

Welcome to Wisconsin

4-H



First Year Member Handbook

Hi! Welcome to Wisconsin 4-H!



My Name: _____

4-H Club Name: _____

General Leader's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Project Leader's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Other Club Members who can help me during my 1st year: _____

The 4-H Pledge

Otis Hall, State 4-H Leader of Kansas was responsible for the original wording of the 4-H pledge. When the Executive Committee of the Land Grant College Association requested Dr. R.A. Peterson, President of Iowa State College, and Dr. A.C. True of the Federal Extension Service to write a pledge for 4-H, they submitted a pledge substantially as written by Hall. At the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927, the 4-H pledge was officially adopted by the state 4-H leaders.

The pledge remained unchanged until 1973 when, in response to requests from a number of states (including a recommendation from 4-H members attending National 4-H Conference), the pledge was changed to include "my world." This change was officially approved in 1973 by the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy and now reads:

***I pledge... ..my head to clearer thinking
...my heart to greater loyalty ...my
hands to larger service and ...my
health to better living, for my club, my
community, my country and my world.***



The 4-H Motto

The 4-H motto, "To make the best better," was originally proposed by Miss Carrie Harrison, a botanist in the Bureau of Plant Industry. It was officially adopted by leaders who attended the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927. It has remained the same throughout the years.

The 4-H Colors

Green and White are the 4-H colors. The white is found as the background on the flag with a green clover with an H on each leaf.

The Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



4-H Pledge

I pledge:

My Head to Clearer Thinking



(right hand points to forehead).

My Heart to Greater Loyalty



(right hand over heart)

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



(Arms at sides)

Commonly Used Terms and Definitions

The 4-H program has many words that may be unfamiliar to a new 4-H member. Complete the matching exercise to see how many 4-H words you already know!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. UW-Extension | a. From fall enrollment through summer programs. |
| 2. Current 4-H Information and Happenings | b. Members who complete their 4-H career. |
| 3. 4-H Year | c. University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service is responsible for the administration of the 4-H program in Wisconsin. |
| 4. 4-H Members | d. Completing all of the membership requirements for the 4-H club during the year. |
| 5. Enrollment Forms | e. 4-H members in grades K-2. |
| 6. Club Rules and Bylaws | f. 4-H member and leader guides written by University specialists to help you learn more about your 4-H projects. Clubs will determine how to handle the costs of these materials. |
| 7. Year in Review | g. Must be completed by members at the beginning of each 4-H year. It includes the projects you are going to take and contact information. |
| 8. Project Literature | h. A process you complete for 4-H leadership trips and educational experiences you are interested in participating in. |
| 9. Trip/Award Experience | i. Youth in grades K-13 that enroll in 4-H. |
| 10. Awards at the Club Level | j. Written rules or guidelines for the operation of your club. |
| 11. 4-H Graduate | k. A report of your 4-H accomplishments in projects or activities throughout the year. |
| 12. Cloverbud | l. Newsletters, websites, blogs or other methods that are used to keep each member and family informed of upcoming educational events and opportunities. |



4-H Projects

A 4-H project is an area that you want to learn more about during the year. There are projects on just about any topic you would like to study and explore, from art to woodworking, from computers to rabbits, from clothing to small engines.

So how do you know what projects are available to you? Your club organizational leader or enrollment coordinator can tell you what projects and resources are offered in your county. Don't forget to check out the Wisconsin 4-H project website www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/onlinpro/index.cfm. Here you will find descriptions for statewide projects, Internet resources and links of interest, county fair exhibit suggestions, state specialist contacts, and other suggested 4-H resources.

And remember, you'll learn more than "subject matter" as you complete your projects. You'll learn many "life" skills that you'll use every day of your life, such as, understanding yourself, communicating better, solving problems, making decisions, and working with others. Good luck in your project selections. Have a great 4-H year!

How to Select 4-H Projects

- ☞ Make a list of the things you like to do or want to learn more about.
- ☞ Talk over your list with your parents, leaders and friends. They may recognize some special things you are good at that you don't even realize you do well.
- ☞ Compare your list with the projects described on this website and other project guide list you may receive from your county.
- ☞ Ask yourself if you have the equipment, money & time to do the projects that sound interesting.
- ☞ Your club organizational leader or enrollment coordinator will give you a form when you're ready to sign up for projects.
- ☞ If you've had a lot of experience in an area, you may want to skip the first or beginning level of a project. Many projects also have grade recommendations. These are only recommendations.



- ☞ For your first year in 4-H, concentrate on doing only two or three projects well. Usually you can spend more than one year in a project unit because there are enough ideas there to span two or three years.

County Fair

The county fair provides an opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit and display the items that demonstrate what they have learned through their project meetings and experiences over the enrollment year. This is a major event where many people see what 4-H members accomplish.

The exhibits are evaluated by state certified judges. The process is designed to extend the learning the member has done in their project. Members share how they completed the exhibit that demonstrates their project goals. The judges are more than willing to spend time with members providing valuable feedback on how to improve their project.

Judging Systems

Danish: Traditional system whereby all exhibits of the same lot are presented simultaneously to the judge. The judge evaluates each project by itself and is permitted to give a maximum of 25% blue, red, white, and pink ribbons within each lot in the class of projects.



Face to Face or Conference: This form of judging allows more communication directly between the judge and exhibitor. In a face-to-face judging, an allotted time is established for the exhibitor to meet with the judge. Exhibitors bring their projects to the judge at their convenience within the allotted time and talk to the judge about their project. Exhibitors are asked questions and encouraged to ask questions of the judge as well. In conference judging, the entire lot is present at the same time for judging. The judge then, based on all discussions, may award the ribbon and premium which he/she believes is appropriate without regard to percentages.



Questions you might be asked:

- What kind of things did you do in your project this year?
- How did you make it...grow it...build it...paint it...?
- Where did you learn how to...?
- What did you like doing best?
- What are you going to do with your item?
- What would you change the next time you do this?

Keeping Track of What You Have Done and Learned - A Year in Review



All people, young and old, keep records of one thing or another. Think of the things that you must record—the meeting next week, doctor appointments, homework assignments, money you plan to save or spend. Record keeping is simply a way of remembering something for the future. As a 4-H member, you will need to keep track of what you have done and learned. 4-H record keeping prepares you for remembering for the future.

Record books, scrapbooks, memory books, blogs or portfolios are just some of the tools for keeping 4-H records for you as a 4-H member. Those tools include the following information:

- Identify your leadership and project goals and set priorities
- Establish good organizational and planning skills
- Develop responsibility in record keeping
- Learn if money is made or lost
- Explore careers and goals
- Learn to compare and evaluate success or failure
- Experience personal satisfaction and growth through completion of worthwhile task
- Tell a complete story of the projects you took, leadership positions you held and activities you participated in.

A traditional record book or portfolio may contain the following sections:

- 1 **Title Page:** This is a place to share information about you and your club.
- 2 **Activity Section:** This includes information that lists the activities you participated in and possibly pictures or newspaper clippings that show your participation.
- 3 **Project Section:** Include information for each project you are involved in. This includes the name of the project, specific project goals you have, activities and events you participated in and pictures or newspaper clippings that show your participation. You should record specifics about your project including the money you invested, the steps you took to complete the project, outcomes from exhibiting the project and what you learned.

Your club or county program may have some recommended ways for you to share what you have learned and how you have reached your goals.



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Adapted from Dunn County 1st Year Member Guide developed by Chris Viau, Dunn County 4-H Youth Development Educator and Columbia County 1st Year Member Guide developed by Karen Nelson, Columbia County 4-H Youth Educator.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that the proper arrangements can be made. Requests will be kept confidential. Contact your local Extension Office.



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