader:** helps members with their project work. There are project leaders at both the club level and county level.
- **Jr. Leaders:** 4-H teens who work with an adult leader to give leadership to activities, events, and/or projects
- **Parents:** parents are important in 4-H! They show interest and concern for their children by attending meetings, serving as leaders, helping in club activities, and serving on committees.

All registered volunteers go through the Volunteer Screening process. To be adult leaders, you must apply, go through a screening process, and attend an orientation training. This process ensures the protection of both the 4-H members and adult volunteers.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN 4-H?

In 4-H, youth “learn by doing.” Youth learn useful skills, how to get along with people, and how to help your community and country. Here are some of the activities you can take part in:

Project Work...	members choose at least one project of interest per year
Demonstrations...	members learn to speak in front of others
Recreation...	members play games and make new friends
Community Service...	members help improve their community
County Contests...	members may choose to enter contests and compete
Exhibits...	members exhibit their best project work at the county fair
Camps...	members may participate in a day camp, overnight camp, or stay in the dorms on the K-State campus
Exchanges...	members can learn about the life of a 4-H across the state and across the country

CLUB MEETINGS

4-H members are given the opportunity to learn and practice decision-making in group situations. 4-H members are expected to attend their club's meetings, and parents are encouraged to attend as well... 4-H is a family affair!

In 4-H, there are two kinds of meetings:

Club meetings: Members plan and carry out what they want to do as a group. 4-H Clubs generally meet once a month, each club in the county has set a day for their monthly meetings.

1. A good club meeting has four parts with definite activities in each part.
 - a. Opening- Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, and 4-H Pledge
 - b. Business- Roll call, secretary's report, treasurer's report, committee reports, old business, and new business
 - c. Education- program, demonstrations, talks, and guest speakers
 - d. Fun- recreation, songs, skits, refreshments, and entertainment
2. **Project Meetings:** Members get together to work on their projects. Can include: learning activities, guest speakers, field trips, activities, etc.

*It is important for Morris County 4-Hers to note that **the Morris County Fair Association requires 4-H members to attend at least one over half of all club meetings held during the year, to be eligible for premium money at the Morris County Fair; this includes the Food Auction and the Livestock Premium Sales.**



WHAT DO CLUB OFFICERS DO?

4-H Club officers are elected by members. Each officer has a specific job.

President	The president leads the club meetings and keeps them orderly.
Vice President	The vice president leads in the president's absence, introduces guests, and is the program chair.
Secretary	The secretary writes down what happens at the meetings, keeps attendance records, brings the secretary's book to all meetings, and keeps track of all communications.
Treasurer	The treasurer takes care of the club money, pays bills, keeps an accurate account of the club's finances, and reports at each club meeting.
Reporter	The reporter sends news stories to local newspapers and/or radio stations and plans publicity for events.
Recreation	The recreation leader leads games and other fun activities
Song Leader	The song leader leads the group in singing
Committee Chairs	Your club may have several committees, depending on the club size and what you want to do. Committees may include: program, membership, recreation, community service, fundraising, and social events.



PROJECT WORK

As a 4-H member, youth choose at least one project. Choose a project that fits into your family, community, and the way you live. Projects provide the basis of the 4-H program by offering various education experiences. Carrying out a project will help the member “learn by doing” as well as learning why things happen the way they do. Projects are real-life experiences that help 4-H’ers learn to make sound decisions. There are more than 35 different projects, plus divisions within many projects. Projects include:



Beef	Environmental Science	Leadership	Self-Determined
Citizenship	Exploring 4-H	Meat Goats	Sheep
Clothing & Textiles	Family Studies	Performing Arts	Shooting Sports
Communications	Fiber Arts	Pets	Space Tech
Dairy Cattle	Foods & Nutrition	Photography	Swine
Dairy Goat	Geology	Plant Science	Visual Arts
Dog Care & Training	Health & Wellness	Poultry	Wildlife
Energy Management	Home Environment	Rabbits	Woodworking
Entomology	Horse	Reading	

Many of the projects have been planned with several levels, so that a member may advance skills and learning opportunities. A complete guide to project selection can be found at the link below.

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/docs/ProjectSelectionGuideColor.pdf>

Projects can be added or dropped until the May 1st deadline. Projects are chosen at enrollment. Any changes can be made through the Extension Office.

4-H competitive events and fairs are often used to provide youth opportunities to have their project work judged against a set of standards. The evaluation of an exhibit should be a positive and motivating part of the total 4-H experience. To plan, practice, and present a finished product is to “learn by doing.” The exhibit is not an end in itself, nor does it illustrate all of the learning that has taken place during the 4-H year.

RECORD KEEPING

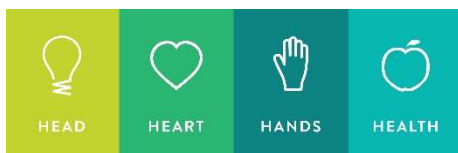
You will be encouraged to keep a project record and a story for each area of project work. Keeping records helps you keep track of what you are learning and helps you develop business sense. Completed records must be signed by your parents and leader at the end of the 4-H year.

A good record will reflect accomplishments and therefore serve as the basis for awards, trips, and other forms of recognition. A good record will teach a desirable habit! Modern day society demands that each and every one, no matter what vocation, keep track of financial and business matters.

Members are encouraged to work on records throughout the year as they complete project work. Many project leaders will have 4-H'ers work on their records at the project meetings. Records should include all activities regarding the 4-H'er and their project(s) throughout the year.

There are three different types of record forms which are combined to create a complete 4-H Record Book.

- Personal Information Page: contains space for a picture of the member, listing of projects carried, and the 4-H story. A new personal page is issued each year.
- Permanent Record: a summary of all projects, exhibits made, office held, events attended, and other participation for the entire year is made on the permanent record. Only one permanent record is necessary for all the years that a youth is a 4-H member.
- Project Record: A general record or animal record will be used for each project. Records are available for each age division of 7-9, 10-13, and 14-18.



4-H members may submit completed record books to the Extension Office for considerations for awards and recognition. Record Books are due to the Extension Office on the first Monday of October. Club leaders will

have a deadline prior to that so they can review and sign the books before submitting them to the office. Award applications need to be submitted along with the record book. 4-H'ers who complete their record books are invited to attend their 4-H Achievement Banquet held each year in the fall. Presentations of various awards and achievements are made at this annual event.

Other forms of recognition are:

Personal Check Sheet Includes an itemized list of activities members could have participated in during the 4-H year. Seals are awarded based on the level of participation at club, county, multi-county, and state levels.

Achievement Pins These are awarded to 4-H'ers who meet the requirements on the pin application form and turn in a completed record book. Nine pins are awarded in a series, including:

- Membership
- Bronze
- Clover
- Emerald
- Silver
- Silver Guard
- Leadership
- Gold
- Gold Guard.

Applications are available in the Extension Office, as well as on our county website: <https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/morris-county/pinapplicationsrecordbooks/index.html>

Key Award The 4-H Key Award recognizes 4-H members who have an “all around” good 4-H record of accomplishments. To apply, 4-H'ers must have passed their 16th birthday by December 31, completed 4 or more years and meet nine other requirements. A special nomination form is required.

Project Award Pins Members must complete their 4-H record book and a Project Report Form to be eligible for a project award pin. Champions are awarded to the top 4-H'ers record book in their respective project. Winners in each project area at the Senior Level are eligible to compete at the area and state levels.

The greatest and most lasting rewards a 4-H member can receive are:

- Satisfaction from a job well done
- Pride in his or her accomplishments
- Recognition from leaders, parents, and other 4-H members
- Knowledge and skill gained through the project

COUNTY 4-H INFORMATION, GROUPS, EVENTS, and ACTIVITIES

- **Flint Hills Extension District website:** The Flint Hills District includes Morris and Chase Counties. Many updates, documents, and links are shared through the website. www.flinthills.ksu.edu
- **4-H Newsletter:** A monthly document put together by the Extension Office each month to share important dates, opportunities, recognition, county updates, etc. This is available on the Flint Hills District Website and can be received in print or email. Details for all of the events below will be shared in the 4-H Newsletter.
- **Morris County 4-H Council:** A group of 4-H members and leaders with representatives from each club. They work to help coordinate county-wide events and activities.
- **Morris County 4-H Ambassadors:** A small group of teen leaders who are in the 8th grade and above. With the help of a leader, this group works together to provide leadership for events and activities, conduct service projects, and promote the 4-H program in Morris County. County members can apply to be an Ambassador in September each year. Details are shared in the 4-H Newsletter each year.
- **Officer Training:** A county event held each year in late October/early November after new officers are elected and installed in each of the 4-H clubs. This training usually begins with some large group activities, training on specific officer duties, and what it takes to be a leader within the club.
- **Expo & Appreciation Picnic:** An event held during 4-H Week at the Fairgrounds. Projects, clubs, and activities set up booths for current members and potential members to see what might interest them for enrollment and participation opportunities. The Expo is followed by a meal, sponsored by the 4-H Council, to recognize supporters of the Morris County 4-H Program from the previous year.
- **Achievement Banquet:** An event held each November to recognize member's achievements on their record books and project documents from the previous 4-H year. The event usually includes a meal, program, and the awards recognition ceremony. RSVP's are required for the event.
- **Record Book Workshop:** An event usually held in January to help families better understand the record keeping process, tools, tips, and documents.

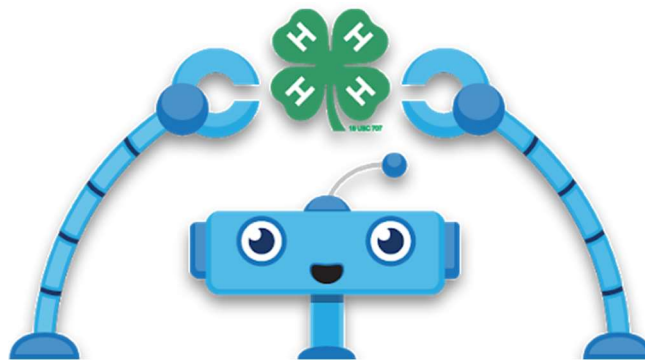
- **Project Day:** An event typically held in February from 2-5 pm. There are 4 rotations of 45 minute time slots. Project leaders sign up in advance to offer project meetings on the same day. The event is held at the fairgrounds. Tables are set up so multiple project meetings can happen during rotation 1, rotation 2, etc. Members are able to select the project meetings that they will attend during each rotation.
- **Lock In:** A county-wide overnight event held after the first of the year. It is held at the fairgrounds, members bring cots, sleeping bags, clothing, etc. and participate in an overnight mini-camp experience. The night includes leadership and teambuilding activities, games, movies, supper, snacks, and breakfast. One adult is asked to help chaperone from each club for the event.
- **Club Days:** An event held in late February/early March. 4-H members can participate in project talks, illustrated talks, demonstrations, readings, skits, vocal solo, gavel games, and model meeting among many others. Some events are individuals while others are group or club based. Participants are evaluated using a rubric and receive a ribbon for their efforts. Top participants are selected to represent the county at Regional Club Days, and some events have the opportunities to qualify to present at the Kansas State Fair. Registration is usually released in the 4-H Newsletter in December or January for the event.



CAMPS AND STATE EVENTS

Many 4-H members attend camps. They take part in educational and recreational experiences as they learn about nature and living with other people. Most importantly, 4-H'ers have fun at camp!

- **Sunny Hills 4-H Camp:** For youth who have completed 3rd grade through 7th grade, and is held at the Rock Springs 4-H Camp Center, south of Junction City, KS. Older teens, who have completed their freshman year of High School or more, are also given the chance to serve as counselors to the younger campers. Activities include: hiking, fishing, campfires, flag ceremonies, swimming, crafts, recreation, and more!
- **Discovery Days:** For older teens, this leadership conference is a chance to experience college life on the campus of Kansas State University. A wide range of classes are offered, from swing dancing to leadership. Plenty of chances to meet teens from across the state are available at the tailgating party, dance, and ice cream social.
- **Citizenship In Action:** For older teens, this event is held on President's Day weekend each year. It is an overnight event where teens have the opportunity to learn about laws and legislation, meet congressmen, tour the capitol building, and debate on the floor of the House or Senate.
- **General Camps:** There are many other camping opportunities available to 4-H members. Photography camps, horse camps, space camps, outdoor adventures, judging camps, and day camps, just to name a few. Ask your community club leader or Extension Agent if interested in other camping opportunities.



FAIRS

Fair is a chance for 4-Her's to exhibit their project learning for the year and their showcase their final project. 4-H members have the opportunity to meet with a judge for objective feedback and display their project for family, friends, and the public to view.

TRI COUNTY FAIR A fair held in Herington in July prior to the Morris County Fair. This is a great opportunity to gain experience and get feedback from a judge prior to bringing the project to the County Fair.

MORRIS COUNTY FAIR A fair held at the Morris County Fairgrounds on the East side of Council Grove. The Fair is typically 9 days long. Sunday is the kick off for the dog show, Tuesday is Clothing judging and Fashion Revue, Wednesday is the Cat Show and Fair clean-up/set-up, Thursday is the Horse Show, Friday is check in and kicks off the Fair. Exhibits are at the Fairgrounds through Monday and Fair wraps up with the Buyer's Meal, Awards Ceremony, Livestock Premium Auction, and release of the Exhibits. The Friday-Monday portion of the Fair is the last weekend of July. Look for dates and schedules in the 4-H Newsletter. Fair books with rules and guidelines are generally distributed between May 15 and June 15.

KANSAS STATE FAIR This fair is held in Hutchinson, KS in September. It spans over two weekends. Exhibitors who are 9 years 4-H age and older at the Morris County Fair have the opportunity to qualify to exhibit at the state fair. These details can be found in the Morris County Fair Book. There are many vendors, events, and exhibits that are held at the Kansas State Fair. Look for complete details on their website.



DANISH SYSTEM

The Danish system of judging is a method of evaluation where a 4-H exhibit or process is evaluated against a set of standards, and recognition is awarded on the degree to which the standard has been met by each 4-H member. The standards of excellence are often printed on a judge's scorecard, and allows for the 4-H exhibit to be judged on one's own merit, and not in comparison with others in the class. The following ribbons apply:



WHITE: Fair, denotes much improvement needed. Fails to meet minimum standards.

RED: Good, some improvements needed. Meets minimum standards.

BLUE: Excellent, minor improvements needed. Exceeds minimum standards.

PURPLE: Superior, outstanding on all standards.

Remember that when you exhibit at the county fair, you are asking for the judge's opinion. The judge's opinion is just that: an opinion, and it can vary from judge to judge and day to day. It is an opportunity to explain what you have learned, and it is an opportunity to learn from an expert. Each project is a success, no matter what color the ribbon may be!

WHY SHOULD A 4-H'ER SAY THANK YOU???

4-H'ers who receive recognition should look upon it as both a badge of honor for work well done and a symbol representing the broad interest friends of 4-H have in the program. Say "thank you" to your friends of 4-H, i.e. trophy donors, livestock buyers, project and club leaders, parents, judges, etc. A personal letter is the most satisfying and lasting way to say "thanks."

A well written thank you letter is often read by several executives. Many donors keep letters of appreciation. Write as soon as possible! Remember, it's not WHAT you say, but HOW you say it that counts. Your letter need not be long, but it should be sincere. Never underestimate the power of a thank you letter! Remember how it feels when someone says "thanks" to you or remember how you feel when someone doesn't.

PARENTS, HOW CAN YOU BEST HELP YOUR 4-H'ER?

You may help boys and girls get more from their 4-H experience in several ways:

1. Counsel your 4-H'er in the selection of a suitable project. Show interest. Help guide, but don't do it for them. When something is started, see that it is completed.
2. Encourage your child to attend meetings regularly and attend with him/her so you'll be able to help the child know about and remember upcoming activities.
3. Offer your home occasionally for a club or project meeting.
4. Share your knowledge, special skills and hobbies with club members as a club leader or project leader.
5. Keep informed of 4-H information that comes to members of your family.

AS EACH 4-H YEAR BEGINS, REMEMBER...

- 4-H youth are more important than the project exhibit itself.
- Learning how to do a project is more important than the project itself.
- To “learn by doing” through a useful work project is fundamental in any sound educational program, and is characteristic of the 4-H program.
- Generally speaking, there is more than one good way of doing most things.
- Our job is to teach 4-H members how to think, not what to think.
- Winning isn't always measured by the results of the ribbon or judging event, but by the character of the 4-H'er, parent, and leader.



MORRIS COUNTY 4-H CLUBS

Burdick Hustlers 4-H Club

Community Leaders

Melinda Small – 785-709-0151; carnleymelinda@yahoo.com

Matthew Small – 785-709-0156

Nichole Hensley – 620-767-3676; nhensley@cgrove417.org

Meeting Date & Location

2nd Sunday of the month at 6 p.m.

United Methodist Church in Wilsey

Dwight Sunflowers 4-H Club

Community Leaders

Lisa Lee – 620-767-7142; triplel@tctelco.net

Alicsa Mayer - 785-499-3534; Bicky128@hotmail.com

Amy Moore – 913-558-0276; toddamyc@gmail.com

Meeting Date & Location

1st Sunday of the month at 5 p.m. Sep-May & 7 p.m. Jun-Aug

Community Building in Dwight

Flint Hills 4-H Club

Community Leaders

Aleece Priest – 620-766-7114; Adpriest4@gmail.com

Rachael Barr – 785-497-2912; bandrbarr@tctelco.net

Kristina Balboa – 785-307-2039; marcelo.kristina@yahoo.com

Meeting Date & Location

2nd Monday of the month at 7 p.m. school year & 7:30 p.m. summer

Community Christian Church, 18 McCardell in Council Grove

Neosho Valley 4-H Club

Community Leaders

Brenda Kirk – 620.767.7915; dkirk@tctelco.net

Lisa Wainwright – 785-466-3132; spurofthemoment09@gmail.com

Darcie Birk – 620-767-5153; d_birk@hotmail.com

Meeting Date & Location

2nd Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church, 21 N Mission in Council Grove

Willing Workers 4-H Club

Community Leaders

Lorri Kasten – 785-349-2262; lkasten@usd481.com

Crystal Carson – 785-561-0474; clcarsonfarms@gmail.com

Meeting Date & Location

2nd Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

White City Community Building in White City

***Please note that club meeting dates and locations can change. Contact the club's leaders to verify meeting locations and times.**

4-H YEARLY EVENTS

The 4-H year runs from October 1st through September 30th. The following is a monthly guide for new families; a “heads-up” for what’s next. It is not comprehensive, and it is important that you make your meetings each month and read the monthly 4-H newsletter, so you won’t miss important events!

October

4-H Sunday
4-H Expo & Appreciation Picnic
National 4-H Week
Enrollment/Re-enrollment
KAPs, Record Books, and Award applications due
American Royal – Kansas City
Kansas Junior Livestock Show

November

Achievement Banquet
National 4-H Congress
Kansas Youth Leadership Forum/State Youth Council Elections
County-wide Officer Training

December

Beef Expo – Hutchinson

January

KAPs due for Area Screening
Horse Panorama
Record Keeping Workshop

February

Prepare entries for 4-H Club Day
Citizenship in Action (CIA)
County-wide Project Day

March

County 4-H Club Day
Regional 4-H Club Day
Tractor Safety Training
National 4-H Conference
Beef Weigh-In; Tagging

April

Discovery Days registration due

May

Swine/Sheep/Goat Weigh-In; Tagging
Project Add/Drop deadline – May 1st
Horse IDs due – May 1st
Market Beef and Market Heifer
Nominations and DNA due for state shows
4-H Camp registration due
Discovery Days

June

4-H Camp
Campference
Citizenship Washington Focus
Commercial Heifers, Sheep, Goat, and Hog
Nominations and DNA due for state shows

July

District 4-H Horse Show
Fair Pre-Entry Deadline
Tri-County Fair, Herington
Morris County Fair
County Judging Contests – Photography, Family and Consumer Science, Livestock

August

State Fair entries due
Work on KAPs, record books, and award applications
Livestock Sweepstakes
State Horticulture Judging

September

Finish up KAPs, record books, and award applications
New officer elections in clubs
Kansas State Fair
State Contests – Photography, Family & Consumer Sciences

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Morris County 4-H

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Shannon Spencer, Agriculture and Natural Resources/4-H Agent, spspencer@ksu.edu

Erica Smith, Office Professional, esmith5050@ksu.edu

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Courthouse

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Council Grove, KS 66846

Phone (620)767-5136

Website: www.flinthills.ksu.edu

Kansas 4-H Website: www.Kansas4-H.org

4-H is a **community** of **young people**
 **across America** who are learning
leadership, citizenship and
life skills.

K-STATE
Research and Extension



K-State Research and Extension
is an equal opportunity provider
and employer.

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