

## GREEN COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM POLICY

The Green County 4-H program policies are established by Extension Green County. These county policies are to be followed by all members, leaders and clubs wishing to be a part of the Green County 4-H Program.

1. The Green County 4-H membership year is October 1 – September 30, and the Green County 4-H fiscal year is July 1 – June 30, as defined in Wisconsin 4-H policy.
2. **Membership** is open to all youth beginning in 5K (five-year-old Kindergarten) AND who are 5 years old by September 1 or older. 4-H membership cannot exceed one year beyond high school graduation and not to extend beyond the age of 19 as of December 31 of the enrollment year.
  - a. Membership is open to all youth regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status.
  - b. Youth in 5K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades are eligible to enroll in the Green County 4-H program and participate in the 4-H Cloverbud Project, which is designed to meet the developmental needs of this age group. *Cloverbuds are valued members of the 4-H program and receive the same privileges as other 4-H members in club and county 4-H participation. However, youth participating as 4-H Cloverbuds in an event cannot earn premiums at the county fair, exhibit animals at public events nor participate in shooting sports activities for safety reasons.*
  - c. Youth in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through one year beyond high school (13<sup>th</sup> grade) may select from any of the over 60 project areas offered in Green County 4-H.
3. **Enrollment:** 4-H clubs are encouraged to recruit members year-round. Members may join at any time and receive **most** benefits. The primary enrollment period is **September 1<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Enrollments must be completed on the 4HOnline website (<https://wi.4honline.com>).
  - a. **Re-enrolling youth must enroll by November 1<sup>st</sup>** to meet “Member-in-Good-Standing” requirements.
  - b. **New 4-H Members must enroll by January 15<sup>th</sup>** to meet “Member-in-Good-Standing” requirements.
  - c. Re-enrollments or new enrollments received after the deadlines (3a & 3b) must be accepted by the local club, but are not eligible to be a 4-H exhibitor at that year’s Green County Fair.
  - d. 4-H members are to select their 4-H projects at the time of enrollment, but have until January 15<sup>th</sup> to add or delete projects. 4-H members are encouraged to be enrolled in a project if they intend to exhibit in that project at that year’s Green County Fair.
  - e. A 4-H family moving into Green County after the November 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment deadline may transfer into a Green County 4-H club without losing their county fair exhibiting privileges for the current year. To do so, however, they must provide proof of current year 4-H membership in the county from which they came.
  - f. Youth may not hold 4-H membership in more than one county or state at the same time.
4. **4-H Clubs:** An organized 4-H club must have at least 5 members from three or more families. Once a member has joined a club for the 4-H year, there is no switching of clubs within that 4-H year. If a 4-H family is dissatisfied with their 4-H club, they are free to re-enroll in another 4-H club during the next fall re-enrollment period. Any specific issues, problems, or concerns with a local club should be directed to the 4-H Youth Development Educator.
5. **Project Guidelines:** “Project” refers to the subject matter listed in the Green County 4-H Enrollment & Project Guide (i.e. Woodworking is a project, while a birdhouse is an exhibit).
  - a. **Project Changes:** The individual member should make project changes (additions or deletions) in their 4HOnline account by January 15<sup>th</sup> in order to insure they receive the related project communication.
  - b. **Exhibiting at County Fair:** 4-H youth are encouraged to be enrolled in the 4-H projects that correspond to the county fair departments in which the member intends to exhibit.

6. **4-H Member in-Good-Standing Status:** A youth is required to have “member in-good-standing” status in order to be eligible to represent the Green County 4-H Program as a participant at the County Fair, at state or national 4-H contests that require county authorization, or to be eligible for recognition from the Green County 4-H in the form of a county 4-H award or 4-H scholarship. 4-H members in the Cloverbud Project (Gr. 5K-2<sup>nd</sup>) are encouraged, but not required, to comply with the “member-in-good-standing” expectations. A “member in-good-standing” must:
- a. Enroll by the 4-H enrollment deadline (Re-enrolling: Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>; New Enrollment: Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>).
  - b. Attend at least four (4) 4-H meetings, events or workshops, between September 1, 2024 and April 21, 2025, with at least two (2) being 4-H club meetings.
    - If you attend a county 4-H meeting, event, or workshop that you would like to count toward this attendance requirement, it is the responsibility of the member and family to notify the 4-H Club Organizational Leader.
    - Members who have graduated from high school and who are enrolled in post-high school educational opportunities outside the area will be waived from this requirement. However, when home, these members should make every effort to attend scheduled project and club meetings.
  - c. Pay membership dues (unless waived) and have no outstanding 4-H bills.
  - d. Complete a 4-H Record Book (either County, Club, or Minimal level record book) on the 2024-2025 4-H year to be eligible to represent 4-H at the County Fair or earn 4-H recognition in 2025-2026.
7. **Record Book Requirements:** Record books provide a valuable educational opportunity for reflection, life skill development (including planning and record keeping), and recognition. Record book materials are available on the Green County 4-H Forms webpage at <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms/> or in print at the Extension Green County Office.
- a. **ALL Green County 4-H members in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older are REQUIRED to fill out a record book.** Youth have two (2) options to complete this requirement:
    - **County Level Record Book:** Youth who fill out the county level record book are eligible for county awards. These books are to be turned in to your 4-H club organizational leader at the club’s designated meeting date in August. Members nominate themselves for the awards they seek to earn. Club organizational leaders will then forward ALL County Level Record Books to the Extension Green County Office, which are due by the last Monday in August.
    - **Minimal Record Book or Club Approved Record Book:** Members who do not fill out a county level record book are to complete the minimal record book. Members are free to be creative with their record book in addition to the pages listed. 4-H clubs have the option to establish an alternative form of club level record book if desired. A club approved record book must be agreed and voted on by club membership and needs approval from the 4-H Youth Development Educator to proceed for the year. These books are turned in and accounted for also at the club’s designated meeting time (Mid-August). It is suggested that clubs establish a committee of volunteers to ensure this component of 4-H club work is being completed. Clubs are encouraged to recognize members for these books at the end of the 4-H year. *Note: Two clubs will be selected each year to submit their minimal records for a compliance check.*
  - b. Youth in the 4-H Cloverbud Project (5K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) are strongly encouraged, but not required, to complete a 4-H Cloverbud Record Book. All 4-H Cloverbud Record Books will be recognized at the county level, if submitted by the 4-H Club Organizational Leader to the Extension Green County office by the last Monday in August.
8. **4-H Adult Volunteers:**
- a. All 4-H programs and activities must be supervised by a staff member or an adult, 18 years of age or older, who has completed the required volunteer trainings and is currently an enrolled 4-H volunteer.
  - b. Volunteers are responsible for being aware and complying with Wisconsin 4-H Policies, including 4-H Project and Activities policies that ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.