

4-H POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Membership

Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he or she turns 19. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

Clubs starting and members joining after April 15 will be eligible to participate only as members of the club in which their name was initially turned into the Extension Office. A transfer of membership after this enrollment date will make the member ineligible to show and/or exhibit their project that year. Hardship Clause: Hardship cases may be considered for members in good standing in their respective clubs. Membership in poor standing: Members who are removed from a club after the enrollment date will not be eligible for 4-H membership in the county for that year, and sacrifice all privileges of exhibiting 4-H projects. They will be eligible for membership the following year. (January, 1999 4-H Advisory Committee minutes).

"All educational programs and activities conducted by the Ohio State University Extension are available to all potential clientele on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or religious affiliation." 4-H youth educational programs are project centered (self-study or leader directed) for participation, goal completion, achievement of standards and making the best better.

2. Cloverbuds

4-H's youngest members are called Cloverbuds (youth age 5 and in kindergarten through second grade). Led by volunteers in a club setting, Cloverbud members explore topics such as health, earth and environment, citizenship, plants and animals, consumerism, science and technology, personal development, creative arts, and more! The primary goal of the Cloverbud program is to promote children's healthy development—mentally, physically, socially and emotionally. For more information visit www.ohio4h.org/cloverbuds The Cloverbud program provides an introductory level of involvement in the community club 4-H program for children in grades K - 2.

Cloverbud members are invited to participate in a Cloverbud Show & Tell evaluation which is done in their club and is designed to recognize their completion of project work. Cloverbud members are not eligible to participate in the competitive Project Evaluations, County or Fair Demonstration Contests, State Fair activities, etc. However, Cloverbuds are encouraged be involved at Cloverbud Day Camp and Cloverbud Activities at the Washington County Fair. Please see the 4-H Calendar for dates and times.

Cloverbuds can exhibit with their clubs at the fairs, and will receive Cloverbud Participation ribbons. They are not eligible to participate in any Junior Fair contests, programs, or sales at the fair. Participation in Open Class events is solely up to the discretion of the parents, and is not endorsed by Ohio State University Extension. Club Advisors have the final decision on whether or not they have a Cloverbud membership in their club.

3. Across-County Lines Membership

Non-Washington County residents, including West Virginia residents, can be members of local clubs provided that the member's county of residence offers a 4-H program. According to Ohio 4-H policy, young people can be in 4-H in only one county. Please contact the Extension Office to obtain the proper forms for completing and documenting cross-county lines membership.



4. **Member Completion**

Project Judging is required for all 4-H members to remain in good standing and to exhibit, show and/or sell at any of our three fairs. Market livestock, dairy, fancy, breeding and horse (except Horseless Horse) projects will fulfill this requirement by participating in skillathons for each of their livestock species. Companion animals (dogs, cats, pet rabbits, Horseless Horse etc.) and all other projects will be evaluated on the county evaluation date. Please see the 4-H Calendar for dates and times for project judging and skillathons. The 4-H Calendar also has dates and times for make-up days and instructions on calling in to reserve your time.

Advisors can evaluate a member's growth each year, including project work, club participation and personal development. Members are encouraged to complete all projects started. It is up to the local club to decide whether a member not completing 4-H work the previous year is permitted to join the following year. Any such club rule must be in the club's by-laws and must be voted upon by the members. Please make sure that a copy of your club's constitution and by-laws are on file at the Extension Office.

5. **4-H Records**

4-H members, including Cloverbuds, should be encouraged to keep their own membership records including: years in club; projects completed; evaluation results; special awards received; activities participated in; offices held in club; and community service projects. This information is helpful to members when they apply for awards and activities such as Junior Fair Boards, Camp Counselors, State 4-H Camps, Washington Focus, State/National Awards, and future employment.

6. **Club Meetings, Size and Attendance**

It takes at least five 4-H youth members from three different families, having a minimum of six regular club meetings per year to be considered a 4-H Club. Clubs are encouraged to have at least one group activity, business meeting and/or social each month. Eight to ten members per advisor is suggested and promotes positive youth development in the club. Members are encouraged to attend at least 75% of the local club meetings. Provisions should be made to allow older members who are working to be members in good standing. Attendance policies and records will be governed by the local club constitution and by-laws. Cloverbud members are not allowed to serve as officers or committee leaders.

7. **4-H Resident Camps**

All youth are invited to participate in the county camping programs. 4-H members attend at a discounted rate. See 4-H Calendar for Camp dates. Youth are eligible to attend resident 4-H Camps based on youths' school grade level and age:

- Day Camp: Cloverbud Camp: All youth ages 5-8 (5 yr. olds must have completed kindergarten before attending camp)
- Overnight Camps: Beginner Camp: All youth who have completed 2nd grade and through the age of 10; Junior
- 4-H Camp: All youth who have completed grades 3 to 6
- Senior 4-H Camp: All youth completing grades 6 to 9

