

LINCOLN COUNTY 4-H POLICIES

These policies apply in addition to the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Policies for Lincoln County 4-H.

Revised and Adopted (May 24, 2016) by Lincoln County 4-H Board of Directors

Membership

Youth Membership

All 4-H members need to enroll using the 4honline enrollment program at <http://wi.4honline.com>. If you do not have access to this website, please contact the UW-Extension office and we will be happy to assist you in enrolling.

New Enrollment:

We recommend visiting the clubs you are interested in joining, watching how the club works and meeting the leaders and members of that club. A list of current Lincoln County 4-H Clubs is available through the UW Extension office or on the Lincoln County 4-H website at <http://lincoln.uwex.edu/>, click on 4-H Youth Development, then 4-H Community Club Program, and then 4-H Clubs in Lincoln County.

Youth Enrollment Deadlines

Enrollment must be entered in 4honline by the date listed to be on time.

November 1st

Deadline for re-enrollments to join 4-H and still be able to exhibit at the county fair in Junior Division as a 4-H member. **If you miss this re-enrollment deadline, you will not be able to exhibit at the county fair in the Junior Division as a 4-H member.** If a youth has been absent/inactive as a 4-H member for more than 12 months, they would be considered a new member upon joining 4-H again. *(Policy change adopted June 25, 2008 by 4-H Board of Directors).*

March 1st

Deadline for new members to join 4-H and still be able to exhibit at the county fair in the Junior Division.

After March 1st

May still join 4-H, but will not be allowed to exhibit at the county fair in the Junior Division. Youth enrolling after March 1st may participate in all other 4-H programs and activities as a member.

May 1st

Last date to change (add or drop) a project. Youth must be enrolled in the project by this date to exhibit in that project area at the county fair in Jr. Division.

June 15th

Fair entry deadline, no one may switch enrollment status once fair entries are submitted. Fair entry process and books are available on the Lincoln County Fair website at <http://www.lincolncofair.com> (NOTE: In order to exhibit items at the Lincoln County Fair as a 4-H member, you must be enrolled by the above date in 4-H through 4-H Online and you must also enter your exhibits through the SEPARATE Lincoln County Fair Association's entry process by June 15th.)

No enrollment forms will be accepted in the UW-Extension Office
without **CLUB LEADER APPROVAL**

Adult Volunteer

All leaders will need to enroll using the 4honline enrollment program at <http://wi.4honline.com>. If you do not have access to this website, please contact the UW-Extension office and we will be happy to assist you in enrolling.

New Enrollment:

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of 4-H, you should enroll through the 4honline system. Once your enrollment is received, you will be sent information to complete the Youth Protection Process. Completion of this process is required to become a 4-H volunteer leader. This process includes completing new 4-H Volunteer Orientation Training, a background check and signing a volunteer expectation statement. Volunteer leaders do not have to belong to a specific 4-H Club, but can become Resource leaders and help offer 4-H programs at the county level.

Adult Volunteer Enrollment Deadlines

Enrollment must be entered in 4honline by the date listed to be on time.

November 1st

Re-enrollments entered in 4honline.

May 1st

Deadline for all new leaders to complete New Volunteer Training. After May 1st, any adult who has not completed this volunteer training will lose their status as a 4-H volunteer and will no longer be considered an enrolled 4-H leader in Lincoln County.

We strongly encourage leaders to get their enrollments entered as soon as possible, so they don't get missed on our mailing lists and can get their project materials early.

Participation

- A. Expectations of Participants
 1. 4-H participants agree to abide by the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Code of Conduct when enrolling annually.
 2. Youth participating in county, state and national 4-H sponsored events may be required to read and sign a behavior expectation form specific to the event they are participating in.
 3. All 4-H members, volunteer leaders and parents/guardians must abide by all Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development and Lincoln County 4-H Policies.
- B. Project Requirements
 1. Youth in grades 5-year old Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders enroll in Cloverbuds project.
 2. Youth in 8th grade and older are eligible to serve as youth leaders. If the member wants to be a participant in the project AND be a youth leader, the member must enroll in both the project itself and in the project, Yth Ldr. Youth serving as youth leaders should also enroll in the appropriate Youth Leadership project.
 3. All Members, excluding Cloverbuds, may take the number of projects they feel they are capable of completing, with parents/guardians and leaders approval.
 4. Records should be kept for each project and entered in member's memory book.
 5. To exhibit at the county fair, members must follow guidelines stated for each individual department in the fair exhibitor handbook. Signing up for a 4-H project does not enter youth in the fair. There is a separate form to enter your fair exhibits that is due on June 15th. You can find information at the Lincoln County Fair website at <http://www.lincolncofair.com> on how to enter your fair exhibits.

C. Awards

1. Membership Pins

- Youth will receive year pins when they complete their 1st, 5th and 10th year of 4-H.
- When youth graduate from 4-H, they will receive a certificate and alumni pin.

2. Yearly Memory Book Awards

- 4-H Club members submit their yearly memory book through their club leaders.
- Information about completing a yearly memory book is available from the UW-Extension office or on the Lincoln County 4-H website at www.lincolncounty4h.com and click on awards button.
- Memory Books will be divided and judged in groups according to the member's grade (Cloverbuds – Grade K – 2nd; Grades 3-5th; Grades 6-8th; and Grades 9-13th). The County Memory Book committee will judge the memory books giving them a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Participation rating. Cloverbud memory books will not be judged but receive a participation award.
- Any type of yearly record (portfolio, memory book, video record, etc.) will be accepted and judged according to the standards outlined on the judging sheet available from the UW-Extension office or on the Lincoln County 4-H website at www.lincolncounty4h.com.
- All youth who complete a yearly memory book will receive an incentive.

3. Older Youth Trips and Awards

- Youth in grades 6th and above are encouraged to apply for the older youth awards and trips. More information about the trips and awards can be found on the Lincoln County 4-H website at www.lincolncounty4h.com and click on awards.
- Members may only receive the same award or trip once.
- Additional rules may be specified for each award or trip.

Lincoln County 4-H Grant Program

A. The Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association has established a Grant Program that provides financial sponsorships for Lincoln County 4-H members from limited resource families or families experiencing a financial hardship.

1. This grant program only provides funding for county, regional, state or national 4-H programs or events.
2. 4-H members must complete and submit an application requesting sponsorship 45 days prior to participation in the program or event.
3. All requests will be handled in a confidential manner and approved/denied by the Lincoln County 4-H Board of Directors.
4. Applicants are reminded that Lincoln County 4-H offers an opportunity for individuals to fundraise during the fair by working at the Lincoln County Dairyland Stand. 4-H youth and members of their families who work at the stand during the fair can designate the fundraised monies to go toward a specific member's trip. If the trip has already been paid for or taken, we encourage people to volunteer and "pay it forward" by designating the raised monies to go toward this grant. We strongly urge all applicants to volunteer at the Dairyland Stand to help off-set the expenses of these grants.

4-H Board of Directors Steps for Violations of the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Code of conduct

1. Youth accused of violating any part of the Code of Conduct while participating in a club, county, state or national 4-H related activity will be notified and required to appear before the 4-H Board of Directors. Other relevant parties may appear at the request of the youth or the board.
2. If the accused youth is found to be in violation of the Code of Conduct, they are subject to any of the consequences as outlined in the Code of Conduct and/or put in place by the 4-H Board of Directors. This may include consequences that are restorative in nature and intended for the youth to learn from and to make amends.
3. Appeals Procedure - If the youth wishes to appeal the decision of the 4-H Board of Directors, the youth must appeal in writing to the President of the 4-H Leaders' Association, Inc. and the 4-H Youth Development Educator through the UW-Extension office (801 N. Sales Street, Suite 101, Merrill, WI 54452) within ten (10) days following notification of disciplinary action to be taken.

Cancellation Policy

Lincoln County 4-H Programs (county, club and groups) are automatically canceled if Lincoln County or the county where the event is scheduled to occur is under a Winter Storm, Wind Chill, Tornado, Blizzard or Severe Thunderstorm Warning(s) as issued by the National Weather Service.

Remember we're in the business of teaching youth to be safe. That includes knowing when to stay home.

When possible, cancellations of county programs will be posted on the Lincoln County UW-Extension website home page <http://lincoln.uwex.edu/> and the Lincoln County 4-H blog <http://fyi.uwex.edu/lincolncounty4h/>. Check with your club leader to see how your club notifies members of club cancellations.

Amendments

The 4-H Board of Directors of the Lincoln County 4-H Leaders' Association, Inc. may make amendments or additions to the Lincoln County 4-H Policies. Membership will be notified of the changes and the date they will be discussed through the 4-H newsletter or in a letter to Club Organizational Leaders.