

## MEMBERSHIP, PARTICIPATION AND ENROLLMENT

Missouri 4-H Youth Development is intended for youth of all income levels, abilities, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. 4-H belongs to all the people of Missouri. 4-H uses the knowledge resources of the University of Missouri and Lincoln University, USDA and other sources to respond to the local peoples' analyzed and expressed need for youth programming.

### AGE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Clover Kids 4-H Club:

Minimum: A youth must have passed their fifth birthday before January 1 of the current program year.

2. Classic 4-H Club Membership:

Minimum: A youth must have passed their eighth birthday before January 1 of the current program year.

Maximum: A youth must not have passed their nineteenth birthday before January 1 of the current program year.

### TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

1. 4-H Clover Kids Club is designed to introduce 4-H to the 5-7 year old. Clover Kid members learn to get along with each other, explore new interests, learn subject matter skills and learn how to take part in a meeting. The noncompetitive program emphasizes theme activities. Members complete an individual enrollment form.
2. Classic 4-H Club is designed for youth 8-18. Youth enroll in project and club activities. The club elects officers, plans a comprehensive program, including health, recreation and community service. After school and neighborhood models may be classic 4-H clubs based on single projects or the community-based model.
3. 4-H School Enrichment meets as part of a classroom on school time using curriculums supplied through 4-H. Youth receive learning experiences, not organized club activities and is coordinated by an

Extension/School partnership. We enroll members on 4-H Group Enrollment Forms.

4. 4-H Adventure Club is associated with School Age Child Care and may be developed in a variety of settings. Most often 4-H Adventure Clubs meet before or after school and/or during summer months. We enroll members on an individual enrollment form.
5. 4-H Individual Membership is for youth living some distance from a 4-H club; in a specialized course of study; or for undue conflicts such as seniors in high school or freshmen in college. Individual members complete a comprehensive plan and file it with the University Outreach and Extension Center. We enroll members on an Individual Enrollment Form.
6. Family 4-H Club is for members where the 4-H club is not convenient or where special project subject matter encourages a Family Club. We enroll members on an Individual Enrollment form.

#### **PROGRAM YEAR:**

The 4-H program year runs from September 1 to August 31 annually.

#### **EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Each youth participating in Missouri 4-H Youth Programs including all models and delivery modes need to have a minimum of six (6) hours of instruction.

#### **MEMBERSHIP IS LIMITED TO ONE CLUB IN ONE COUNTY:**

A young person can be a member of only one 4-H club in one county in Missouri. To have access to additional educational opportunities, a member may attend project meetings in another club or countywide project group, but must enroll in all projects in their home club. This policy does not prevent a 4-H club member from enrolling in a 4-H school enrichment program or other short-term 4-H programs.

Youth are expected to affiliate with the 4-H program of their predominate county/state of residence or club membership location.

Membership/participation experiences are transferable between counties in the state and between states.

It is recognized that limited situations may occur where membership in a county other than the predominate county of residence might be a positive. Limited situations could include such things as living with grandparents during the summer or having divorced parents living in different physical locations of residence.

The 4-H youth staff, in consultation with county 4-H councils, will negotiate a written contract as early as possible with the 4-H member and parent(s) that is compatible with local 4-H participation guidelines for both year-long and summer 4-H youth programs.

#### **4-H MARRIAGE RULE:**

There is no limitation on 4-H membership or participation in club, county, state, or national programs based on marital status.

#### **LIMITATION OF MEMBERS WHO ARE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS:**

College or University students away from home are eligible to take part in 4-H projects and exhibit those projects in state and interstate shows if they assume full responsibility for projects when they are at home and full responsibility for all except daily care when away. If projects are animal projects, the selection of animals, choice of rations, measuring of feed, keeping records and the like are the exhibitor's responsibility throughout the project period.

#### **MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING:**

Participation in state events is limited to those members who are in good standing with their local 4-H club. This includes submission of enrollment forms on or before county deadlines for a given year, attendance at 51% of project and club meetings prior to the event, and meeting other requirements established by the club, county, and/or state (i.e., age, ownership dates, etc.)

## **GOAL SETTING:**

Every youth should be involved in a meaningful experience at the beginning of the year on what they individually/collectively want to accomplish in the short or immediate term. Some strategy questions are:

1. Clearly identify and write your goal.
2. Set the deadline for achieving your goal and write the date down.
3. Identify obstacles (persons or things) that you must overcome to successfully accomplish your goal.
4. Who (people, groups, etc.) can help you successfully accomplish your goal?
5. What do you need to learn to successfully accomplish your goal?
6. How will you reach your goal? Steps to move you from where you are to where you want to be.
7. Why do I want to accomplish this goal? List the benefits.

## **COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:**

4-H club members are traditionally recognized for setting and completing goals each year. Recognition and awards are available for members who meet the complete requirements established by their club. This may include attendance requirements, submission of project or other reports, making of articles or reaching project goals. Minimum requirements for completing in a given year are:

1. Attend a majority of monthly club meetings.
2. Attend a majority of project meetings and finish at least one project in which enrolled.

In the event that a member cannot meet these minimum requirements due to college enrollment, joint custody and residence, employment, or other legitimate factors, the club leader may contract with the member to create options or substitute requirements for completion. For example, a college student who can attend only four monthly club meetings might contract with the club leader to lead a project group, which meets during the summer months. Or, they might earn credit toward completion by representing the club at County 4-H Council meetings or by attending collegiate 4-H meetings. When possible, this contract should be negotiated in advance by the club

leader and the member. A written copy should be provided for the Extension Center.

It is recognized that the County 4-H Council may establish completion standards for all clubs within a county, in addition to those established by the club. In all cases, completion requirements must provide equal access for all youths and not create barriers to participation.