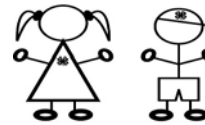


Kansas 4-H Cloverbuds'

Tips for Parents and Children



The Kansas 4-H Office joins with county and district K-State Research and Extension offices in answering frequently-asked questions about the Kansas 4-H Cloverbud program.

1. Q: What is 4-H Cloverbuds?

A: 4-H Cloverbuds is an educational, youth development opportunity specifically for 5- and 6-year-old children.

The 4-H Cloverbuds program is an optional 4-H program. Local Extension units can choose whether to make it available.

2. Q: Who can be a 4-H Cloverbud?

A: To be eligible to participate, a child must have celebrated his or her 5th or 6th birthday before January 1 of the current year.

When a child reaches the age of eligibility for traditional 4-H programs (age 7 or older), the child and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) can decide whether to transition their child into 4-H club membership.

3. Q: How can our family get involved?

A: Interested families are encouraged to contact the local Extension Office to inquire about educational opportunities with the 4-H Cloverbuds program.

4. Q: How can a 4-H Cloverbuds group be organized?

A: A minimum of five youth who have reached the qualifying age of eligibility are required to establish a 4-H Cloverbuds group. Cloverbuds groups can be organized and lead by a local 4-H club or facilitated as a county/district-wide option. Cloverbuds groups may also be organized within neighborhoods or school groups.

5. Q: Who leads 4-H Cloverbuds?

A: The 4-H Cloverbuds program requires two volunteer leaders for every 12 children participating in 4-H Cloverbuds activities. The volunteers may be adults or teens who enjoy working with 5- and 6- year old youth. Volunteers are required to have completed 4-H Volunteer Information Profile (VIP) and 4-H Cloverbuds training to serve.

6. Q: What happens during a 4-H Cloverbuds meeting?

A: Leaders are encouraged to review the *Cloverbuds' Guide* to choose a format that will work best for their group. A typical 4-H Cloverbuds meeting lasts one hour. The meeting is called to order, the 4-H pledge recited, and attendance is taken during the first 10 minutes. A lesson from the 4-H Cloverbuds curriculum typically takes about 30 - 40 minutes. Remaining time is spent enjoying friendship and fellowship.

7. Q: Where are 4-H Cloverbuds meetings held?

A: Ideal meeting places are centrally located, have good lighting, a comfortable temperature, adequate space and restrooms. If a 4-H Cloverbuds group is meeting simultaneously in the same facility as a 4-H Club, its meeting place should have a separate room with space for activities and enough space to arrange tables and chairs in a square or circle for all to see and hear each other.

8. Q: Who pays for 4-H Cloverbuds activities?

A: The 4-H Cloverbuds program does not require a membership fee. A local 4-H club or 4-H Council may sponsor a 4-H Cloverbuds group. A Cloverbuds Leader may ask 4-H Cloverbuds' parent(s) or guardian(s) to contribute to cover expenses for supplies or activities, such as a field trip.

9. Q: Does 4-H Cloverbuds count for achievement pin recognition?

A: No, Cloverbuds' recognition is based on participation.

10. Q: If a 4-H Club sponsors a 4-H Cloverbuds group, do Cloverbuds count towards the club seal?

A: 4-H Cloverbuds is a special enrollment category separate from the 4-H Club and does not count toward club seal requirements.

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11. Q: How are Cloverbuds recognized?

A: 4-H Cloverbuds receive recognition for participation, rather than placements or other competitive awards. Cloverbuds who participate together receive the same recognition.

12. Q: What special activities will be available for Cloverbuds?

A: 4-H Cloverbuds are eligible to participate in community service projects and supervised field trips.

Examples may include recycling cans or newspapers, sponsoring a food drive, or planting flowers in a park or other public area, etc. For more information on 4-H Cloverbuds' programs and activities, contact the local Extension Office.

13. Q: May 4-H Cloverbuds go to camp?

A: 4-H Cloverbuds are encouraged to attend Day Camps designed to meet their developmental characteristics and needs.

A 4-H Cloverbuds day camp involves youth in a one-day, camp-like setting where educational, hands-on activities occur. 4-H Cloverbuds are not yet eligible to attend overnight 4-H camps.

14. Q: Can 4-H Cloverbuds select a 4-H project to complete?

A: No, 4-H Cloverbuds is activity-focused, meaning that 4-H Cloverbuds participate in supervised, noncompetitive, and age-appropriate events and activities, rather than projects.

15. Q: Why is the 4-H Cloverbuds Program activities-based rather than project-based?

A: Developmentally appropriate activities for 5- and 6-year-olds focus on processes that help a child begin building life skills, such as learning to learn and making friends. The curriculum for 4-H Cloverbuds is designed to help youth begin building a foundation of transferable skills that he or she will be able to apply to a variety of activities as they grow.

16. Q. Are project records kept?

A: Projects are not part of the 4-H Cloverbuds curriculum, keeping a record book is not necessary.

17. Q: Can 4-H Cloverbuds exhibit at the county fair and/or participate in shows and exhibitions?

A: 4-H Cloverbuds are encouraged to showcase a product, poster or notebook of 4-H Cloverbuds activities. Suggested locations include noncompetitive show-and-tell-type displays at county fairs, libraries, schools, 4-H Parents' Nights, 4-H Achievement Nights, churches, community festivals, parades, etc.

Pets used as part of a show-and-tell presentation cannot be included in overnight exhibits at the fair.

Establishing a separate 4-H Cloverbuds division to showcase entries at the county fair is recommended. To maintain the noncompetitive nature of the showcase, Cloverbuds who participate together receive the same recognition.

A show-and-tell-type experience between a 4-H Cloverbud and an adult or older teen is encouraged to provide positive feedback for their effort.

18 Q: Can 4-H Cloverbuds exhibit livestock?

A: No, Kansas 4-H Cloverbuds do not allow exhibiting livestock. The 4-H Cloverbuds program is tailored to youth, with concerns for a child's physical, mental and emotional development. The physical difference in stature between a child and livestock can endanger a child. A child's maturity level and lack of understanding of animal behaviors also can increase the risk to the child. And, while a child may seem capable of handling livestock on the family farm and/or in familiar settings, managing livestock in a public setting can add stress and increase the risks for the child, the livestock and others who may be in the area. Allowing a young child to exhibit livestock in a public arena also increases the liability for all concerned.

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