

Dunn County 4-H Membership Policy

Adopted by the Dunn County 4-H Leaders Council on April 21st, 2015

1. 4-H Membership is open to all youth regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, pregnancy, veterans' status, non-job related conviction record or qualified disability.
2. To be eligible for 4-H membership, a boy or girl must be in grades K – 13 of the current 4-H year. The 4-H Calendar Year runs from Oct. 1st through September 30th.
3. Cloverbuds, a pre-4-H age program for youth in grades K – 2, allows younger kids to participate in club activities. *Cloverbuds shall have the same requirements as regular membership. Cloverbuds (Grades K-2) may not enroll in or exhibit livestock / animal projects at the county fair or other events under the 4-H name.*
4. It is highly recommended that each member exhibit an item at either the Dunn County Fair or Colfax Fair in each of the projects they have carried during the past year. Those not exhibiting projects at the Dunn County Fair or the Colfax Fair are encouraged to exhibit items at a regular club meeting.
5. Record books show members, leaders and parents what has been learned, if goals were met and events that members have participated in. Therefore, record book completion is required for all 4-H members. Record books must be turned in to club leaders on the date specified by their club leaders, meeting the club record book guidelines as determined by each individual club.
6. Enrollment is required in a minimum of one project. First year members who are in grades 3 – 4, are strongly encouraged to carry the Exploring Project and no more than one additional project.
7. Members not completing policy items #4, 5, and 6 are not eligible for Project Achievement Recognition.
8. Since the 4-H year starts on October 1 and ends on September 30, 4-H re-enrollments are due to the UWEX Office by *November 15th*. All project changes must be done prior to May 1. New members may join a 4-H club on a year-around basis; however,
 - a. Local clubs have the option of establishing an enrollment deadline to facilitate local club functions.
 - b. Youth, *including cloverbuds*, must join by May 1 to be eligible to exhibit at the county fair.
 - c. Program Committees (Meat Animal, Dog Project, Shooting Sports, etc...) at the county level may establish enrollment deadlines for participation in specific program activities.
9. New 4-H clubs can be started at any time, with approval of the 4-H Youth Development Agent. They must meet state requirements for 4-H Clubs.
10. Members are required to attend 50% of their club meetings. 13th year members are exempt from these club attendance requirements, but are encouraged to attend club or project meetings when possible. The following criteria will be used to determine if the attendance requirement has been met:
 - a. Excused absences will be permitted. The Organizational Leader/General Leader or approved club attendance committee is responsible for determining what constitutes an acceptable excuse for missing a club meeting.

- b. Members may participate in alternative activities to make-up for an absence and meet the 50% attendance requirement. "Make-ups" need to be coordinated within the club and may include such alternatives as: a parent attending the club meeting when the member cannot; an additional community service effort; attendance at the meeting of another Dunn County 4-H club; or any club or meeting alternative approved by the Organizational/General Leader or approved club attendance committee.
 - c. 4-H members, *including cloverbuds*, who join mid-way through the year will be required to attend 50% of the remaining meetings for that year.
 - d. 4-H members, *including cloverbuds*, not meeting the club attendance requirement will not be eligible to exhibit at the Dunn County Fair during that year. Club attendance is determined from July 1 of the previous 4-H year through June 30 of the current 4-H year.
11. Members should conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the 4-H program. Those members who do not conduct themselves according to the Dunn County Behavior Agreement Form (listed in 4-H Online) are subject to disciplinary actions. Use of alcohol or other drugs by any 4-H'er or volunteer, regardless of age, will not be tolerated at any 4-H activity.
12. Members should conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the 4-H program. Those members who do not conduct themselves according to the Dunn County Behavior Agreement Form are subject to disciplinary actions. Use of alcohol or other drugs by any 4-H'er, regardless of age, will not be tolerated at any 4-H activity
13. Graduation for 4-H members will be recognized as either high school graduation or the year in which membership is terminated due to age. In order to receive graduation recognition during the annual 4-H awards celebration (held during the Dunn County Fair), members and/or clubs must alert the Dunn County UW-Extension Office by June 1st of the year in which they intend to graduate.
14. A club is approved by the 4-H Youth Development Agent and by completing proper paperwork. To be a chartered 4-H club in Dunn County, the following criteria must be met and maintained:
- a. Club Name
 - b. Five or more youth from at least two families and 2 adult leaders
 - c. Adult leadership that has been approved through the Youth Protection process
 - d. Educational plan which meets the purposes of the 4-H program
 - e. Youth involvement in leadership and decision-making
 - f. Meeting on a continuing basis
 - g. Open to any youth eligible for 4-H membership, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status.
15. 4-H Clubs in Dunn County may approve and enforce guidelines and policies that exceed what is written in this policy but may not approve or enforce guidelines that undermine this policy.

Approved: April 21st, 2015

Revised: