



4-H Frequently Asked Questions



1. How old does my child have to be to be able to join 4-H?

Youth are eligible to participate in 4-H as primary members if they are 5 years old or in kindergarten as of January 1 of the program year. If they are 9 years old or in fourth grade by January 1 of the program year, they can enroll as regular members. Primary Members do not participate in competition and are not permitted to work with large livestock. Primary members may receive participation recognition only.

2. What do the “H”s stand for in 4-H?

Head, Heart, Hands and Health

3. What is the value of 4-H to a youth?

4-H helps to enable all youth to reach their fullest potential by developing their leadership, citizenship and life skills.

4. Do 4-H members deal only with the raising of livestock and/or farm animals?

No! There are hundreds of projects 4-H Members work with... including photography, crafts, cooking, skateboarding, camping, etc. For a complete list call the 4-H office or go on line and go to the Clubs & Projects page. http://ucanr.org/edc_clubs_and_projects

5. How often are the Community Club meetings?

These meetings are held once a month. Members who attend all of their Community Club meetings in person will receive a 100% Attendance Pin.

6. Are there any requirements for 4-H members to show at their local county fairs?

Yes, to be eligible for showing at the fair a member must be at least 9 years old, attend 80% of their club meetings and project meetings, attend the yearly Round Up event (usually held on the first weekend of May), have a written record of their 4-H work, and be enrolled in 4-H before Oct. 15th.

7. When can my child join 4-H?

Open enrollment starts August 1st and ends October 15th of each year. The “Club Season” usually runs from October through the end of May. If you miss the deadline date, you can still join, however you will not be eligible to show at the fair if you enroll after October 15th.

8. Once my child joins a 4-H club in our community, can he/she change his/her mind and transfer to another club?

Yes, after October 15th members changing clubs must notify in writing the leaders of both the club they are leaving and the club they are planning to join, and also the UCCE office within 30 days of the transfer.

9. What are County-Wide Projects?

County-wide projects are similar to other projects, but are open to any member in the county, no matter what 4-H club they are enrolled in.

10. Where can I go to find more information regarding 4-H?

On the state level, you can go to the Internet address of www.ca4h.org; and on the El Dorado County level you can go to <http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu>.

11. How do I know what club to join?

Chose a club that's location and meeting times are convenient for you. Information regarding Community Clubs can be obtained by calling the El Dorado County – University of California Cooperative Extension Office at [530-621-5503](tel:530-621-5503). The staff will take your contact information and then have the leader of the club of your choice contact you with more information.

12. Is there a handout that can be sent to me regarding 4-H?

The UCCE office does not mail out information. They will, however, be happy to give you more information regarding 4-H if you come to their office at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville during normal working hours. You can also go to the EDC 4-H web site at: <http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu> for more detailed information.

13. What is a 4-H All Star member?

All Star members are the ambassadors of the 4-H program in the county. All Stars plan their own program within established guidelines.

14. What are Junior/Teen Leaders?

Members in the sixth through eighth grades may be a Junior Leader and members in the ninth grade and above can be Teen Leaders. These members may lead a project under the supervision of an adult leader.

15. How does a 4-H member achieve a Super 4-H Member Award?

This award can be achieved by any member who qualifies by completing 20 of the 25 items on the Super 4-Her list. The Super 4-H Member Award form can be found on the 4-H county website (ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu) under 4-H program/Record Books/Super 4-H form.

16. Do 4-H members have to wear a uniform to meetings or when competing at the fair?

There is no uniform requirement in the 4-H program, and the uniform cannot be required for participation in any 4-H sponsored activity, event, meeting or occasion. However, all California fairs and expositions require exhibitors that are 4-H members to wear their 4-H uniforms for identification purposes. Uniform guidelines can be found on the 4-H website and in the Member Guide on page 20.

17. What are the requirements to become a 4-H Leader or Volunteer?

All potential 4-H leaders and/or volunteers must be fingerprinted, and be cleared in a background check prior to appointment, complete an orientation, submit an application and agree to the Volunteer Code of Conduct. Volunteers are appointed agents of the University of California to carry out their duties as educators under the policies set forth at the national, state, and county levels.

18. How many projects can a member participate in?

There are no limits to the projects a member may participate in. To encourage success for first year members it is recommended that they consult their club leaders regarding the number of projects they plan to take.

For more information, contact the UCCE office at **530-621-5503**.

Or by mail at: **311 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667**

Or visit our Web site at: <http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu> (Click on the 4-H Icon)