

Pickaway County 4-H First Year Simple



What is Pickaway County 4-H?

On behalf of the Pickaway County Extension Office, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family! 4-H has been a long-standing tradition in Pickaway County for over 100 years!

4-H is a non-formal, educational youth development program that helps kids "learn by doing" through hands-on activities. 4-H members, ages 5-18, learn valuable lessons in leadership, communication, teamwork and more while increasing their knowledge in

math, science, technology, and a variety of other topics.

Youth ages 5 (and in kindergarten) through 8 are eligible to join 4-H as Cloverbuds. They can participate in hands-on, fun, educational opportunities that are non-competitive.

Youth ages 9 (or 8 and in the 3rd grade) through 18 can join 4-H as project members. They can select projects in any area including, but not limited to, science, cooking, art, gardening, natural resources, sewing, shooting sports, and livestock.

We are excited to have you join our organization of over 800 youth from all over Pickaway County! This new-family guide has lots of information to help you begin your Pickaway County 4-H journey, and the 4-H staff is here to support you along the way.

Yours in 4-H,

Joy E Sharp

Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

What is Expected of a 4-H Member?

- 1. Join a 4-H Club.** Your first task is to select a 4-H club to join. Each club has a different tone, feel, and day they meet, so select a club that is the best fit for you! You can take any project through any club, with the exception of shooting sports projects. There is a county shooting sports club for that specific activity.
- 2. Enroll in 4-HOnline.** Once you've selected your club, it is time to enroll in 4-H. You will need to create a profile (or re-enroll with last year's profile if this is not your first year). The instructions to enroll can be found at www.pickaway.osu.edu. The Pickaway 4-H enrollment deadline is February 15th.
- 3. Attend your club meetings.** Attending club meetings is pertinent to your success in 4-H. It's the best way for you to get involved, make friends, keep track of important deadlines, and have fun! Most meetings have the following components: business, education, service, activities and social. To be a member in good standing, you must attend at least 6 club meetings per year. Your club may have additional requirements so be sure to ask your advisor.



Pickaway County 4-H member sharing his project with a judge at 4-H Project Judging

- 4. Pick your 4-H project.** Did you know there are more than 200 4-H projects to choose from? There are plenty of options for you to find a project in an area that interests you! Please note that while you can create your own by taking a self-determined project, we greatly discourage this for new members! There is no limit to the number of projects you can take, but we suggest starting with one to two projects your first year. Projects can be explored at projectcentral.ohio4h.org, or you can visit the Pickaway County Extension Office's library.
- 5. Complete your 4-H project.** Each 4-H project has its own set of requirements. You can find the complete list of project guidelines at Pickaway.osu.edu under "Advisor Resources". Enjoying your project and having a great experience is important to us. If you need help, contact the 4-H staff and we will be happy to assist you. Your club advisors and teen leaders are here to support you as well. In

addition, often there are volunteers who would be happy to help if you are looking for guidance specific to a particular subject.

- 6. Participate in project judging.** To complete your 4-H year, you must complete your project book and participate in interview judging for each project your take. Project judging is held each year in June at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds.
- 7. Showcase your project at the Pickaway County Fair.** 4-H clubs have an opportunity to set up a booth at the Pickaway County Fair to showcase their projects. If you are taking a livestock or horse project, you will also get to show your animal at the fair. Participation at the fair is optional, but highly encouraged. It's a great way for our 4-H community to come together and celebrate the great year we've had! Active members get a free pass into the fair generously provided by the Senior Fair Board.

What is the Time Commitment Involved with 4-H Membership?



4-H members canoeing at 4-H Camp

The expectation of 4-H members is that they make a concerted effort to attend all club meetings. If you have a conflict, communicate with your club advisor to find out what information and programs you missed.

4-H meetings typically last between one to two hours. Frequency of meetings varies between clubs, but on average is about twice a month from January through July and once a month in the fall. Your club may also choose to conduct a fundraiser or be part of a community service opportunity.

Members will select at least one 4-H project to complete for the year. The time commitment involved with each project is a little bit different. Some projects, such as horses or livestock, require daily attention for feeding and watering. Other

projects, such as cooking or woodworking, have an outline of activities that can be completed at your leisure. 4-H members can read project book descriptions and project guidelines on our website at projectcentral.ohio4h.org for a better idea of how involved a particular project will be. You are also encouraged to call the Extension Office with questions.

In addition to club involvement, members are invited and encouraged to participate in 4-H on a county level. Some of the activities include: 4-H Camp, Communication Contest, Open House, and more! There are also opportunities on a state and national level for members to explore as they grow through their 4-H career. Participation in these events are not a required part of 4-H membership.

Who Are the 4-H Volunteers?

4-H would not happen without all of our amazing volunteers! In Pickaway County, there are over 100 volunteers who serve our program in a variety of ways. All volunteers undergo a thorough screening process, which includes an application, reference check, fingerprint background check, interview, and annual training. Many of our volunteers are 4-H alumni, parents, or grandparents.



Volunteers at our annual banquet

Are Parents Expected to Volunteer?

Parents are not expected to become 4-H volunteers, but we would be happy to have you! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Joy at sharp.5@osu.edu for more information.

The best way parents can support their child in 4-H is to become involved in their experiences and walk alongside them with their projects. We encourage you to attend meetings with your child so you can stay informed about the latest happenings, get to know their club advisors and members, and learn more about upcoming events. Parents can also support the club by signing up to bring a snack or help with a community service project. We often see the greatest success when 4-Hers choose to make their involvement a family activity.

What is Project Judging?



4-H Member at project judging

Project judging is an opportunity for 4-H members to present what they learned in their 4-H project. Each year in June, project judging is held at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds.

For those taking livestock, dog or horse projects, members will come to judging on Skillathon Judging day the week prior to fair. Members must bring their project books, complete through the week of judging. They will sit down with a judge for an interview about their project. Members will work their way through several skill stations to demonstrate their knowledge in areas of feeds, breeds, body parts, conformation, and more. Skillathon Judging is required for all animal projects that will exhibit at the fair.

Non-livestock projects have separate judging days that take place during the fair. Members will bring their completed project and a supplemental display (complete details can be found in your book insert or at Pickaway.osu.edu). They will participate in an interview, sharing about their project and what they learned. Interviews last about 7-10 minutes.

How Much Does It Cost to Join?

Pickaway County 4-H charges \$10 per member to enroll in 4-H annually.

Most clubs will also charge dues, usually between \$10-\$20 per member, that help offset the cost of snacks, program supplies, or other materials.

Other costs that you can expect to incur in 4-H are those related to 4-H projects. Most project books are \$8, but there are a handful over \$10.

Depending on which project you've elected to take, there

will be some costs associated with the project as well. For example, you would be responsible for the cost of fabric, thread, and pattern for a sewing project.

If you choose to participate in any of the optional county-wide opportunities, such as 4-H Camp, there is a fee associated with these activities. However, thanks to the support of our wonderful donors, we do have scholarships available to help offset these costs.



Teen Counselors at 4-H Camp

What is The Ohio State University Extension?

Ohio State University is the land-grant university in Ohio. The Extension Offices are branches of OSU that reach each county and can share the latest research and information from the University. In Pickaway County, we offer Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, Community Development and 4-H Youth Development programs through our Extension Office. Ohio State provides leadership and partial funding for Extension in Pickaway County, in partnership with the Pickaway County Commissioners.

What Is The 4-H Lingo?



Achievement Awards. 4-H members, age 14-18 as of January 1st, may apply for one of the more than twenty State Achievement Project Awards as well as the opportunity to serve on State Junior Fair Board and/or attend a variety of State and National Conferences.

Camp. Members enjoy outdoor fun and adventure while learning and making new friends at 4-H Camp. Camping opportunities are available for members and teens with some focused in a particular project area.

Cloverbuds. 4-H members age 5 and in Kindergarten through 2nd grade or until they reach the age and grade requirements for 4-H project membership. Cloverbuds may not enroll in competitive 4-H Projects. They may participate in a Cloverbud activity each weekday of the Pickaway County Fair.

DUNF – Drug Use Notification Form. This form indicates your project animal has met all drug withdrawal periods at time of exhibition. ODA requires this form for exhibition of market steers, market hogs, market lambs, market goats, market poultry, market rabbits, lactating dairy goats or dairy cows. One per animal or per pen of poultry.

Fair Booth. Each club designs and sets-up a fair booth annually. Members should select a theme, assist in the planning & the set up. Each member with a non-livestock projects must include an exhibit in the booth, but all members should be represented in some way. Booths may not be taken down or have items removed until Sunday, June 25.

Family Guide. Resource that lists all the 4-H projects including a brief project description, age guidelines, skill level and State Fair eligibility.

Fashion Revue / Style Show. Clothing project members model outfit sewn and/or purchased through their Clothing project experience. Outfit must include garment(s) sewn and/or purchased and selected accessories for a Total Look Outfit.

Horse Safety & Ethics Program / EquiSTEP. All 4-H horse project members and their parent/guardian must complete the Horse Safety & Ethics program before being eligible to participate in the 4-H Horse Program. The EquiSTEP program training must be completed annually online by the member (beginning in 2023) in order to show and exhibit.

Teen Leaders. Teens may serve within a club as officers and peer mentors and at the county level as members of Junior Fair Board, Advisory Committees, Camp Counselors and other opportunities.

PAS. Horse project members may choose to participate in Performance Against Standards (PAS) classes to qualify to participate in the Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show. A member may show in a maximum of six classes and must qualify in two classes to show at the Ohio State Fair.

Project. The members use a project to explore a topic or interest area through hands-on activities, sequential learning experiences, goal setting and evaluation. 4-H'ers keep records and documentation of project experiences in a Project Book.

Project Judging. Evaluation of a project member's knowledge through interview with an adult judge, review of project book records and exhibit of project item and/or educational display. Takes place during the Pickaway County Fair.

Project Requirements. Outlines deadlines, project judging guidelines, resources, judging dates, county and beyond county opportunities and much more.

What Is The 4-H Lingo?...cont

Skillathon. Interview judging for members taking livestock projects. Review the Skillathon Judging factsheet for detailed information.

State Fair Selection & Alternates. Member(s) selected to represent the county at the Ohio State Fair for a given project or project area. Counties may select one or more members per designated project or State Fair class to participate.

Tag-In, Weigh-In, Check-In. Date required to tag-in, weigh-in and / or identify your project animal for Junior Fair participation. Varies by species.

Tri-fold. Three sided posterboard often used for Special Interest project judging. May include pictures of the member completing the project, information on the topic, and examples of their project work.

Volunteer Club Advisor. Dedicated, enthusiastic, caring adults that have completed a selection, screening and orientation process by OSU Extension. The current Ohio 4-H Volunteer Selection process includes a written application, reference checks, BCI background check, interview with Extension Educator, volunteer orientation, and annual training update.

Wristbands – Pickaway Fair. Generously provided by the Pickaway County Fair, wristbands allow members age 9 and over to enter free each day. Must be picked up by the member preferably on first Saturday/Sunday of fair. Note, Cloverbud members do not need wristbands as admission is free for those under age 10.

Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance. Annual program (QA) required for members exhibiting market and lactating project animals by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Members can meet this requirement by attending an online or in-person quality assurance program focusing on the 10 Good Production Practices. Extension Educators in cooperation with local Agriculture Societies determine county QA delivery and completion requirements within the State's minimum standards.

How to be a Blue Ribbon 4-H Family



1. Help your child attend club meetings, activities and events. Notify the club advisor if your child can't attend a meeting / activity.
2. Help with the club fundraising events and pay your child's county participation fee and club dues.
3. Transport your child to all club meetings and activities.
4. Attend special events planned by the 4-H club.
5. Encourage and guide your child's project work. Don't do their work.
6. Read the 4-H mailings, Project Requirements Guide, Fair Book and other information with your child. Use the county 4-H website to print off 4-H newsletter, materials and forms, find project and fair requirements and find answers to questions.
7. Encourage your child to keep up-to-date records and complete their projects to the best of their ability.
8. Model a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, respect and cooperation.
9. Assist with 4-H club activities in your areas of interest and expertise.
10. Help out the club... host a meeting, provide refreshments, sponsor an award.
11. Support the club by cooperating with club advisors and exhibiting a positive attitude towards your child's personal and club 4-H goals.

Is the Pickaway County Fair the Same Thing as 4-H?

The Pickaway County Fair and 4-H are not the same thing, but we are proud community partners, and our programs have much overlap. 4-H participation begins at enrollment and ends when your 4-H project is judged. Participation in the Pickaway County Junior Fair is highly encouraged, but is a “bonus”, and not a required part of 4-H. In the same vein, you cannot enter a class in the Junior Fair without enrolling in and completing your 4-H project.

Many of our 4-Hers look forward to the fair every year! Members with livestock or horse projects get to show their animals, all members can showcase their projects in their club booth. Cloverbuds can participate in an activity each weekday.

If you have any questions regarding fair participation, you can contact the fairgrounds at 740-474-2085.



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

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How Do I Stay Informed?

When you enroll in 4-HOnline, your family email will receive approximately one email per month from March through July. This newsletter will have 4-H and Junior Fair information you will need to be a successful 4-H family. Your club will communicate with you as well. Ask your advisor how they prefer to communicate on a club level.

Follow us on social media:



Ohio State-Pickaway County 4-H

Find information on our website:

www.pickaway.osu.edu



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Adapted from Wood County 4-H Family Guide, Liz Avers, OSU Extension 4-H Wood County , and A Parents Guide..Making the Best Better for Your Child, Patty House, OSU Extension 4-H Clark County

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