

Jackson County 4-H Membership Policy

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.
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 nor participate in shooting sports activities under the 4-H name.*
4. It is highly recommended that each member exhibit an item at the Jackson County Fair in each of the projects they have carried during the past year. Those not exhibiting projects at the county fair are encouraged to exhibit items at a club tour or 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 highly recommended for all 4-H members. Record books must be turned in to club leaders on the date specified by their club leaders.
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 must be completed in 4HOnline by November 1st. Youth may not participate in 4-H activities until they are enrolled. If unable to enroll online, please contact your club leader and/or UW-Extension. All project changes must be done prior to April 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 April 1 to be eligible to exhibit at the county fair.
 - c. Program Committees 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. College students 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 or 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 Jackson County 4-H club; or any club or meeting alternative approved by the Organizational Leader or 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 Jackson 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. Membership in a 4-H club is the membership option required in Jackson County. 4-H clubs include Community Clubs or special interest project or activity committees, clubs, or groups. This includes SPIN Clubs, which can be held for any project. Youth in animal projects must be 4-H community club members to show at the Jackson County Fair. SPIN Clubs are considered additional learning. The Executive Board and 4-H Youth Development Agent will work with individual members and families to help them find a 4-H club that will provide the best learning environment for the youth.
 12. Members should conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the 4-H program. Members are expected to conduct themselves according to the Wisconsin 4-H Code of Conduct. 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 at either high school graduation or the year in which membership is terminated due to age. In order to receive a county graduation plaque, youth must have been a member for at least four years.
 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 Jackson County the following criteria must be met and maintained:
 - o Club Name
 - o Five or more youth from at least three families
 - o Adult leadership that has been approved through the Youth Protection process
 - o Educational plan which meets the purposes of the 4-H program
 - o Youth involvement in leadership and decision-making
 - o Meeting on a continuing basis
 - o Have written operating guidelines, bylaws or constitution approved by the members to govern the club.
 - o 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.

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This policy is reviewed bi-annually. Any recommended changes are reviewed and voted on by the membership at our 4-H annual meeting.