

2019 Darke County

4-H Member Guidebook



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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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Introduction to Darke County 4-H

**“4-H is a community of young people across America
Who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills”**

4-H youth are involved in hands-on activities that allow learning by doing. All 4-H programs focus on active involvement and quality experiences, which stimulate lifelong learning of values and skills.

4-H activities include: 4-H clubs for youth ages 5-18, volunteer opportunities for youth and adults, summer camping programs, and county and state fair participation.

The 4-H Cloverbud program is for youth, age 5 and in kindergarten through the time the youth reaches age 8 and in third grade, at which time the child is eligible for competitive events and 4-H projects. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership eligibility ends on December 31 the year a child turns 19.

Joining 4-H is a privilege and 4-H members and their parents/guardians, as well as 4-H volunteers, are subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

2018 Darke County 4-H Statistics

- 1141 members
- 44 Community 4-H Clubs
- 230 Adult volunteers

The 4-H Emblem

The official 4-H Emblem is a clover with four leaves and an “H” on each leaf. The clover’s stem points to the right as you look at the emblem. The 4-H Emblem is not a plain four-leaf clover. The 4-H Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.

Head

- Thinking: Mental development, deeper knowledge, reasoning and decision making

Heart

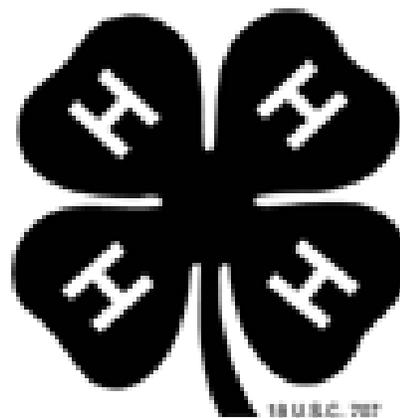
- Feeling: Emotional development, developing interests, appreciation, wholesome attitudes and values

Hands

- Doing: Skill development, ability to do, skill in doing and habit of doing

Health

- Physical and personal development



The 4-H Colors

White – symbolizes purity and high ideals

Green – Nature’s most abundant color and is emblematic of springtime, life, youth and growth

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service, and

My Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

The 4-H Motto

“To Make the Best Better”

The motto means that each member will do their best in whatever is attempted. The member will strive to improve so that his or her initial best becomes better. The 4-H Motto encourages members to improve their abilities and capacities to reach their fullest potential.

General Rules for Darke County

Ohio 4-H Age Requirements

- Cloverbud eligibility begins when a child is enrolled in kindergarten and is five years old as of January 1 of the current year. Cloverbud participation ends when a child is age eight and in third grade as of January 1 of the current year. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Ohio 4-H membership eligibility ends December 31 of the year in which a member attains age 19.

Member and Club Requirements

- 4-H members must attend a minimum of six meetings to complete 4-H. Attendance at more meetings is encouraged and may be required in the club constitution and by-laws. Refer to your particular club for their rules and guidelines.
- Clubs must have a minimum of five members from three different families and one approved 4-H volunteer.
- All 4-H clubs must be chartered by the Ohio 4-H program.
- All 4-H clubs must have an active EIN with the IRS.

4-H Volunteer Selection Process

- All potential Ohio State University Extension volunteers working with members of a vulnerable population (e.g., minors, adults age 65 and over, individuals with disabilities) will be required to complete a comprehensive selection process. Potential 4-H volunteers must complete a comprehensive selection process. Potential 4-H volunteers must complete an application process which consists of:
 - Understanding the volunteer position description;
 - Providing required personal references (must have complete mailing address);
 - Participating in an interview;
 - Agreeing to and signing the Volunteer Standards of Behavior form; and
 - Submitting to a fingerprint background check when applying and every four years thereafter.

4-H Membership Across County Lines

- Youth are expected to be members in their county of residence. Requests for membership for out of county youth will be handled on a case by case basis. The 4-H Educators in both counties involved in the request must be in agreement that the change should occur. Consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence should be given only in situations where a positive educational experience will result. Any change motivated by perceived competitive or sale advantage, any change due to controversial issues, family legacy, or other similar motivations will not be seen as justified reasons for consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence.
- 4-H membership in two counties or two states simultaneously is not permitted.

4-H Project Completion

- 4-H members must complete at least one project to complete the 4-H year. Completion of the project book is required. Exhibition of the project at the fair is not required. There is no limit on how many projects a member can take; however, members and parents should consider the time involved and expense of completing each project and exhibit good judgement during project selection.
- 4-H projects must be something that was created specifically for 4-H. Projects cannot be something that was made for another organization (i.e., FFA, Scouts, FCCLA, science fair, etc.) 4-H projects must be the original work of the 4-H member, with the majority of the work having been completed by the 4-Her.

4-H Cloverbuds

The Ohio 4-H Cloverbud program is for youth age five and in kindergarten until they reach age eight and third grade, as of January 1, current year. The 4-H Cloverbud program consists of activity based learning. Curriculum is based on age appropriate research and involves cooperative, experiential, and noncompetitive activities.

Cloverbud members explore areas of healthy lifestyle, earth/environment/citizenship, plants and animals, consumerism and Family Science, science and technology, personal development, and community expressive arts. Members participate in activities at 4-H Cloverbud meetings that are planned by an adult leader. Cloverbuds may also complete community service projects, attend Cloverbud Camp, and exhibit their activities in their club's fair booth.

Cloverbuds may also bring their activities to County 4-H Project Presentation and Evaluation Day for Show and Tell, and they may participate in the Cloverbud Revue during the county fair.

How to Complete Your Project

You will need to read your 4-H project book to find the requirements of each project. To help you decide what to make and/or exhibit, check out the document titled "Project Completion and Fair Requirements". This document is available from the Extension Office or on the county web site: darke.osu.edu.

Here is a general list of what you need to do:

1. Read your book.
2. Do the activities listed in your book and complete the project book.
3. Construct the items required for your project.
4. Have your advisor grade your project.
5. Bring your project to 4-H Project Presentation and Evaluation Day (optional).
6. Exhibit your project at the Darke County Fair in your club's booth.

4-H Project and Evaluation Day

4-H advisors should evaluate each member's project(s) and provide feedback regarding their efforts during a club project evaluation event. This evaluation should take place prior to a member's participation in County 4-H Project Presentation and Evaluation Day. An evaluation form for this purpose is provided in each 4-H club's handbook. See your advisor for details.

County 4-H Project Presentation and Evaluation Day (formerly known as County 4-H Pre-Fair Judging) will be held the second Friday in July, 9:00am to 3:00pm, All Seasons Place, 5256 Sebring Warner Road, Greenville. Participation in this event is optional. However, those members with non-livestock projects who wish to be considered for Ohio State Fair participation or to receive a County Rosette, must attend. There is no make-up judging day offered.

Specific evaluation times are scheduled for Clothing and Food & Nutrition Projects. All other projects are judged throughout the day. Those whose last names begin with A-M are asked to attend from 9:00am to 11:00am. Those whose names begin with N-Z are asked to attend from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Members will be evaluated by qualified judges who will provide positive feedback related to each project. The judge will look at each project and ask questions about what the member has learned. 4-H members should bring completed project books, along with their project items.

State fair delegates and County Rosette winners will be selected from those members who are present at the Project Presentation and Evaluation event. Awards will be presented on Thursday, July 18, 7:00pm, All Seasons Place.

