



## Guidelines for 4-H Single Project Clubs

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The traditional club model for 4-H in Missouri and much of the Midwest is the classic “Community Club.” This 4-H club model is based on a monthly club meeting composed of three parts: business session, educational program, and recreation. Membership is normally from a fairly localized “community.” Members enroll in a variety of 4-H projects for which the club finds/provides leaders. Project meetings are not part of the monthly club meeting but are held at other times.

Some states organize their 4-H program around project clubs. These clubs are composed of members with the same interest...the same 4-H project. This model is an option in Missouri but seldom utilized. 4-H horse clubs are the most common example. It is important that “single project clubs” or “special interest groups” try to incorporate as many youth development traits as possible that make the Community Club model successful.

An ideal 4-H Single Project Club would consist of the following:

### 1. Regular Meetings

- If not meeting monthly, require bi-monthly meetings or even quarterly meetings.
- Club meetings would have a business and a program session.
- The program should not be actual project instruction although it may be closely related to the project (e.g., it should not be archery lesson #2). Emphasis would be on educational programs supplemental to the “project.”
- Some kind of fun should be incorporated into the meeting. Recreation/songs are optional depending on the ages and needs of the club members. Treats or snacks can be served.
- Members are expected to give demonstrations or illustrated talks at club meetings and/or project meetings, just as in other 4-H Clubs.
- The business session should follow parliamentary procedure and include whatever is necessary.

### 2. Club Officers (Youth)

- A streamlined slate may be possible. With the president, vice president, secretary, reporter, and treasurer, there may be an option to combine offices (such as secretary/treasurer or secretary/reporter)
- Project clubs may have “special” officer needs and may create specific officer positions.
- Club officers should be expected to participate in the county 4-H officers training.

### **3. Other Requirements for Club and Club Members (Full Participation)**

- Community service project
- Same requirements/obligations as other clubs for participation in county fundraising or county work assignments for fair, achievement day, committees, etc.
- Same dues requirement as other 4-H club members

### **4. Privileges/Rights of the Project Club (Full Access)**

- Full participation privileges in events, contests, etc. Members should be able to and be expected to participate in county 4-H events (demonstration contests, fairs, public speaking, judging teams, recognition nights, etc.)
- Full privileges for participation in regional and state events
- Representation on County 4-H Council
- Eligible to participate in county and state awards programs

### **5. Enrollment/Attendance/Completion Requirements**

- Flexibility is key.
- The member may still be required to attend 50% of the meetings (or whatever is the county requirement). The club may only have four meetings per year, so the percentage is more relevant than a specific number of meetings.
- Members may organize and meet for only a portion of the year, not year round.
- The member enrollment deadline date should be dependent upon the club, not based on an absolute county deadline. (e.g., Jan. 1, Feb. 1, March 1, etc.)

Reconsider the fair exhibit requirement (that some counties have) for completion of the project. Some projects do not lend themselves to “making” something. If a member demonstrates skill or knowledge learned in that project that would be sufficient (e.g., participating in a county shooting event).