

General Terms and Conditions

The Indiana 4-H Program Philosophy

The Indiana 4-H program serves the youth of Indiana by providing a strong educational youth development program. This program delivers educational experiences in a variety of settings. Caring, capable, and contributing adults assist in the 4-H program as models for young people. We treasure the rich heritage of 4-H and want to ensure that 4-H is available to future generations of Indiana youth. This document sets out certain standards and guidelines to be used to assure that 4-H is good for our youth. County 4-H policy is guided by the governing 4-H council as provided by the county extension board. Legal authority for the 4-H program rests with the Director of Cooperative Extension, Purdue University. No county 4-H policy may conflict with state 4-H policy or federal requirements.

It is the policy of 4-H to include as many youths as possible. No county policy or practice should be used to arbitrarily exclude youth from membership. Youth should participate in 4-H youth development opportunities at levels and times that best suit the youth's development and support family involvement.

4-H Club Membership

Youth may become 4-H members when they enter the third grade and may continue their membership through the completion of grade 12. Each individual may continue membership for a maximum of ten (10) consecutive years.

Exceptions:

- (1) Youth who enroll in grade three and are advanced academically (thus graduating early) may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.
- (2) Those youth who are academically advanced and "skip" 3rd grade, may begin the program as a 4th grader and may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.
- (3) Those youth who entered the program in 3rd grade and for one reason or another leave formal education prior to the completion of 12th grade may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.

NOTE: 10 years of membership in the 4-H Youth Development is an opportunity --- not an entitlement.

Those youth who do not enroll as 3rd grade students or meet the exceptions above, conclude their involvement with the program during the summer immediately following the completion of their senior year in high school. An individual's 4-H grade is determined by the school grade in which he or she is classified regardless of the time of year he or she enrolls in 4-H. A member does not advance in 4-H grade until he or she enrolls in 4-H for the subsequent school year. Each member should enroll in the division of a project that would best suit his/her interest and potential for personal growth and would enhance their family involvement.

Opportunities in the 4-H program are available to all Indiana youth as defined regardless of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation or disability. Married young men and women of 4-H age may participate in any of the 4-H projects and activities. However, married persons must participate by the same terms and conditions and/or guidelines as unmarried participants.

Membership in 4-H is gained by annually enrolling through a Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office located in each of Indiana's 92 counties. The 4-H club year usually extends from one annual 4-H exhibit to the next. Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment form. Each county establishes its own enrollment deadline.

Residence

Indiana youth typically enroll in 4-H Youth Development programs in the county or state in which they reside. However, individuals living in one county may join 4-H in another county. There may be educational or social reasons for an individual joining 4-H in a different county than that of their primary residence. During a single program year, a 4-H member enrolled in a given project is expected to enroll and exhibit that project only in one county of enrollment.

In the event that a project is not offered in the county of primary 4-H enrollment, a 4-H member may enroll in that specific project in a different county. Approval of this special exception rests with the 4-H Extension Educator. Participation in 4-H related activities and events (i.e., judging, share-the-fun, auction) must be in the county of primary 4-H enrollment.

The above policy is not intended to provide an escape mechanism for 4-H members and families who are unwilling to follow the terms and/or conditions in their current county of 4-H membership. Decisions regarding 4-H membership in a non-resident county (a county you do not live in), rest with the 4-H Extension Educator in the receiving county.

Note: In a statement from our federal partner in Washington, D.C., the following statement appears: "*Anytime there are procedures for exclusion of individuals from events which use the 4-H name there are potential challenges to enforcement of the exclusions. The challenges have a substantial potential to prevail and they frequently result in negative publicity for the organization. Therefore, before choosing a policy of exclusion it is wise to evaluate the exclusion being considered, to be sure there is an overwhelming educationally based need for the exclusion*".

Extension employees and volunteers are obligated to eliminate (and should not create) any practices that limit, deprive, or tend to deprive any youth of opportunities for membership and/or participation in the Indiana 4-H program.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS STATEMENTS FOR 4-H ENROLLMENT FORMS

Parent/Legal Guardian Statement

I (we) understand, agree to abide by, follow, and comply with the rules, policies and expectations of the 4-H program and will conduct myself (ourselves) in a courteous and respectful manner by exhibiting good sportsmanship and being a positive role model for youth. I (we) also understand that failing to do so will constitute grounds for sanctions and/or dismissal of the member from the program.

Member Statement

I agree to follow the rules, policies and expectations of the 4-H program and will conduct myself in a courteous and respectful manner by exhibiting good sportsmanship and good behavior. I understand that failing to do so will result in sanctions, discipline, and/or dismissal from the program.

BEHAVIORAL CRITERIA FOR 4-H EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

To 4-H members, volunteers, parents and the public: When attending, participating or acting on behalf of the 4-H program, all persons are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of social behavior, to respect rights of others, and to refrain from any conduct which may be injurious to the 4-H program. **The following actions constitute misconduct for which persons may be subject to disciplinary penalties and/or dismissal from the program:**

- (a) Dishonesty in connection with any 4-H activity by cheating or knowingly furnishing false information.
- (b) Alteration or unauthorized use of 4-H records.
- (c) Obstruction or disruption of any 4-H activity or aiding and encouraging other persons to engage in such conduct.
- (d) Failure to comply or aiding or encouraging other persons not to comply with specific terms and conditions of a given project, contest, or activity.
- (e) Failure to comply with directions of 4-H officials acting in the proper performance of their duties.
- (f) Inhumane treatment of 4-H animal projects.

There are many opportunities for 4-H members, volunteers, parents and the public to participate in 4-H events and activities. When involved in such experiences, members, volunteers, parents and the public are expected to follow all rules and regulations as outlined by those responsible for the specific program or activity. In all such 4-H activities, the following constitute a violation of behavioral expectations:

1. Possession or use of fire crackers, gun powder, firearms, chemicals or other materials that can be used to create an explosive mixture.
2. Misuse of fire equipment or sounding a false fire alarm.
3. Having a guest of the opposite gender in your sleeping quarters.
4. Physical or verbal abuse of any person or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.
5. Theft of or malicious damage to property.
6. Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco and tobacco-like products, electronic smoking devices (including, but not limited to, e-cigs, vapes, juuls), or other dangerous substances.
7. Inappropriate displays of affection towards another person(s).
8. Inappropriate clothing or lack of clothing during the event or activity.
9. Lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct.
10. Unauthorized entry, use or occupancy of any facility.
11. Any conduct which threatens or interferes with maintenance of appropriate order and discipline or invades the rights of others.

When violations occur at out-of-county, district, area, state and/or national 4-H events, the following procedures will be followed.

- (a) The parents/legal guardians will be contacted to arrange transportation home for the violator(s) and
- (b) The local extension educator will be notified.

Guidelines for Exhibition and Completion:

Following are policies that govern exhibition and completion of 4-H Projects:

Exhibition:

Exhibition of 4-H projects/subjects in local, county, or state exhibits/fairs is voluntary on the part of the exhibitor. The exhibition of 4-H projects/subjects provides 4-H members an opportunity to display their 4-H projects/subjects, enter into competition, and participate in an educational/social environment with peers. With exhibition also comes the responsibility for abiding by all the terms and conditions pertaining to the respective 4-H project.

Completion:

The completion of a 4-H experience may include a variety of options and must not be misinterpreted solely as exhibition of a project at a local, county, or state fair. There are a number of ways that a young person may participate in the 4-H Youth Development Program in addition to the club-based option. Participating in these 4-H opportunities enable the youth to build skills that will serve them well throughout their adult lives.

Some of these participation options do not include the preparation of a specific exhibit by an individual that would be on display at a fair or similar event. In some cases, the youths' actual participation may be the final product that results in their completion of a year of 4-H. Some examples of this participation include working as a team to develop a robot for a workshop or challenge; completing a Spark Club experience; participating in State 4-H Band or Chorus; taking part in a science training or experiment; participating in an after school 4-H experience; etc.

4-H members are considered complete in their 4-H educational experience for the year when they have (1) completed the 4-H member enrollment process prior to the established and published date for enrolling; and (2) had an officially recognized 4-H volunteer/Extension Educator verify the existence of the completed project/subject or the member's participation in a 4-H educational experience. Additionally, 4-H members who participate in a club- or fair-based 4-H project/subject will submit a completed 4-H record sheet based on printed or web-based educational materials (used by Indiana 4-H Youth Development) prior to the established and published date.

Though exhibiting in local, county, and state exhibits/fairs is not required for project completion, as it does not necessarily relate directly to content and skills learned in the development of the 4-H project, project exhibition is encouraged as a continuation of the educational experience.

Extension employees and volunteers are obligated to eliminate (and should not create) any practices that limit, deprive, or tend to deprive any youth of opportunities for membership and/or participation in the Indiana 4-H program.

GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL EXHIBITS

Guidelines for Animal Exhibits: Each 4-H member shall own his/her 4-H exhibit. Ownership, personal possession, and regular care of the animal must be in effect on or before the county and state enrollment deadlines and continuously until after the 4-H show at the county and/or state fair.

- For 4-H breeding animals: family corporations and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or legal guardians are acceptable.
- For 4-H dairy cattle: family corporations and/or partnerships of the 4-H member with unrelated persons or dairy operations are also acceptable.
- Dairy heifers, horses, ponies, and llamas may be leased subject to approval of both the county 4-H dairy, horse and pony, or llama committee and the respective County Extension Educator.
- 4-H animals exhibited after the animal ID deadline (April 1 for steers, and May 15 for all other animals) at any show by anyone other than the person whose 4-H enrollment record is connected to the ID of the animal in Indiana 4HOnline will not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This term/condition does not apply to siblings and parents, who may show each other's animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing State Fair eligibility.

This policy applies to all 4-H animal projects. For animal projects without ID deadlines, the person who enters them in the Indiana State Fair 4-H show is the equivalent of the owner of the animals.

- 4-H animals are expected to be in the possession and regular care of the 4-H member who owns/leases them (unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by the county 4-H council) from the animal ID deadline until the conclusion of the county and/or state fair.
- 4-H animals purchased, sold or offered for sale after the ID deadline and prior to the Indiana State Fair (including animals that have gone through a "Premium Only Auction"), shall not be eligible to show in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. Sale of products of animals (milk, cheese, wool, etc.) in lieu of the animal, are considered equivalent to a "Premium Only Auction."
- Temporary guardianships established for the intent of animal exhibition or grooming purposes are not permitted and shall result in immediate disqualification.