

Midway Extension District #15



4-H New Members Handbook

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Midway
District

The Midway Extension District #15
represents Ellsworth and Russell counties.

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4-H EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf. The “H” stands for HEAD - critical thinking and problem solving; HEART - self-discipline, integrity, and communication; HANDS - serving others; and HEALTH - choosing healthy lifestyles.



COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, spring-time and youth. White symbolizes purity.

4-H YEAR

A new 4-H year starts **October 1** each year and ends **September 30** of the following year, however, enrollment is open year round.

All pin and award applications, notebooks, record books, officers books and goal books must be turned in at the end of the 4-H year.

WHY DO 4-H MEMBERS LIKE 4-H?

1. THEY DEVELOP NEW INTERESTS
2. THEY MEET NEW PEOPLE
3. THEY LEARN NEW SKILLS
4. THEY BECOME MORE SELF-CONFIDENT
5. THEY SAMPLE CAREER INTERESTS
6. THEY TRAVEL
7. THEY **HAVE FUN**

4-H PLEDGE

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 MOTTO



'To Make The Best Better'

WHAT IS 4-H?

- 4-H is a volunteer led program.
- 4-H involves the entire family.
- 4-H is for boys and girls 7 to 18 years old.
- 4-H is for everyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap.
- 4-H is for rural and city youth.
- 4-H is an international organization that promotes hands-on learning.

4-H IS A FAMILY AFFAIR!

PURPOSE OF THE 4-H PROGRAM

To provide educational strategies and opportunities for youth and adults to work in partnership as they develop life skills to become healthy, self-directing, contributing members of society.

4-H FOCUSES ON THE FOLLOWING FIVE LIFE SKILLS:

- A positive self-concept
- An inquiring mind
- A concern for the community
- Healthy interpersonal relationships
- Sound decision making

WHO CAN BE A 4-H MEMBER?

4-H membership is open to all boys and girls who are 7 years old or older by January 1st of the current 4-H year. Some events require age limits. 4-H age is determined as of January 1 of the current 4-H year.

4-H CLOVERBUDS PROGRAM

A cloverbud is any child that is between the ages of 5 and 6 years old. The cloverbuds program is activity based not project based; it is a cooperative program not based on any competition. A cloverbud may become an official 4-H member when they are 7 by January 1st of the current 4-H year.



WHAT IS A 4-H CLUB?

A 4-H club typically has a structured business meeting and emphasizes community service, recreational activities and improving communication skills. The club is a group of boys and girls organized with officers. The club is organized within a neighborhood, a school, a church, a business, or social unit. This type of club is called a community 4-H Club.

Members may also be involved in project clubs which have similar meetings and community activities and are conducted with focus on a specific project. Also, youth may be members by taking part in special interest groups, school enrichment programs and other Extension sponsored programs and day camps.

Parents are encouraged to attend meetings with their 4-H'ers.

Most clubs hold monthly meetings, normally the same time each month (Example: 1st Monday or 3rd Sunday, etc.)





WHO CONDUCTS THE CLUB MEETING?

Each club normally elects officers at the beginning of the 4-H year. Officers elected may include president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, recreation leader and song leader. Other officers may be elected, depending on the club.

BUSINESS MEETING FORMAT

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
4. Reading of Communications
5. Reports of officers, council members or leaders
6. Reports of committees
 - Standing
 - Special
7. Unfinished Business
8. Initiation of new members, installation of officers or other ceremony
9. New Business
10. PROGRAM
11. Announcements
 - a. Project work
 - b. Discuss upcoming dates and deadlines
 - c. Announce place, date, hour, and tentative program for next meeting.
12. Adjournment



WHO'S WHO IN 4-H CLUB LEVEL

4-H MEMBER - Any child 7-18 years of age who fills out an application at ks.4honline.com and the participation form. Online enrollment is due by December 1st. In order to participate at District Club Day. In order to participate in the County Fair, you must be enrolled by May 1 (Some livestock projects have earlier deadlines. You'll want to check with the Midway Extension Office for those deadlines.)

COMMUNITY CLUB LEADER - A volunteer who is responsible for the organizational part of the club.

- * Be aware of county wide activities and information.
- * Be at the meetings 15 minutes ahead of time to discuss the night's agenda with the club president.
- * Have dates organized.
- * Provide support, recognition.
- * Guide the club to develop goals and activities based upon the interests of the club.
- * Enroll new members and re-enroll former members.
- * Attend quarterly leader updates.

PROJECT LEADERS - A volunteer who helps to teach youngsters about individual projects. This person may or may not be a 4-H parent who agrees to help with a project. It may also be a Jr. Leader or a person from the community who has knowledge in a particular subject matter area.

- * Makes an attempt to learn and keep current in the project material
- * Takes time to plan and have meetings.
- * Assists with project records.
- * Encourages project talks, demonstrations and completion of the project.

JR. LEADER - A 4-H member who is 12 years old and up or in sixth through twelve grade. They may participate in Jr. Leader meetings, activities and community service projects. Youth need to be enrolled in leadership project and in Jr. Leader Club.

AMBASSADORS - A 4-H ambassador is 9th grade or older and helps with promotion of 4-H. The Midway District Ambassador team consists of 8-10 youth, preferably 5 from each local unit and may serve a 2 year term (with option to renew).

CLUB OFFICERS – Club officers will vary some from club to club. Most clubs will have a:

President: Member who presides over the club meeting.

Vice President: Member who presides over the program part of the meeting and fills in when the president is absent.

Secretary: The member who keeps roll and minutes for the club.

Treasurer: The member responsible for the club financials.

Other officers that a club may have are:

Reporter: A member who writes reports for the local newspaper or the 4-H Update to tell 4-H news.

Historian: A member who keeps a 4-H scrapbook of the history of their club, keeping ribbons, comment sheets, photos, etc.

Recreation: A member that leads the club in recreation each month.

Song Leader: A member that shares some type of Music appreciation with the group each meeting.

Parliamentarian: A member who helps the club learn parliamentary law and teaches a lesson at club meetings.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT - An Extension representative who provides resources and assists in facilitating youth development through the 4-H program and other activities.



TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS FOR MEETING PROGRAMS

4-H members are expected to give project talks, illustrated talks or demonstrations after they have completed their first year. As 4-H'ers get older they may give a public speech.

SHOW & TELL is for first or second year members in grades 1 to 4. They bring something that they have made or done in 4-H and talk about it for no more than 3 minutes.

PROJECT TALK tells about a specific project and the 4-H'ers experience in that project.

ILLUSTRATED TALK tells how to do something using posters or visual aids and a finished product may or may not be available.

DEMONSTRATION shows how to do something by actually doing it and a finished product should be available.

PUBLIC SPEECH is intended to assist older, more experienced members to further develop confidence and skill in speaking before an audience. In public speaking, members may speak on any topic of their interest. Visuals may be used.

Talking about your steer would be a project talk. Telling how to select a steer using a chart and identifying the points to consider would be an illustrated talk. Making a show halter would be a demonstration. Talking about the total beef industry would be a public speech.

MUSIC APPRECIATION sharing of a musical number, through vocal or instrumental performance. Sharing of a genre of music (jazz, classical, bagpipes etc.) by listening to a CD or Tape.

4-H PROJECTS



From Rabbits to Rocketry ... From Cooking to Crafts ... 4-H has over 50 projects in a wide variety of topics. Choose what you are interested in and "Just Do It". And if you don't find your favorite hobby in the project selection list then you can enroll in the "Self-Determined" project and do anything you wish. Your imagination is your only limit.

4-H members should take at least one project each year and complete the records for that project. If there is a project leader for that particular project they will notify members about when and where the project meetings will be held. Project meetings are generally held throughout the year. Most projects require approximately 4 project meetings and often times more are held.

PROJECT SELECTION

In choosing, a project, a member will consult with his/her parents and 4-H leader(s). After considering all the projects available and the requirements of each, he/she should select one based on:

1. Their interests and capabilities.
2. Their family situation.
3. Suitability of the area in which they live.

Members enrolling for the first time are encouraged to take only ONE project. As a member gains in knowledge and experience, the size of the project may be increased and additional projects selected. This is an individual decision. Members may want to ask the project leader, if there is one, about the project and requirements for it.

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4-H PROJECTS CONTINUED

Early in a member's 4-H career, a member should consider developing a tentative project plan to guide them until they are past the 4-H age. When enrolling in additional projects, a 4-H member should try to include those projects which are related to their other project work. For example an electric project member may enroll in home improvement, woodworking, safety, or automotive projects. An older member may consider expanding project work to develop a completed farm, ranch, business or home management program.

The project is the core of the 4-H member's experience. It is the center of many activities and experiences in which members should be encouraged to participate. The experienced member will find satisfaction in expanding their project work, in learning experiences of greater depth, in a career or a vocational possibility, in learning "why" behind the "how to do it." Each of these relates to the project the member selects.

HOW ARE PROJECTS CONDUCTED?

Project work is conducted through various activities and events such as:

1. Project meetings at the local club or county-wide
2. Demonstrations and talks at regular club meetings
3. Tours
4. Family activities or work at home
5. Exhibiting at shows and fairs
6. Record keeping



Project Categories:

For more information on each project, see the Project Selection Guide in the folder or at <http://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/projects/projects.html>

Ag Mechanics Welding
Agronomy
Astronomy
Beef
Building Block Engineering
Civic Engagement
Communications
Computer Science



Foods & Nutrition
Forestry
Geology
Health & Wellness
Horse
Horticulture & Landscape Design
Interior Design & Architecture



Reading
Rocketry/Aerospace
Robotics
Self Determined
Sewing and Textile Design
Sheep
Shopping in Style



Dairy Cattle
Dairy Goats
Dog
Electric & Renewable Energy
Entomology (Bugs)
Environmental Science
Family Studies
Fiber Arts (Knitting, Crochet, Weaving)



Leadership
Meat Goats
Performing Arts
Pets
Photography
Poultry
Rabbits



Shooting Sports
Small Engines
Swine
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems
Veterinary Science
Visual Arts
Wildlife
Woodworking



THE RIBBON



*The following is taken from an article entitled **The Ribbon** ,
by Judy Johnson, Yankton County, South Dakota
Extension Home Economist.*

As familiar as we are with 4-H, there are many people who believe judging starts at the purple ribbon level and goes down. **NOT TRUE!** Judging begins at the red ribbon level.

A RED RIBBON means that the project has met all the minimum standards for its class. The exhibit shows that an honest effort has been put forth, and while there are visible signs of needed improvement, the skill level of the 4-H'er is going up.

A BLUE RIBBON means that the project has exceeded the minimum standard set for its class. The exhibit has small flaws where improvements can be made.

A PURPLE RIBBON means that the exhibit is outstanding on all of the standards set up for the project. There are usually no flaws and if there are one or two very small ones, only the trained eye of a judge would see them.

Lastly comes the **WHITE RIBBON**. In all 4-H competition, it is probably the most misunderstood ribbon placing. A white ribbon means that, for one reason or another, the exhibit did not meet all of the minimum standards. What it **DOES NOT MEAN** is that the exhibit isn't worthwhile! In fact the white ribbon best emphasizes the meaning of 4-H; that the youngster has attempted a learned skill and demonstrated that skill in a public event. The public eye is one of the toughest tests that any 4-H'er can put his/her skills and knowledge up against. When 4-H'ers see a white ribbon, the first question they should be asking themselves is, "What have I learned, and how can I make it better?" Aside from any placement of ribbons, what is most important is that the child was participating in an activity that will build his/her character in learning life skills that will be of benefit to them for life.

People remember the child, not the ribbon color.

****Important Note: Not all County Fairs follow
the same judging systems.****



STILL HAVE QUESTIONS???

We have the answers for you ...
check out these additional resources:

Our Website—
midway.k-state.edu/4-h/
Kansas 4-H Website—
kansas4-h.org/

Or call our offices:
Ellsworth 785-472-4442
Russell 785-483-3157

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NOTES:

