

Membership

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DEFINITIONS AND POLICIES

Washington 4-H is the youth development education program of the Washington State University Extension. 4-H is open to all youth without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, economic status, or geographic location. Marriage or pregnancy does not disqualify youth from 4-H membership or participation.

Youth may participate through 4-H, project and community clubs, school enrichment programs, school-age child care programs; special interest groups; short term programs, including day camps; overnight camping programs; or family learning programs.

4-H MEMBERS

Youth who have completed enrollment in an organized, ongoing local 4-H unit and are aware of their involvement in 4-H are designed as 4-H members.

1. Be enrolled in grades K-12.

Youth are considered to be in the grade in which they are currently enrolled, or in the grade they have just completed. For example, a youth who has completed 4th grade is defined as a 4th grader until he or she starts 5th grade.

- a) Youth who **start school at a later than normal age or repeat a grade** will not be eligible for 4-H membership until they enroll in kindergarten or a higher grade. They may continue membership through the 12th grade.
- b) Persons who are **developmentally disabled** are enrolled in a non-graded category. They become eligible for membership when their age peers enter kindergarten and are allowed to remain in the program as long as it is beneficial to them.

- c) Youth in **non-graded or split grades** are eligible for appropriate membership when they are included in the grade/age equivalents for K-12 as defined by Washington statutes (described below).
- d) Youth in **home schools** are eligible for 4-H membership when they are included in the grade/age equivalents for Grades K-12 as defined by Washington statutes. These are:

- Age 5-6 Kindergarten
- Age 6-7 First Grade
- Age 7-8 Second Grade
- Age 8-9 Third Grade
- Age 9-10 Fourth Grade
- Age 10-11 Fifth Grade
- Age 11-12 Sixth Grade
- Age 12-13 Seventh Grade
- Age 13-14 Eight Grade
- Age 14-15 Ninth Grade
- Age 15-16 Tenth Grade
- Age 16-17 Eleventh Grade
- Age 17-18 Twelfth Grade

The statute requires that children be tested annually at the appropriate grade/age level. To determine the grade level of home-schooled children, ask the parents at what level their children were last tested.

- e) Youth who drop out of school may continue 4-H membership until their age peers (former classmates) graduate from high school.

GRADE DIVISIONS

4-H membership is further defined using four categories relating to the developmental stages of youth. These are:

Primary	Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd
Juniors	3rd, 4th, 5th
Intermediates	6th, 7th, 8th
Seniors	9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

INTER-COUNTY AND INTER-STATE 4-H MEMBERSHIP

Washington State University Extension administers the 4-H youth development education program whose mission is to develop youth to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring, and contributing citizens. Each county in Washington conducts the 4-H youth development program to accomplish this goal. To affirm Washington Extension's position concerning cross country (and/or cross state line) 4-H membership and to establish guidelines in this area to fulfill the above mission, the following philosophy and process statements are provided:

1. The county (and state) of residence is the primary county (and state) for 4-H enrollment. Youth are expected to affiliate with the program in their county of residence. Bordering counties may determine local guidelines for cross county line enrollment.
2. 4-H membership in two counties in the same project simultaneously is not permitted.
3. Cross state line membership will be considered the same as for cross county participation.
4. It is recognized that limited situations may occur where membership in a county other than the county of residence might be positive. The 4-H professionals in both counties must be in agreement that the change should occur. This agreement should be based on their professional judgment in accord with the opening paragraph of this policy.
5. Consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence should be given only in situations where a positive educational experience will result. Any change motivated by perceived competitive or sale advantage, any change due to controversial issues, or other similar motivations will not be seen as justified reasons for consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence, and should be automatically rejected by the agents involved.
6. Any consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence, within the limits of this policy and not addressed by the above statements should be brought to the attention of the county chair, and/or 4-H state staff by county 4-H professionals. This support team will then provide leadership for decisions in these special situations.

TRANSFER OF 4-H MEMBERSHIP

A youth who wishes to transfer membership in 4-H from one county to another or from another state must:

1. Initiate a request and discuss the situation with the Extension 4-H Educator in their current county of residence.
2. A transfer will be considered for the following reasons:
 - a) change in the child's families' permanent residence; from current county to a second county identified by the 4-H member. (It is noted that in the case of a family owning residence in two or more counties, the permanent residence county will be determined by the public school system in which the 4-H member would be enrolled.)
 - b) through a legal and/or court decision such as in parental custodial situations or adoption/guardian proceedings that requires a change in residence;
3. The 4-H Educator in the current place of residence will take the leadership to discuss the situation with the Educator in the county that the individual wishes to transfer to.
4. This policy refers to transfer of 4-H membership only. Any participation in activities, events, etc. would fall under the time-tables and deadlines as established in the county of transfer.
5. Consideration for a membership transfer should be given only in situations where positive, educational experience will result that would otherwise not be possible. Any transfer motivated by perceived competitive or sale advantage, any transfer due to controversial issues, or similar motivations will not be seen as justified reasons for transfer consideration and should be automatically rejected by the Extension Educator involved.

ADULT GROUP ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

Who's Eligible?

- ◆ Adults 18 years and older who will be working with 4-H for a very short period of time.
- ◆ Persons who are not trained.
- ◆ Volunteers who will not have unsupervised contact with youth

What's the Criteria?

This information is designed for adults who will be participating in the 4-H Youth Development Program for a very short period of time. Examples of this are a teacher or bus driver that participates in the Challenge program with a group of students, an adult who chaperones a field trip, or classroom aid that helps with a school enrichment project. Of course, if the role of a person increases, they should be enrolled on the single enrollment form and screened accordingly.

Ask the following questions about a volunteer to determine if they can be group enrolled:

1. Is the person's involvement in a 4-H program incidental to their involvement with another group that is using a 4-H program or facility?
2. Will the volunteer have unsupervised contact with youth?
3. Will the volunteer be on an overnight activity with youth?
4. Will the volunteer receive 4-H training to perform the task?
5. Will the volunteer meet with 4-H youth on an ongoing basis?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions then the volunteer CANNOT be enrolled on the group form. Use the 4-H Enrollment Form (C1003) and 4-H screening procedures.

Volunteers enrolled using the Group enrollment form are not eligible for Labor and Industries Medical Aid program, are not covered for liability and do not need to be screened.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP

1. The use of illegal drugs and/or the improper use of animal health products or foreign substances will not be tolerated in the Washington State 4-H Youth Development Program. Extension personnel, 4-H volunteers, families, youth and fair/show officials have a legal and moral obligation not to misuse these products. We have the responsibility to tell others not to use these substances, and to report those who do use any illegal substance.

The administration of any drug or medication which could affect an animal's performance resulting in an unfair advantage or the disposition of the animal, is unacceptable. Additionally, there are federal penalties for using illegal substances in animals that are going into the nation's food supply.

2. 4-H members in Washington State need not own their 4-H project animals. Members may lease a market animal if it is not to be sold at a junior livestock auction.

3. Two 4-H members may jointly care for and show one animal. These two 4-H members may not compete in the same class or lot at the same event.
4. Animals must be under the 4-H member's daily care and management for the following periods of time prior to the official county exhibit activity, including junior livestock shows:

Equine- 90 days
Market Beef- 120 days
Breeding Beef- 90 days
Llama- 90 days
Dairy (except Dairy Heifer Replacement)- 90 days
Dairy Heifer Replacement- 60 days
Dairy Goat- 60 days
Goats- 60 days
Sheep and Swine (Breeding and Market)- 60 days
Cats- 60 days
Dog-60 days
Rabbits, Cavies, and Poultry- 45 days

Animals raised by the 4-H member from birth or hatching are exempt from the minimum time periods.

5. Showing horned cattle:
 - a) Market steers must be polled or dehorned; healed or regrowth must not extend more than two inches from the hairline. Horned breeding animals must have the horn tips covered as a safety precaution.
 - b) Goats entered in market and showmanship classes must be polled or dehorned. Horned animals in breeding classes must have the horn tips covered as a safety precaution.
 - c) No dairy animals with horns are permitted except in the Junior Heifer Calf
 - d) class. The definition of horns includes "scurs," "nubbing," or "stubs" that extend more than one inch beyond the skin.
 - e) No horned dairy goat animals are allowed.
6. Showing unaltered male breeding animals: beef bulls may be exhibited if born in the current 4-H year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30); rams less than 24 months; swine boars under 6 months; buck goats under 6 months; and yearling equines less than 12 months of age may be shown by 4-H youth.
7. Bison and Bison-blooded Animals: the bison is not a domesticated animal and must be treated with caution and respect. Each animal has its own distinct personality, each animal is unpredictable, and only a professional wildlife trainer should attempt to train a bison. Therefore, bison and animal with bison blood are not to be used as a project animal in Washington State 4-H.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Effective August 1994
Between
AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
WASHINGTON FFA ASSOCIATION
and
WSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
concerning
4-H AND FFA PROGRAM OPERATION IN WASHINGTON STATE

Agriculture Education/FFA and the 4-H Youth Development Programs in Washington State exist to promote the maximum, personal development of participants. To achieve this and avoid program duplication, guiding principles must be understood and used by all professional leaders. We recommend that the following principles be used in carrying out the two programs in Washington State's 39 counties.

1. Agriculture Education teachers should encourage students to enroll and reenroll in the 4-H program.
2. County extension agents and adult volunteer leaders should encourage members to enroll in Agriculture Education classes available in local secondary schools and to become members of the Washington FFA Association.
3. A member may participate in all judging or bowl division activities in FFA and 4-H unless contests are held simultaneous. Then the member must choose one.
4. Members simultaneously enrolled in 4-H and FFA must have separate projects or animals for each program during the same calendar year. The program year is October 1 to September 30. For example a member may carry a dairy project for FFA and 4-H as long as he or she uses a different animal and project for each program. The goal of both organizations is youth education. Involvement in both programs should result in the enhancement of the educational experience.
5. Members cannot exhibit the same product or individual animal in both FFA and 4-H divisions during one program year. Project records that inventory project or enterprise must accompany each article or animal when it is entered at an exhibit or fair.

Statements 3, 4, and 5 will be used to govern policy for state 4-H and FFA members in the future. These policies should also be followed at district, county, and community shows and fairs.

6. Publicity should reflect the total contributions of both organizations.
7. For the benefit of both 4-H and FFA, separate divisions should be provided in all fairs in the state to eliminate competition between the members of the two organizations. Champions representing the two organizations will not compete against each other. However, when a situation in a particular fair or show indicates that the creation of a youth division (without 4-H or FFA identification) is desirable, a single division may be organized with the agreement of the local agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, the county extension agents, show

management, and state leaders in 4-H and FFA. Local fairs or shows may set up special rules and regulations to manage that event. However, these must be in accordance with this memorandum.

8. Other cooperative programs, such as summer training programs, can be jointly planned and administered by representatives of FFA and 4-H. When practical, youths from 4-H and FFA shall be encouraged to work together in their home communities. In these cases, FFA and 4-H should both receive proper recognition.
9. Cooperative Extension of Washington State University; the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Special Services and Vocational Education; Agriculture Education; and Washington State FFA as the "approving agents" for youth shows and fairs (15.76.120 (4) RCW) will inform each other in advance of basic changes contemplated for the specific youth fairs and shows for which each has the contracted responsibility; each approving agency will co-sign contracts on youth shows where both FFA and 4-H are involved. Administration of funds for the Marysville Junior Livestock Show, Washington Junior Poultry Exposition, Northwest Junior Livestock Show, Toppenish Livestock Show, Washington Spring Fair, and Washington State FFA Exhibition will remain with the Washington Association of FFA. Washington State University will continue as administrator of funds for Spokane Junior Livestock Show, Eastern Washington Junior Horse Show, Washington State 4-H Fair, Washington Junior Lamb Carcass Show, and Enumclaw Junior Dairy Show.
10. The existing agreement concerning youth shows and fairs is terminated. The provisions of that agreement of April 1962 as amended in April 1970, 1973, 1976, and 1983 are either no longer applicable or are covered by Department of Agriculture regulations.

It is recommended that district or county meetings be held with agents and vocational agriculture and natural resources teachers periodically to discuss their roles and to determine local application. Frequent contacts between the agents and teachers for mutual support and planning of leadership development programs are encouraged.