The Purpose of 4-H, Your Role and Responsibility as a Leader

What is 4-H?

- 4-H is an non-formal, practical, learning-by-doing, educational program for youth.
- **4-H Mission:** 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.
- **4-H Vision:** A world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change.
**The purpose of 4-H is not the County Fair.**

Fair *exhibits* are the culmination of project work, not the focus. The exhibit should represent the member’s best efforts.

The project is *part of the on-going* learning and growth of the member that occurs during the 4-H year.

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**4-H Membership**

- The “**4-H Year**” begins October 1st and ends September 30th.
- Age is calculated using the “**4-H Age**”: What age was the child on Jan. 1st of the current 4-H year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November Birthday</th>
<th>January 1st 4-H Age</th>
<th>February Birthday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cloverbud (5-7 years)</td>
<td>Turned 8</td>
<td>Junior Member (8-10 years)</td>
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- Different opportunities are available for different ages:
  - **Cloverbuds**
    - Have a 4-H age of 5-7.
  - **Traditional 4-H Program**
    - Junior Members: have a 4-H age of 8-10.
    - Intermediate Members: have a 4-H age of 11-13.
    - Senior Members: have a 4-H age of 14-18.
Leader Expectations

- Know, honor and explain county/state/club deadlines.
- Conduct project meetings to educate both 4-H members and parents.
- **Encourage**, don't pressure.
  - For a 4-Her to truly succeed they must have the desire.
- **Explain** and **Teach Values** – Don't just teach the project.
- **Respect** → Facilities, leaders, parents, members, & equipment.
- **Model ethics** – Members and parents will learn more from your actions than your words.
- Volunteer Behavior Agreement

Portfolios

- In Wyoming the 4-H Portfolio is a record book of youth goals, achievements, and self evaluation.
- Every member is encouraged to complete a portfolio each year.
- Portfolios teach youth responsibility, good record keeping, goal setting, and reflection.
- Portfolios are due __________.
- [http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/publications/portfolio/index.html](http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/publications/portfolio/index.html)
What are your responsibilities?

- **Read communication** from the County Extension Office
- If you don’t know --- please **ask**.
- If you are concerned --- please **ask again**.
- Make sure your club/group is getting their paperwork in on time. You don’t want kids to lose out.
- Work with your parents.
- Remember, you will **make a difference in a child’s life**!

Requirements to become a 4-H leader

- An adult can apply to become a 4-H volunteer leader at any time of the year.
  - 1st – complete the online enrollment profile on **www.4honline.com**
  - 2nd – complete the required training:
    - Face to face training with county 4-H educator (individual or group) **or**
    - Online leader training **and** a follow-up meeting with county 4-H educator
  - 3rd – submit consent for volunteer screening

- Attend training at least once every 5 years.
What happens next?

- You will receive an email titled *Volunteer Leader Screening Instructions* that contains personalized links and instructions on the screening process.

- **Criminal background check** is conducted through the UW Department of Human Resources (every 5 years)
  - Includes convictions of child endangerment, crimes of a sexual nature, felony involving violence and financial crimes

- **Motor vehicle record** (MVR) check is conducted through the UW Department of Risk Management (annually)

- Information for both checks will be submitted on-line only by you

Training Opportunities

- Opportunity for training includes:
  - Training offered at the county 4-H level
  - Online leader training modules
    - [http://4h.wsu.edu/volunteertraining/course.html](http://4h.wsu.edu/volunteertraining/course.html)
  - State Leaders’ Conference
  - Western Region Leaders’ Forum
  - Master 4-H Volunteers
  - Project specific certifications (if offered)
  - External training around subject matter related to your role in the 4-H program
  - Training provided by your employer that relates to your 4-H volunteer role
What do you need?

- Training needs
  - Subject matter training
  - Project materials
  - Teaching skills
- Help from parents
- IRS deductions & donations
- Store discounts
- Club record keeping help

Once you’re a leader:

- As a University of Wyoming 4-H volunteer leader you are entitled to protection under the University of Wyoming’s general liability and insurance programs for actions related to the conduct of your official 4-H activities and duties so long as:
  - Your approval as a 4-H volunteer leader is current;
  - You conform with the policies and core values of the University of Wyoming Extension 4-H Program;
  - You have obeyed all applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and
  - You are performing within the course and scope of your role as a 4-H volunteer leader.
Thanks for completing this orientation. Please remember...

• complete the **evaluation** on the State 4-H Web Site, and
• **set up an appointment** to meet with your County 4-H Educator.