

4-H Terms & Language

UWEX

The University of Wisconsin (Cooperative) Extension (System) administers the 4-H youth program in Wisconsin. Other UWEX program areas include Family Living, Agricultural, Horticulture and Community Resource Development.

Club

A club is a group of at least five youth and a caring, certified adult volunteer who take part in an ongoing 4-H program. They meet regularly throughout the year and participate in a variety of 4-H activities such as workshops, camp, fairs, contests, and community service.

Club Meetings

The usual 4-H club meets once per month. At a club meeting, members can conduct business, do recreation or social activities, participate in project work, give demonstrations, do community service work, or hold special interest programs. It is important to know when and where your club meets so you can attend meetings and keep up-to-date with what's going on at the club and county levels.

Club Officers

Youth members that serve in a leadership role in the 4-H club, including president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, etc., by being elected by the membership are club officers.

Club Committee

This is a group of members with the purpose of helping all club members to become involved in a specific activity or event. Committees usually have an adult advisor.

Club Guidelines/Bylaws

Most 4-H clubs have a set of written rules for the operation of the club. Be sure you become familiar with your club's rules early in the year.

4-H Year

A new 4-H year starts October 1, and ends September 30, of the following year. Enrollment is open all year, but to participate in the Buffalo County Fair, youth must be signed up for projects by April 1st.

Enrollment/Re-enrollment Forms

All members and leaders must complete enrollment forms at the beginning of every 4-H year to join or re-enroll with a 4-H club. You must fill out this form in order to be included on any county mailings. Youth are required to re-enroll each year.

4-H Age/Grade

Some events require age/grade limits. In those cases, 4-H age/grade is determined as of January 1 of the current 4-H year. Home-schooled students may enroll in their declared grade.

4-H Project

A 4-H project is a series of learning experiences for 4-H members to learn new skills and to acquire knowledge. Many projects have volunteer leaders who have knowledge of the project and can help the member in their learning experiences. Some popular projects include animal projects, foods and nutrition, clothing, and photography. There are many, many projects to choose from and the projects are designed to help the member "learn by doing". *Youth must be enrolled in projects by April 1st to exhibit at the county fair. Fair entries are limited to those areas in which 4-H members are enrolled in project work. For example, you must be enrolled in a Horse or Horseless Horse project to exhibit at the County 4-H Horse Show.*

Project Literature

Member and leader project materials written by University Specialists provide a well-rounded study guide for most 4-H projects. Many members enrolling in project areas for the first time find these study guides very helpful. It is best to request them at enrollment time.

Fair Entry Form/Junior Fair Premium Book

This is a form that will enable you to exhibit at the Buffalo County Fair held in August each year. The fair premium book will list the specific categories in which you may display at the fair. *Youth may exhibit only in those areas in which they have been enrolled in the corresponding project.* The Junior Fair Book lists the premiums, departments, classes, and rules for entry in the fair. Deadlines for all entries are listed in the Junior Fair Book and are usually in the middle of June. According to Buffalo County Fair Association rules, "In no case will Buffalo County accept entries from exhibitors who participate or plan to participate in more than one State Aid Fair."

4-H Exhibit

An exhibit is an object or display designed to help a member show what he/she has accomplished and learned. A 4-H exhibit is not only displayed at the fair or Festival of Arts, but can be also shared with schools, nursing homes, libraries, and in other community settings.

Achievement

Achieving means a member completes all membership requirements of the 4-H club for the year.

Record Book

The record book is a report of the member's 4-H work and is aimed at teaching youth how to organize goals, resources and to reflect on accomplishments. The primary purpose of 4-H records is to help youth learn:

- To establish good habits of organizing and planning.
- To set goals
- To evaluate the financial side of a project or activity
- To provide an opportunity to reflect on performance and achievements
- To evaluate results
- To improve written communication skills.

Members complete a project record book and submit it to their General Leader on the date identified by each club.

M.E. Form

The Member Evaluation (M.E.) Form is a report of your 4-H accomplishments. All members, 7th grade and older must complete one of these forms to be eligible to apply for 4-H trips and awards. Anyone requesting financial assistance from the Leaders' Association is required to complete this form.

4-H Graduate

This means a 4-H member has successfully completed their career as a 4-H member and is now ready to apply the skills learned as a 4-H member to their new life experiences and endeavors. Youth members may graduate from 4-H upon graduation from high school or may continue to be eligible for membership through one year following their graduation from high school.

“The Buffalo Bulletin”

This is the name of the monthly Buffalo County 4-H Newsletter that is mailed to every 4-H family. This gives information about county, district and state level 4-H meetings and activities offered to 4-H members, leaders, and parents. This monthly newsletter will be your main source of information for most 4-H events.

Trust Fund

The Buffalo County 4-H Trust Fund was established in 1992 and manages gifts of money used to support, expand, and promote the educational 4-H programs in Buffalo Co. Any size cash gifts, memorials, bequests, and donations are accepted for the Buffalo County 4-H Trust Fund and are appreciated. All contributions and gifts are tax deductible as provided in Section 501 (c) 3 as a non-profit organization. A “board” composed of adult volunteers, the 4-H Youth Council President, and the 4-H Youth Development Agent manages the fund.

Volunteers

Certified volunteers are valued members of the University of Wisconsin-Extension 4-H Youth Development Program staff. A volunteer is any one who gives time and expertise without expecting monetary compensation. Volunteers contribute their skills, talents, and experiences to strengthen all aspects of the program and support its mission. They work with Extension staff as members of a team to help Extension make better use of limited resources and reach more youth and adults.

Volunteer Leader Orientation Training

Any adult, 18 years and older wishing to be a Wisconsin 4-H volunteer leader (must be at least 21 years old to be an overnight chaperone), is *required* to participate in one Leader Orientation session in order to be a certified volunteer leader.

A volunteer leader will receive information on:

- the 4-H program philosophy and how to work with young people;
- youth protection;
- promoting teamwork between Buffalo County UW-Extension staff, county, clubs, volunteers, and 4-H members;
- understanding youth and expanding their learning opportunities;
- adult volunteer safety, reducing liability and risk while working with the youth in a variety of ways;
- resources available to leaders.

Who's Who In Buffalo County 4-H

LOCAL CLUB LEVEL:

Cloverbud

A youth in Kindergarten and 1st grade who joins 4-H must enroll in the Cloverbud Project. Cloverbuds are recognized by the state as 4-H activity members and can participate in club and county events and activities. **Sorry! Pre-K or K-4 students are not yet eligible to enroll.**

Exploring Project

This is a beginning 4-H project for youth in 2nd and 3rd grade. The 4-H member can “explore” other 4-H projects and activities during the year to learn more about 4-H. *Third graders also have the option of becoming junior 4-H members rather than enroll in the Exploring project. (They cannot be enrolled as both.)*

4-H Member

A youth 3rd grade through one year beyond high school who is enrolled in a 4-H club.

Club Officer

Most clubs have officers and whatever committees they feel necessary to conduct their business. Usually a 4-H club has a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Other officers may include Sergeant at Arms, Photographer and Reporter. Officers are elected and usually begin their duties in October, which is the beginning of the 4-H year.

Cloverbud Leader

A Cloverbud leader is a certified volunteer that works with the Cloverbud members of the club.

General Leader

A General leader is a certified volunteer who oversees the club leadership; coordinates members, parents, and other leaders; serves as liaison between the club and the County's University of Wisconsin-Extension Office.

Project Leader

A Project leader guides and supports 4-H members in a project learning experience. This person may be a youth leader or a certified adult volunteer from the community who has knowledge in a particular subject matter area.

Activity Leader

An Activity leader is a certified volunteer who is responsible for organizing and conducting special club activities. (Examples: Music, Drama, Community Service Activities, Softball Coach.)

Youth Leader

A 4-H member who is in 7th grade or older is encouraged to share in the leadership responsibilities in their club and at the county level with educational and fun activities. All youth leaders are encouraged to attend club and Buffalo County Youth Leaders Council meetings.

COUNTY LEVEL:

4-H Adult Leaders' Association

This organization, for all certified 4-H volunteer adult leaders and parents of 4-H members in Buffalo County, usually meets 5 – 6 times per year. This is the 4-H policymaking group, as well as a main funding source for County level 4-H programs. Upcoming meetings are announced in the "Buffalo Bulletin."

4-H Youth Leaders Council

This organization is for all 4-H members 7th grade or older. The group plans social and educational events for its members. The meetings of this group are in addition to participation in a local 4-H club.

4-H Event Committees

A county 4-H event committee of adult volunteers and youth leaders to determine the needs of a project/program and to help plan and conduct meetings, workshops, contests, educational programs and other activities for the county.

4-H Youth Development Agent

This person is an academic staff member of the University of Wisconsin Extension, who guides, teaches, and administers the 4-H and other youth development programs.

4-H Youth Development Intern

This is a college student hired for the busy summer season to assist the 4-H Youth Development Agent in administering the 4-H Club Program. This person is an employee of Buffalo County.