

# How to Join 4-H - Frequently Asked Questions

**How do I find a club to join?** Contact the CCE Office and let them know the age, location, and interest of your child(ren). A 4-H Educator will check the availability of local 4-H clubs to see if a good match exists, and if appropriate put you in touch with the club leader.

**What if a club cannot be found?** You have a couple of options. You can join as an independent member, which allows you to pursue your specific interests and attend all county wide events. You may know another 4-H family that also joined as Independents and you can work together. You can also consider starting your own club.

**If I join as an independent, do we have to do everything alone?** No. Many independent members also participate in a county wide project specific club (such as Horse, Dog Obedience, or Photography) and/or many county-wide events and activities. Be sure to check your monthly Livewire to see what is available.

**Can my child(ren) join more than one club?** Yes. Each youth member must identify a primary club or declare Independent status, but is free to join secondary clubs or pursue independent projects on their own. For instance, a child may be part of a neighborhood club for Food & Nutrition, Arts & Crafts, and Robotics; also participate in a club specifically focusing on Horse & Pony; and even pursue Horticulture as an Independent. You just need to let the CCE Office know what clubs you are participating in and what project areas you are working on with each.

**What if my child is not interested in a project being done by his/her club?** As far as 4-H is concerned, that's OK. As children get older, this can be a very common situation. Your child is free to explore other interests on his/her own and join the club for projects of interest. You should discuss this with your club leader if applicable.

**Can 4-H and Cloverbud age members be in the same club?** In an ideal setting, Cloverbuds would be grouped together and pursue different activities than older 4-Hers. In reality, there are often clubs of mixed ages. Each child is encouraged to learn at his/her own rate and abilities. Expectations should be different for Cloverbuds and 4-Hers. See the Cloverbud page of our website for more information on the Cloverbud program.

**Where do 4-H clubs meet?** Clubs meet in a variety of different places, according the needs of the group. Some clubs meet in church halls, town halls, community centers, local libraries, members' houses or barns, even local stores.

**Who runs the 4-H activities?** There are a variety of talented and dedicated individuals that support the program.

- Volunteer Club Leaders, Project Leaders, and Activity Leaders often run individual club programs including setting up a yearly calendar and planning for projects and event participation. As part of a club, you may be asked to assist Club Leaders and/or become a Project Leader.
- Adult volunteers often lead workshops on specific topics which are open to all 4-H members.
- Parents act as leaders when their children pursue independent project learning.
- 4-H Educators, employed by CCE, offer support to adult volunteers, help locate resources, as well as plan for workshops and activities based on the needs of the county program.

**How do I know what to teach?** There are numerous 4-H curriculums and project guides available online and from the CCE Office. These guides are well written and easy to follow and give you the information you need to complete a project. If you are unsure of which resources to use, contact a 4-H Educator at the CCE Office.

**Can we start our own club?** Of course! To start a club, you will need 5 youth members from 3 different families and one adult to act as the Organizational Club Leader. As a Club Leader you can decide how often you meet, how many club members you can manage, what you will work on, and what activities and events you will encourage your members to take part in. Please contact the CCE Office if you would like more information about starting a club.

**When can I join?** Our enrollment period is open from October 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

**Is there a fee?** Yes, there is an enrollment fee to join. Current fees are noted on the enrollment form. This fee helps to cover the cost of mailings, insurance, and other routine expenses. Enrollment scholarships are available. Contact the CCE Office for more information.