

**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
*Making a Difference for California*



*Kern County*

Dear 4-H Families,

Each year we collect surveys from individually enrolled youth ages 9+ in the Online Record Book (ORB). These surveys help us learn about the impact of 4-H on young people. We can use this information to help make the program better and to tell our 4-H story to people like legislators and funders.

I'm writing you today to ask you to help me promote these surveys. Encourage your club members and leaders to log into ORB and complete the "Sparks Surveys". The surveys can be found on the right-hand side when you log into ORB, <https://4horb.ucanr.edu/login.cfm>

I've attached some FAQs about the surveys in case you have questions about the Sparks Surveys. I've also attached a small flyer you can print out and take to council meetings, club meetings, events, etc. This flyer highlights some of the key findings from previous survey years, and shows what we learn from these surveys.

If you have questions about ORB, please see this website:

[http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Members/RecordBook/4-H\\_ORB/](http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Members/RecordBook/4-H_ORB/)

Questions about the surveys can be directed to me or [ca4heval@gmail.com](mailto:ca4heval@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support in helping us make 4-H better for our youth!

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## Did you know...

*Out of our 4-H Club youth aged 9-19:*

**87%** are interested in science

**80%** report having a “spark” or passion

**91%** appreciate the cultural diversity of their peers

**88%** have a positive attitude towards physical activity

**81%** make positive choices

Without the **Sparks Surveys**,  
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### What are the “*Sparks Surveys*”?

Sparks Surveys help us learn about youth experiences in 4-H. We want to share how 4-Her’s are doing and also learn where we can make 4-H even better.

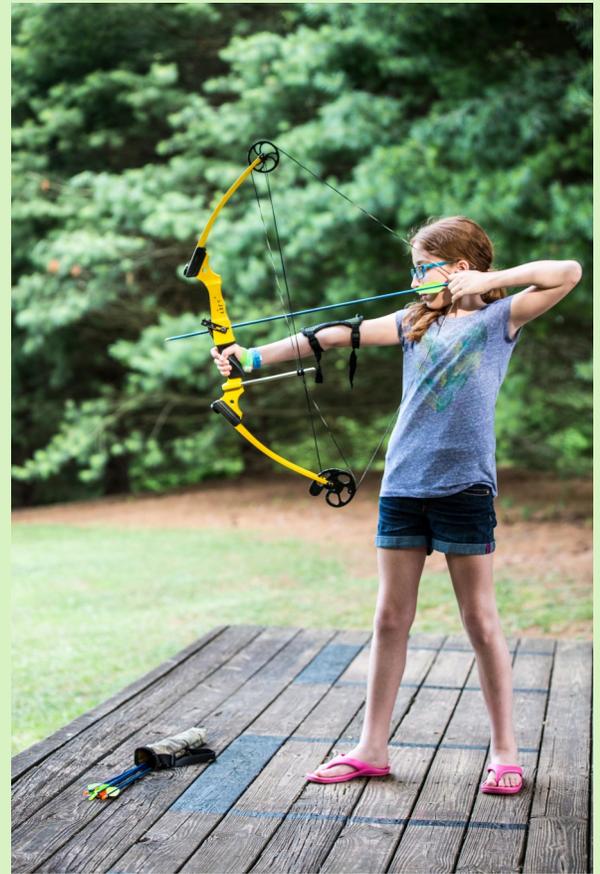
Surveys are **private** and **confidential**.

Help us learn about the impact 4-H has had on you!

<https://4horb.ucanr.edu/login.cfm>

Online surveys are in ORB 2 times a year: Oct-Jan and May-Aug

Questions? Contact Kendra Lewis, [kmlewis@ucanr.edu](mailto:kmlewis@ucanr.edu)



*Your 4hOnline login email is the same to login to ORB. Surveys you need to take will all be listed – it’s easy to take them!*

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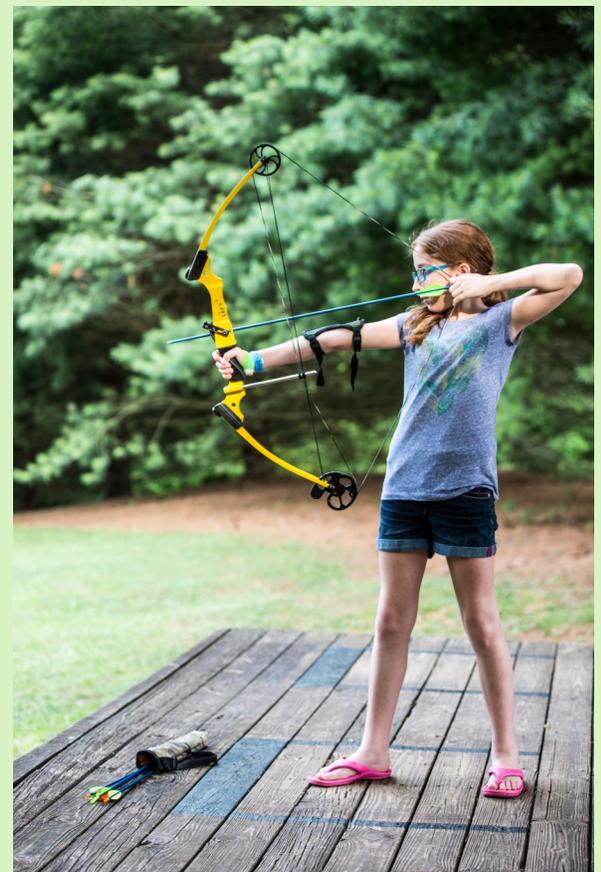
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## FAQs about the Sparks Surveys in the Online Record Book

*Q: I do a paper record book; does this mean I cannot do the surveys?*

A: The surveys are located in the Online Record Book system, but you can do a paper record book and the surveys. You do not have to do a record book online to complete the surveys. The record book and surveys are two different things.

*Q: I finished all my surveys, but want to take more!*

A: Awesome! Be sure to check for more surveys in the “Bonus” section. Did all those too, but want to tell us more about your 4-H experience? Email us at [ca4heval@gmail.com](mailto:ca4heval@gmail.com) and tell us what 4-H means to you.

*Q: I looked for surveys, but they aren't there.*

A: Surveys are available two times a year: Once at the beginning of the program year (around October through January) and again near the end (around May through July). Check the state newsletter, Facebook, and Twitter feeds to watch for announcements when surveys open!

*Q: Some surveys are long and ask the same question.*

A: We know some surveys are long. We review them twice a year to try and make them shorter. And while it seems like they have the same question more than once, they don't. The questions may be similar but they are different.

*Q: Why are there so many different surveys?*

A: Because youth learn so much in 4-H! We want to know all about it, so we have several surveys to help us learn all about what 4-H does for young people.

*Q: How will my answers be used?*

A: We use survey data in a few different ways, but mainly it's for two reasons: to help us make 4-H better for young people, and to help tell our 4-H story. We all know 4-H is great, but there's always room for improvement. Your answers to the surveys can help us find where we can improve our program.

We also use the data to help us tell our 4-H story. Sometimes we make small reports to share with people in our county to recruit new 4-H members and volunteers. Maybe we'll make an impact sheet that goes with our State Leader to Washington D.C. to help raise money for California 4-H. Your responses are helpful to growing and sustaining our program!

*Q: Will my name be used with my answers?*

A: No. We do not report data on any individual. We talk about data as a group: maybe by county, section, or as a state. We never report anyone's individual answers, and especially not with their name.

*Q: Who can see my answers to the surveys?*

A: Only a few people have access to the data. Names are removed from the data files so that no one can tell how you answered a question.

Q: Where do I find these surveys?

A: Log into the Online Record Book (<https://4horb.ucanr.edu/login.cfm>), and look the right (you may need to scroll down under the alerts). If they surveys are open and you haven't completed them all yet, they will be there!

Activity feed showing user posts and interactions:

- Jessica Printjc** (May 1, 2014 7:24 AM): Jessica Printjc gained some Spark Score!
- Jessica Printjc** (May 1, 2014 7:23 AM): Jessica Printjc gained some Spark Score!
- Son Statewide** (Apr 14, 2014 1:02 PM): Does anyone have a great recipe for butternut squash soup?
- Son Statewide** (Apr 14, 2014 12:44 PM): Reported the Club Meeting [March Meeting](#) for the club California Discovery. **Daughter Statewide** attended this activity.
- Son Statewide** (Apr 7, 2014 9:18 AM): Reported a Project Meeting: [County-Wide Meeting Test 1](#). **Daughter Statewide** attended this activity.
- Natasha Romanoff** (Apr 4, 2014 4:42 PM): Reported an activity: [Aerospace & Rocketry \(Print Test A\)](#).

out, you will receive a personal response within 3 business days.  
[ORB REQUEST FORM](#)

**4-H Alert!**

**Time Conversion Chart**

ORB now calculates hours in minutes. Click [here](#) for a time conversion chart:  
<http://www.ca4h.org/files/150589.pdf>

**Boost Your Spark Score!**

Complete the questions to add points to your Spark Score!

**Spark Score Questions**

- Academics
- Becoming a Scientist
- Flex Your Brain
- Goals
- How I Feel
- Positive Youth Development
- Science
- Science and Me

**Bonus Score Questions!**

Boost your Spark Score further by completing [the bonus questions!](#)