



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

## 4-H Quick Reference for New Families

Welcome to our club! We hope you enjoy this quick, at a glance information page to help you navigate your family's first year in the organization.

### Danish Ribbon Award System

#### Basic Rankings

Purple—excellent, top prize

Blue—superior

Red—average

White—below average

### Looking for some 4-H swag? Maybe some educational tools?

[www.shop4-h.org](http://www.shop4-h.org)

## Events

**Fair:** This is the big one. Your child will exhibit the projects they have been working on all year with the hope of achieving the highest possible ribbon. Ribbons often are accompanied by premiums. That means for each ribbon earned, your kiddo gets a small amount of money as a bonus reward. The amounts typically increase as the ribbon rank increases.

**Record Books:** The kids will gripe about it, but this is the best way to secure a competitive edge on scholarships. Not only that, but a record book will assist your senior children as they go out into the job market or follow their entrepreneurial dreams. Record Books not only provide verifiable proof of your kid's skills, they teach valuable skills as well. Record keeping, goal setting, financials, filling out forms... all of it helps set your child up for lifelong success, if they participate.

**Club Days:** This event usually happens in late February and is a public speaking and performance festival. Kids can choose what area of public speaking they want to engage in and present. They earn ribbons, gain valuable experience performing in front of an audience, and can earn the opportunity to go to Regional Club Days. Whether your child enjoys reading, playing music, dancing, singing or even giving instructions, there is something for everyone to do at Club Days.

**4-H Camp:** Every summer, Rock Springs Ranch hosts sleep away camp for 4-Hers from all across the state. Families can choose what is most comfortable to them, 3 nights, 5 nights, or family camp where everyone gets to join in the fun. Learn more at <https://rockspringsranch.org/>

**Discovery Days:** 4-Hers get to stay on campus at KSU and explore the opportunities awaiting them if they choose to attend. They'll experience dorm life, college classes, and find what major may be the best fit for them and their future.

**Citizenship In Action:** 4-Hers travel to their state's capitol for a day of learning and civic engagement. They often meet a congress person and/or the state governor depending on schedules and other factors. They will learn about bills and the passage of laws by actually writing a bill themselves. It is an excellent learning and leadership opportunity that looks fantastic on a college resume or scholarship application.

**For even more educational event opportunities, visit our webpage at:**

<https://www.maraisdescygnés.k-state.edu/4-h/events/index.html>

## Sub Organizations

**4-H Council:** Leaders from all clubs in your county come together to discuss 4-H matters and often fair related business. It operates like a 4-H meeting that involves parents and children. 4-H Council is typically attended by a club leader and their kid, or by an elected parent/child duo. 100% attendance contributes to the club achieving a seal or pin.

**Committees:** Occasionally, your club will have events to coordinate outside of the meetings. Perhaps a parade float, trunk or treat, 4-H Booth and Banner or a fundraising event. For this, the club will form a committee so that the discussion doesn't have to happen during the business meeting. All 4-H families are encouraged to serve on at least one club committee. It's a fantastic way to connect with your club and community.

# 4-H Club Meetings

## What to expect

**Order:** The Meeting is broken into sections and is run by the club's governing body. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will sit in the front and run the meeting. The President will keep order with the gavel. Expect them to tap it if kids, or parents even, get noisy or out of order. Each office will give their report. There are a lot of different offices that are designed to give as many kids as possible a role to play in the meeting.

**Participation:** Each 4-Her is expected to stand when it is their turn to speak, raise their hand and wait to be recognized by the president before speaking, and listen to the club business without being disruptive. The business meeting shouldn't last any longer than 20 minutes.

**Motions and Seconding:** The parliamentary process asks that members of the club make what is called a "motion" and another member will offer a "second" in order to bring any items to a vote. It's fun as a 4-H Club member to work up the knowledge and courage to make their first motion or second within the meeting. It's fun as a parent to see that growth in your child.

To make a motion, your child should stand and say:

"Madam/Mister president, I move that our club \_\_\_\_\_."

To second the motion, your child should raise their hand, stand and say:

"I second the motion," or simply "I second it."

## What is expected of you

**Be there:** Kids get the most out of 4-H when it is approached as a family activity, and most meetings only last approximately 1 hour. Not only that, but 4-H is a fantastic way for all ages to make connections within the community. If you've recently moved to the area and are looking for ways to be involved, there's no better way than having joined 4-H.

**Listen:** There will be a lot of information given out at meetings. Times, dates, activities, new business, and volunteer opportunities. A note pad or device to notate it all for future reference would be very helpful. Also, watch your club's social media presence, or ask the club leader if you missed any crucial information and need reminded.

**Support:** Encourage your child to spend their 4-H time in a growth mindset. It is a safe place to participate and explore their interests in a way that is designed to build them up in as many ways as possible. If they have a spark of interest, help them fan it into a flame of learning that will help them their whole life long.

**Ask:** If you ever have questions or don't know what something is, always feel free to ask us at the extension office. We are always happy to help and you should never feel like a bother for calling, emailing, or stopping by. You can find our contact information on the website at <https://www.maraisdescygnnes.k-state.edu/about/staff/>

**Miami County Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MiamiCountyKS4H>

**Linn County Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LinnCountyKS4H>

**Need guidance? Have questions? Contact us at the Marais des Cygnés Office for information.**

**913 N Pearl St. Ste 1 Paola, KS 66071  
(913)294-4306**

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact **Karla Hightower** two weeks prior to the start of the event at (913) 294-4306 or [khightow@ksu.edu](mailto:khightow@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension