

# Winnebago County 4-H Policies

## 1. Enrollment Policies:

- a. The Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Program has a policy of open enrollment. Eligible youth may enroll in 4-H at any time of the year.
  - Re-enrolling 4-H club members enroll with the local club by November meeting.
  - New member enrollment will be accepted at any time but members will not be able to exhibit at the Fair if enrollment forms are not returned by April 15.
- b. NEW 4-H clubs are encouraged to organize by February. February is also the deadline for adding or dropping projects, and changing clubs.
- c. All enrollment forms are to be submitted to the club organizational leader who will turn them in to the County Extension Office.

## 2. Age for Membership:

- a. Members may enroll as regular 4-Hers upon reaching 3rd grade. Youth will continue to be eligible for membership through the next 4-H year following their graduation from high school.
- b. Social membership is granted to youth wishing to join 4-H after the enrollment deadline. These members may participate in 4-H clubs, and all county 4-H activities. They may exhibit only non-animal projects at county fair, but will not receive premiums.
- c. Cloverbud is a special form of social membership open to youth in Kindergarten (5 year old) through second grade. It is the option of the local club to offer participation opportunities for Cloverbuds. Cloverbud membership has the following conditions:

### Cloverbuds

- Exhibiting at county fair is not expected. For those who want the experience the following policies apply. Cloverbuds may enter only in the Exploring Department, Class B, Cloverbuds. Exhibits are entered for Adventure ribbons only (No Premiums).
  - Cloverbuds are not eligible for county award or recognition programs.
  - Cloverbuds may not attend out-of-county 4-H activities.
  - Records are not required, but may be completed if member wishes.
  - Years as a Cloverbud will be counted toward total years in 4-H.
- d. Exploring is a project that is encouraged for new 4-H members to take. Youth in grades 3rd & 4th will typically take the Exploring project to get an overall sense of what 4-H has to offer. 3rd & 4th graders can take other projects in addition to Exploring.

## 3. Recommendations on Number of Projects:

3 <sup>rd</sup> grade:	No more than <u>one</u> , besides Exploring
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders:	maximum of <u>three</u>
6 <sup>th</sup> grade & up:	maximum of <u>six</u> projects

Project Fee: All members must pay \$1 per each project that they will be taking.

#### **4. 4-H Record Keeping:**

- a. Members must complete a Member Project Record Form.
- b. Members should meet with project leaders and parents to set goals for each project.
- c. Records for each project must be turned in to club organizational leaders. Completed record books are then turned in to the County Extension Office for review and comments by volunteers.

#### **5. Club Policies:**

Members are expected to follow the local 4-H club policies. Check with organizational club leader.

#### **6. Early Graduation:**

Some 4-H members may graduate at the end of their Junior year of High School. Special requests for early graduation must be sent to the Extension Office by the club organizational leader by July 15 of the current year.

#### **7. 4-H Leadership:**

Adults may volunteer and enroll as 4-H leaders/helpers at any time. Volunteers are to enroll by November or at the earliest possible date. This will enable mailing lists and training programs to be established. Adult volunteers **must** be certified by completing:

- Leader Orientation
- Department of Justice Background Check
- Volunteer Behavior Expectation Form

#### **8. 4-H Emblem Usage:**

The 4-H Emblem is the symbol of the 4-H Youth Development Program and is protected by an act of the U.S. Congress (18 U.S.C. 707). U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines govern its use. For more information of emblem usage, contact the County 4-H office or visit the USDA website at [www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/legis/4hname\\_emblem.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/legis/4hname_emblem.html).