



Huntington County 4-H



Purdue Extension Service—Huntington County Office
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Welcome to Huntington County 4-H!

This publication is provided to help you and your family learn more about the Huntington County 4-H program. As you consider becoming a member of the 4-H program, it is important for you to be informed of the general terms and conditions which govern the Indiana 4-H Program and our local 4-H program in Huntington County.

We encourage your questions, comments and look forward to receiving your 4-H club enrollment form prior to the club enrollment deadline on April 1.



4-H Theme designed by
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Indiana 4-H Program Philosophy:

The Indiana 4-H program serves the youth of Indiana by providing a strong educational youth development program. This program delivers educational experiences in a variety of settings. Caring, capable, and contributing adults assist in the 4-H program as models for young people. The rich heritage of the 4-H Program is one to be valued and passed along to future generations.

This brochure sets out certain standards and guidelines to be used to assure that 4-H is a positive youth development program.. County 4-H policy is guided by the Huntington County 4-H Rules Committee (with input from various 4-H advisory groups in the county), as provided by the County Extension Board. Legal authority for the 4-H program rests with the Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Purdue University. No county 4-H policy may conflict with State 4-H

policy or federal guidelines and requirements.

Deadlines for county and state participation should be carefully constructed so as to encourage rather than to discourage participation. Such deadlines should be well published. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied the opportunity to exhibit.



It is the policy of 4-H to be an inclusive organization. No county policy or practice should be used to arbitrarily exclude youth from either membership or participation. Youth should participate in 4-H Youth Development opportunities at levels and times that best suit the youth's development and support family involvement.

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4-H Pledge

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.

4-H Colors

Green and White

4-H Motto

"To Make the Best Better"

4-H Club Membership:

Youth may become 4-H members when they enter the third grade and may continue their membership through the completion of grade 12. A member may continue membership for a maximum of ten (10) years.

Note: Members enrolled prior to the 1998 program year are eligible through the calendar in which they reach age 19 (per previous state membership policy).

An individual's 4-H grade is determined by the school grade in which he or she is classified regardless of the time of year he or she enrolls in 4-H. A member does not advance in 4-H grade until he or she enrolls in 4-H for the subsequent school year. Each member should enroll in the division of a project that would best suit his/her interest and potential for personal growth and would enhance their family involvement.

Opportunities in the 4-H program are available to all Indiana youth as defined regardless of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation or disability. Married young men and women of 4-H age may participate in any of the 4-H projects and activities. However, married persons must participate by the same terms and conditions and/or guidelines as unmarried participants. Membership in 4-H is gained by annually enrolling through a Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office.

The 4-H club year usually extends from one annual 4-H exhibit to the next. Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment form. April 1 is the 4-H Club Enrollment deadline for Huntington County.

Residence:

Indiana youth typically enroll in 4-H in the county or state in which they reside. However, individuals living in one county **may** join 4-H in another county. There may be educational or social reasons for an individual joining 4-H in a different county than that of their primary residence. During a single calendar year, a 4-H member enrolled in a given project is expected to enroll and exhibit that project only in one county of enrollment.

In the event that a project is not offered in the county of primary 4-H enrollment, a 4-H member may enroll in that specific project in a different county. Approval of this special exception rests with the Huntington County Extension Board. Participation in 4-H

"Can I join 4-H in Huntington County if I live in another county?"

related activities and events (i.e., judging; share-the-fun) must be in the county of primary 4-H enrollment.

This policy is not intended to provide an escape mechanism for troubled 4-H members and families who are unwilling to follow the terms and/or conditions in their current county of 4-H membership. Decisions regarding 4-H membership in a non-resident county (county you do not live in), rest with the County Extension Board in the receiving county.

Extension employees and volunteers are obligated to eliminate (and should not create) any practices that limit, deprive, tend to deprive any youth of opportunities for membership and/or participation in the Indianan 4-H program.

Expectations of Parents and Members in 4-H:

Parent/Legal Guardian Statement:

I (we) understand, agree to abide by, follow, and comply with the rules, policies and expectations of the 4-H program and will conduct myself (ourselves) in a courteous and respectful manner by exhibiting good sportsmanship and being a positive role model for youth. I (we) also understand that failing to do so will constitute grounds for sanctions and/or dismissal of the member from the program.

Parent/Legal Guardian Statement for Photo Policy:

I (we) grant permission to Purdue Extension 4-H to use videos or photographs of my (our) child for educational purposes or promotion of 4-H and/or Purdue Extension programs.

4-H Member Statement:

I agree to follow the rules, policies and expectations of the 4-H program and will conduct myself in a courteous and respectful manner by exhibiting good sportsmanship and good behavior. I understand that failing to do so will result in sanctions, discipline, and/or dismissal from the program.

Race & Ethnic Information:

All enrolling 4-H members must provide information regarding race and ethnicity. Information will be used only for Huntington County 4-H Program Reporting purposes. This is a federal requirement with all 4-H programs.



The Huntington County Extension Service is committed to providing our youth and adults with the education and life skills necessary to build more responsible and caring citizens within the great community.

Purdue University is an Affirmative Action employer.

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Guidelines for Exhibition and Completion:

Exhibition:

Exhibition of 4-H projects in local, county, or state exhibits/fairs is voluntary on the part of the exhibitor. The exhibition of 4-H projects provides 4-H members an opportunity to display their 4-H projects, enter into competition and participate in an educational/social environment with peers. With exhibition also comes the responsibility for abiding by all the terms and conditions pertaining to the respective 4-H project.

Completion:

The completion of a 4-H project must not be misinterpreted as exhibition of said project at a local, county, or state fair. 4-H members are considered complete in their project work for that year when they have (1) completed an "official" 4-H member enrollment form prior to the established and published date for enrolling; (2) turned in a completed 4-H project record sheet prior to the established and published date; and (3) had an officially recognized 4-H leader/extension educator verify the existence

of the completed project or activity. Though exhibiting in local, county, and state exhibits/fairs is not required for project completion, as it does not necessarily relate directly to content and skills learned in the development of the 4-H project, project exhibition is encouraged as a continuation of the educational experience.



Note: In a statement from our federal partner in Washington, DC, the following statement appears: *"Anytime there are procedures for exclusion of individuals from events which use the 4-H name there are potential challenges to enforcement of the exclusions. The challenges have a substantial potential to prevail and they frequently result in negative publicity for the organization. Therefore, before choosing a policy of exclusion it is wise to evaluate the exclusion being considered, to be sure there is an overwhelming educationally based need for the exclusion."*

Guidelines for Animal Exhibits:

Each 4-H member shall own his/her own 4-H exhibit. Ownership, personal possession, and regular care of the animal must be in effect on or before the county and state enrollment deadlines and continuously until after the 4-H show at the county and/or State Fair.

- For 4-H breeding animals, family corporations and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles or a legal guardian are acceptable.
- For 4-H dairy cattle, family corporations and/or partnerships of the 4-H member with unrelated persons or dairy operations are also acceptable.
- Dairy heifers, horses, ponies and llamas may be leased. These leased animals may be 4-H projects, subject to approval of the county 4-H dairy, horse and pony, or llama committee.
- 4-H animals purchased, sold or offered for sale after the animal enrollment deadline and prior to the Indiana State Fair, shall not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair.

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- 4-H animals exhibited after the respective 4-H animal enrollment deadline under a different name than the person listed on the Indiana 4-H enrollment form shall not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This means that if the animal is exhibited at any show by anyone other than a person listed on the Indiana 4-H animal enrollment form, the animal will not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This term/condition does not apply to siblings who may show each other's animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing State Fair eligibility, regardless of whether or not the sibling is a 4-H member. 4-H animals are expected to be in the personal possession and regular care of the 4-H member who owns/leases them from the animal enrollment deadline until the conclusion of the county and/or State Fair.

Behavioral Criteria for 4-H Events and Activities:

To 4-H members, volunteers, parents and the public: When attending, participating or acting on behalf of the 4-H program, all persons are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of social behavior, to respect rights of others, and to refrain from any conduct which may be injurious to the 4-H program.

The following actions constitute misconduct for which persons may be subject to disciplinary penalties and/or dismissal from the program:

- (a) Dishonesty in connection with any 4-H activity by cheating or knowingly furnishing false information, (b) Alteration or unauthorized use of 4-H records, (c) Obstruction or disruption of any 4-H activity or aiding and encouraging other persons to engage in such conduct, (d) Failure to comply or aiding or encouraging other persons not to comply with specific terms and conditions of a given project, contest, or activity, (e) Failure to comply with directions of 4-H officials acting in the proper performance of their duties, (f) Inhumane treatment of 4-H animal projects.

There are many opportunities for 4-H members, volunteers, parents and the public to participate in 4-H events and activities. When involved in such experiences, members, volunteers, parents and the public are expected to follow all rules and regulations as outlined by those responsible for the specific program or activity. In all such 4-H activities, the following constitute a violation of behavioral expectations:

1. Possession or use of fire crackers, gun powder, firearms, chemicals or other materials that can be used to create an explosive mixture.
2. Misuse of fire equipment or sounding a false fire alarm.
3. Having a guest of the opposite sex in your sleeping quarters.
4. Physical or verbal abuse of any person or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person.
5. Theft of or malicious damage to property.
6. Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco and tobacco-like products, or other dangerous substances.
7. Lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct.
8. Unauthorized entry, use or occupancy of any facility.
9. Any conduct which threatens or interferes with maintenance of appropriate order and discipline or invades the rights of others.

Grievance Guidelines for County 4-H Program Issues:

If there is need to file a grievance regarding a project or activity: The process starts with a small unbiased committee conducting an investigation. The burden of proof shall reside with the party filing the grievance. The 4-H member filing the grievance may appeal the decision to the 4-H Fair Board or the 4-H Leaders' Organization (depending on the specific grievance). The facts are reviewed and a decision is rendered. This decision may be appealed to the County Extension Board for their decision, as the final level in the appeal process.

