

4-H FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do the four “H’s” stand for on the 4-H clover emblem? The “H’s” stand for: head, heart, hands, and health, which reflect the whole development of a child.

What is the 4-H pledge? Members recite the American and 4-H pledges at the opening of each club meeting. You should work with your child to help him or her memorize the 4-H pledge and the proper hand motions.

4-H PLEDGE

I Pledge,

My Head to Clearer Thinking,

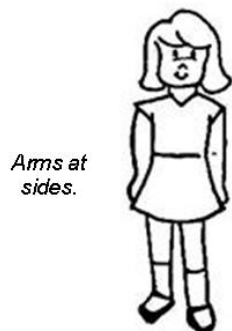
*Right hand
points to
forehead.*



My Heart to Greater Loyalty,

My Hands to Larger Service,

*Arms
slightly
bent,
palms up.*



And My Health to Better Living,

For My Club, My Community,
My Country, and My World.

What is the 4-H motto? “To Make the Best Better”

What are the 4-H colors? The 4-H colors are green and white.

How did 4-H begin? 4-H began in the early 1900s as Corn Clubs for boys and Tomato Canning Clubs for girls. Although the program has changed a lot through the years, it has always been a program designed to help children become productive members of their communities. The national 4-H program celebrated its 100th birthday in 2002.

Do I have to live on a farm to join 4-H? No! Although 4-H began as a program for rural children, today 4-H is available for *all children* whether they live on a farm, or in the city.

Do boys and girls attend different clubs? No. All 4-H clubs are open to both boys and girls.

How old do you have to be to join a 4-H club? Children can join a 4-H club as soon as they are in Kindergarten (at least five years old) and they can stay involved until they graduate from high school (*please note special grade requirements to join a livestock or horse club - see page 5*). In addition, many colleges offer collegiate 4-H clubs, including Utah State University!

How do I enroll in 4-H? Enrolling in a club is easy. Complete the 4-H release form (a three-part release) and pay your enrollment fee. Your club leader will add you to their 4-H club enrollment and submit the information to the 4-H office. Enrollment is done on an annual basis starting in October.

How long does my enrollment last? Enrollment ends on September 30 each year. Subscription to the 4-H newsletter will end in November for youth who do not re-enroll. Only currently enrolled members are eligible to participate in 4-H contests.

What is a 4-H membership card? When your club leader brings in the enrollment forms for your club, he or she will receive a 4-H membership card for each officially enrolled member (fees paid, release forms signed, club enrollment form complete). The membership card is current through September 30 and identifies your child as a Weber County 4-H member.



One of the benefits associated with your membership card is the 4-H Business Supporter Program. Participating businesses offer discounts to currently enrolled Weber County 4-H club members and leaders, **who show their membership card PRIOR TO PURCHASE**. You will know which businesses offer the discount by the “4-H Supporter” decal displayed on their window or door. Participating businesses are also listed on the county website: www.webercounty4-H.org.

What is the 4-H year timeline? The 4-H year begins on October 1 and continues through the following September. The 4-H year kicks off with National 4-H Week during the first full week of October. This schedule makes perfect sense when you consider that youth work all year long to complete projects to enter in the county fair. Then, the 4-H year culminates with the State Fair in September.

Can we join 4-H at any time during the year? Each club will establish their own “cut off” date for accepting new members for the year. However, all youth must be enrolled with the 4-H office by June 1 to be allowed to exhibit in the county fair (by tagging for livestock club members).

Can my children join more than one club? Yes. Although not common, children can belong to more than one club. This sometimes occurs when a child wants to explore a project area that is not offered through his or her primary club, but is offered through another club. Being a club member is an important responsibility for both members and their parents. Give careful consideration to the time your family can commit to support more than one club. Parents will have to decide the best balance of 4-H involvement for their family.

Are clubs organized by age divisions? 4-H clubs operate best when the members are in a similar age group, preferably within a couple of years of each other. However, some clubs operate with children from a wide variety of ages. It is a little more challenging to keep everyone’s interest when there is a wide age span, but there are also the benefits of younger youth learning from the knowledge and example of older youth, as well as leadership opportunities for older youth.

What are the grade divisions for competitive events? A child must be in 3rd grade **and** at least 8 years old as of January 1 of the current program year to compete in any 4-H contest. Most competition is held in the following grade divisions: Juniors (3rd-5th grades), Intermediates (6th-8th grades) and Seniors (9th-12th grades). However, the grade categories do vary from program to program. Always carefully review the registration information for 4-H contests.



What is a cloverbud? Children in Kindergarten through 2nd grades are known in 4-H as “cloverbuds.” These children are *full 4-H members* and can participate in a wide range of programs and activities. However, because research has shown that competition at this age is detrimental, cloverbud members are not allowed to participate in competitive events. These members *do participate* in many camps, events and the county fair. Their work just isn’t “judged” and compared to other children’s work. They receive participation ribbons for fair entries.

Besides the no-competition rule, are there any other special rules for cloverbuds? Yes! Children must be in 3rd grade **and** at least 8 years old as of January 1st of the current 4-H year to be allowed to participate in livestock or horse projects.

What does it cost to join a 4-H club? The current enrollment fee for Weber County 4-H is \$5 per member (\$15 for youth enrolled in the horse project). Some clubs will assess “dues” for each member to cover the cost of the project supplies. Dues vary from club to club depending on the projects selected. For example, the costs would be very different for a horse project versus a woodworking or gardening project.

Do parents and guardians attend meetings with their children? Yes! 4-H is a family program. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend club meetings and 4-H events with their child. It is a great way for families to learn and grow together. A parent, guardian or adult helper should always be present at each club meeting for youth who are in K-2nd grades. In addition, horse club members, regardless of age, must *always* have a parent or guardian present during riding practice and horse shows.

Can my family choose which county 4-H program we join? 4-H is organized at the county level. Children participate in the county 4-H program in which they live.

How do I become a leader? Whether you are interested in becoming a leader to assist your child’s club leader or organizing a new club, becoming a 4-H leader is easy. Complete a 4-H volunteer application and attend New Leader’s Orientation. You will be interviewed by a 4-H staff member and references will be checked as part of the volunteer screening process. Applications are available from the 4-H office or online at www.webercounty4-H.org.

Do I have to go through the official “4-H leader” process if I just want to lead a club for my own children? Yes. All leaders go through the same application and screening process. You and your children will greatly benefit from the knowledge you gain through New Leader’s Orientation.

Does 4-H provide insurance for my child? As part of your child’s club enrollment, they are covered by a small accident insurance policy. The policy provides coverage only for official 4-H functions. In the event your child gets injured at a 4-H event, notify your leader and the local 4-H office as soon as possible.

How do I stay informed about 4-H opportunities? Read the *Clover Connection 4-H Newsletter*. It will give you all the details about upcoming programs. Also visit the county 4-H Web site at www.webercounty4-H.org.