



Newton County 4-H

FAQ

This document contains answers to some common questions about the 4-H program in Newton County and how to enroll. If you have questions that aren't answered by this document, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Purdue Extension Office in Newton County at 219-285-8620 ext. 2800 Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm.

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How old does a child have to be to enroll?

4-H is open to youth in grades 3-12. Youth in grades K-2 can join Mini 4-H. Mini 4-H is always free.

How do I enroll my child?

To enroll in 4-H go to <http://v2.4honline.com>. If you are a returning member, you will log in with the same email and password you used last year. If you are a new member, click "Don't have an account?" and follow the prompts. If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to contact the Purdue Extension Office at 219-285-8620 ext. 2800 Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and we will be happy to help.

This year, the Newton County Government has agreed to support the local 4-H Program by paying the enrollment fee for the first 400 youth to enroll between October 1st and January 15th.

When you register, the website will force you to choose a payment type. Make sure to select cash/check and NOT credit card. Even though you have to select cash/check, you do not need to submit a payment of any kind. Our office will take care of the rest.

Please note that if you pay by credit that we have no way of issuing refunds.

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Why is enrollment free?

This year, the Newton County Government has agreed to support the local 4-H Program by paying the enrollment fee for the first 400 youth to enroll between October 1st and January 15th.

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Why is enrollment from October 1st to January 15th?

The 4-H Program year runs from October 1st through September 31st each year. Most clubs will start meeting more actively after the winter holiday season (late January/early February), and will meet monthly until the Newton County Fair in July. The Indiana State Fair takes place in August, and then most clubs will have an end-of-the-year wrap-up meeting and/or completion trip (roller skating or a cookout, for example) in the fall. We want everyone to enroll by January 15th to make sure we order enough supplies and project manuals and to make sure that members get as much of a 4-H experience as possible.

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Will enrollment be free next year?

No, the Newton County Government has agreed to cover the costs this year, but next year the fees will return. While we can't say for sure what the cost will be for the 2022-2023 year, the cost this year would have been free for youth in Kindergarten-2nd grade and \$20/youth in 3rd-12th grade with a maximum cost of \$60/family. So if you have more than three children, you only have to pay for the first three.

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What about extra costs like books?

The Newton County Fair Board pays for the project manuals for all members who enroll by January 15th. If the project manual is lost or destroyed, you will need to purchase an additional copy. This is usually around \$5/manual for non-livestock projects and \$15-\$25 for livestock manuals depending on the species (these are much larger than most other project manuals).

You will be expected to pay for any materials or supplies your chosen project might require, but that varies depending on which projects you sign up for.

Other things like statewide trips and 4-H Summer camp also have costs, but these activities are optional extras and many have scholarships or financial assistance options if needed.

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What is the Difference between 4-H and Mini 4-H?

Mini 4-H is designed to be an introduction to the program and is considered non-competitive. This means that while Mini 4-H Members can exhibit projects at the county fair, they aren't competing against each other. Instead, they will get feedback on their work from an older 4-H member and all of the Mini 4-H members that participate will receive blue ribbons. Additionally, Mini 4-H members have a smaller number of projects to choose from than members in grades 3-12. Mini 4-H members in Kindergarten and 1st grade have 7 projects (Animal/Livestock Posters, Bugs, Collections, Forestry, Sewing, Space, and Trees) while Mini 4-H Members in 2nd grade have a few more options (Aerospace, Baskets, Beef/Dairy, Cake Decorating, Cats, Construction Toys, Dog Obedience, Foods, Gift Wrap, Goats, Horse & Pony, Models, Poultry/Waterfowl/Turkey, Rabbits, Sewing, Sheep, Sportfishing, Swine, and Woodcraft).

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Why is the list of projects different for Mini 4-H members in Kindergarten and 1st grade compared to 2nd grade?

The options for Mini 4-H members in Kindergarten and 1st grade are limited so we can avoid overwhelming new families. The manuals and projects that members in Kindergarten and 1st grade can select from are designed specifically for that age group and are designed to be easy for families to do together without needing more complex manuals or instruction. Once members are in 2nd grade, the project options open up more and the activities become a little more advanced while still being age appropriate. The goal of Mini 4-H is to prepare youth members for the full 4-H experience that starts in 3rd grade.

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Can Mini 4-H Members work with animals?

Mini 4-H members in 2nd grade will be allowed to show, work with, or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Mini 4-H members in 2nd grade may independently show, work with, or care for animals that weight 300 pounds or less. Mini 4-H members may only show, work with, or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian. The word “assisted” means that the adult has control of the animal at all times.

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Why can't Kindergarten and 1st grade Mini 4-H Members work with animals?

Our first priority for this rule is the safety of the youth. Additionally, for members in Kindergarten and 1st grade we want to focus on introducing them to the 4-H program and building a strong foundation. We have a limited number of projects for Mini 4-H members in Kindergarten and 1st grade so we don't overwhelm new youth or families.

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What are “projects” and how do we know what we need for them?

Members have the opportunity to learn more about a subject matter that they choose to study through completing hands on activities. We refer to these as projects. Each project has a manual that guides the youth through the learning process as well as a set of guidelines that helps them meet the project requirements. Each project has a beginner, intermediate, and advanced level-this allows youth to build on their knowledge each year and continue to challenge their skills. Projects are meant to be worked on over time, providing an educational opportunity for youth outside of the classroom setting.

When you register, you will pick the club you are joining as well as the projects you are interested in. The Purdue Extension Office in Newton County will then put together all of the manuals and paperwork you need and give them to your club leader to distribute. Usually, this means you will get all of this from your club leader at your first club meeting.

Some projects have project leaders (separate from club leaders). These volunteers offer workshops and support for projects such as the livestock projects, shooting sports, ceramics, drones, and sportfishing. However, many projects such as scrapbooking, cake decorating, collections, genealogy, etc. are projects that members work on independently or with a parent/guardian. If you sign up for a project that doesn't have a dedicated project leader, you are always welcome to contact the Extension Office and we can help answer questions or direct you to resources.

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What if we change our mind and decide we want to add or drop a project after we enroll?

Once you have completed your enrollment, the system won't let you make changes to your projects on your own. Instead, you'll have to contact the Purdue Extension Office and let us know what changes you would like us to make. The reason for this is that if you were to make the changes on your own and didn't let us know, we wouldn't know to get you the new project manuals and paperwork. If you have any changes you need to make, it is important that you contact our office by May 15th (the add/drop deadline). If May 15th falls on a weekend, you have until the next business day.

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What's the difference between clubs and projects?

When you register, you will select a club to join. You are free to join any club in the county, but usually people choose to join the club closest to them:

- Morocco- Busy Beavers
- Morocco- Horse & Pony
- Kentland- City Slickers
- Kentland- Country Hicks
- Goodland- Grant Go-Getters
- Lake Village- North Newton Neighbors
- Roselawn- Lincoln Rough Riders
- Brook- Washington Wonders

Clubs generally meet once per month. At club meetings, youth will learn to conduct a meeting with Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure, run for and hold officer positions, work on community service projects, do hands-on educational lessons, practice public speaking, and so much more! Clubs might also have special activities like cookouts or end-of-the-year trips.

While some clubs might work on projects, that is not very common since the members will have all signed up for different projects. Some projects (livestock, shooting sports, sportfishing, etc.) require special equipment, training, or settings, and will have meetings in addition to the monthly club meetings. For many projects, youth will work on them either on their own or with the help of their parents/guardians. The projects youth sign up for also determine what the member exhibits at the county fair.

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How many meetings are there and what happens if we can't make it?

Clubs generally start meeting in late January or early February and will meet monthly until the Newton County Fair in July. The Indiana State Fair takes place in August, and then most clubs will have an end-of-the-year wrap-up meeting and/or completion trip (roller skating or a cookout, for example) in the fall.

We strongly encourage members to attend as many meetings as they can to ensure they get a full 4-H experience, but there is no minimum required attendance or penalty for missing meetings. Some clubs have a point system that rewards participation. For example, members might receive points for attendance, for participating in events, for volunteering, etc., and these points might be redeemed for things such as not having to pay for the end-of-year completion trip.

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When and where does my club meet?

This varies from club to club and isn't necessarily the same every year. The best way to find out is to contact your club leader. If you aren't sure who your leader is, you can contact the Purdue Extension Office at 219-285-8620 ext. 2800 Monday through Friday from 8am-4pm and we can help.

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What if I want to get involved as an adult volunteer?

First, thank you so much for considering this! We are always looking for adults that want to volunteer for the program. Volunteer roles come in all shapes and sizes. You could volunteer with a club as a leader or helper, you could pick a project you're passionate or knowledgeable about and lead workshops as a project leader, you can get involved with the 4-H Council (the governing body of volunteers that oversees the 4-H program in the county), or you could start off smaller by being a guest speaker at a club meeting.

Whatever your background, skillset, or availability, we can find a sport for you to help out! For more information on enrolling as an adult volunteer, please contact the Purdue Extension Office at 219-285-8620 ext. 2800 Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and we will be happy to help.

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Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions at all, you can contact the Purdue Extension Office at:

Purdue Extension Office- Newton County
Newton County Government Center,
4117 S. 240 W. Suite 600, Morocco, IN 47963
219-285-8620 ext. 2800

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm.

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