

# **4-H NAME & EMBLEM**



## **THE 4-H EMBLEM**

A four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaflet meaning the development of **HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH** is the official 4-H Club emblem.

## **THE 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.

## **THE 4-H CLUB MOTTO**

**"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"**

## **THE 4-H SLOGAN**

**"LEARN BY DOING"**

## **THE COLORS**

**Green** - nature's most common color is emblematic of springtime, life, and youth.

**White** - symbolizes purity and high ideals.

# GENERAL 4-H RULES & REGULATIONS

## 4-H RESIDENCE POLICY

Indiana youth typically enroll in 4-H in the county or state in which they reside. However, individuals living in one county **may** join 4-H in another county. There may be educational or social reasons for an individual joining 4-H in a different county than that of their primary residence. During a single calendar year, a 4-H member is expected to enroll and exhibit that project in only one county of enrollment.

If a project is not offered in the county of primary 4-H enrollment, a 4-H member may enroll in that specific project in a different county. Approval of this special exception rests with the county 4-H policy-making or governing board, 4-H Exhibit Association, and/or the Extension Board of the receiving county. Participation in 4-H-related activities and events (i.e., judging; share-the-fun) must be in the county of primary 4-H enrollment.

The above policy is not intended to provide an escape mechanism for troubled 4-H members and families who are unwilling to follow the terms and/or conditions in their current county of 4-H membership. Decisions regarding 4-H membership in a non-resident county (a county you do not live in), rest with the County 4-H Exhibit Association and/or the Extension Board in the receiving county.

**Note:** In a statement from our federal partner in Washington, DC, the following statement appears: *“Anytime there are procedures for exclusion of individuals from events which use the 4-H name, there are potential challenges to enforcement of the exclusions. The challenges have a substantial potential to prevail and they frequently result in negative publicity for the organization. Therefore, before choosing a policy of exclusion, it is wise to evaluate the exclusion being considered to be sure there is an overwhelming educationally based need for the exclusion”.*

1. Youth may become 4-H members when they enter the third grade and may continue their membership through the completion of grade 12. Each individual may continue membership for a maximum of ten (10) consecutive years. Exceptions:
  - a. Youth who enroll in grade three and are advanced academically (thus graduating early) may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.
  - b. Those youth who are academically advanced and skip 3rd grade may begin the program as a 4th grader and may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.
  - c. Those youth who enroll in grade three and are retained a grade in public school may continue to progress through the 4-H Program by adding subsequent years of participation, but MAY NOT exceed 10 years of participation. For example, if a member is retained for one year in public school, their final year of 4-H membership would conclude the summer following their junior year of high school.
  - d. Those youth who entered the program in 3rd grade and for one reason or another leave formal education before the completion of 12th grade may continue for a total of 10 years ONLY if the enrollment occurs in consecutive years.
  - e. PLEASE NOTE: 10 years of membership in the 4-H Youth Development program is an opportunity --- not an entitlement. Those youth who do not enroll as 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students or meet the exceptions above, conclude their involvement with the program during the summer immediately following the completion of their senior year in high school.
2. An individual's 4-H grade is determined by the school grade in which he or she is classified on March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current enrollment year regardless of the time of year he or she enrolls in 4-H. A member does not advance in 4-H grade until he or she enrolls in 4-H for the subsequent school year. Each member should enroll in the division of a project that would best suit his/her interest and potential for personal growth and would enhance their family involvement.
3. Opportunities in the 4-H program are available to all Indiana youth as defined regardless of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or disability. Married young men and women of 4-H age may participate in any of the 4-H projects and activities. However, married persons must participate by the same terms and conditions and/or guidelines as unmarried participants. Membership in 4-H is gained by annually enrolling through a Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office located in each of Indiana's 92 counties.

4. The 4-H club year is continuous and extends from one annual 4-H exhibit to the next. Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. An exhibitor **must** advance to the next year in a divisional project unless they did not complete the previous year or stated otherwise in specific project requirements.
5. A 4-H member must do their own work as specified in the project outlines.
6. The grade requirements for Junior Leadership are grades 7-and 12. A member must have completed one year of 4-H club work to be an officer in Junior Leaders.
7. The grade requirements for Judging, Demonstrations, Fashion Revue, 4-H Round-Up, State 4-H Junior Leaders Conference, and any other contest or event conducted by the State 4-H or extension staff shall be the same as set up at the state level.
8. County 4-H policy is determined by the Howard County 4-H Exhibit Association, Inc. with the advice of the local Adult 4-H Leaders, County Extension Educators, State 4-H Staff, and others interested in the program.
9. Award winners for the various trips and awards, such as Round-Up, State Junior Leaders Conference, State Fair Youth School, etc., should be selected by the Howard County 4-H Exhibit Association, Inc.
10. No project may be altered in any way after it has been entered at the fair like adding labels or names or numbers, changing the conformation of an exhibit, changing any colors, castration of animals, etc. Projects selected for the State Fair may be revised after the Howard County 4-H Fair before being submitted for entry at the State Fair.
11. To exhibit at the fair, a member is encouraged to participate in local meetings of each club of which they are members or participate in authorized 4-H activities such as county tours, demonstrations, workshops, judging, etc., subject to the approval of the adult leader and the Extension Office. **If you choose not to exhibit a project, a completed record sheet is accepted for completion of that project and must be turned in during pre-fair judging.** (Exception: Projects that are judged before the 4-H Fair.)
12. It is the policy of the Cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

## **4-H EXHIBIT RULES**

1. Interpretation of any term or condition, policy, code of ethics, or prohibited activities contained in the Howard County 4-H Project Summary including the assessment of any violation and/or penalty to be imposed against a 4-H member shall involve the Howard County 4-H Exhibit Association, Inc. or designee, 4-H superintendent and/or project leaders, and the Extension Educator.
2. Competition in 4-H classes is confined to 4-H Club members who are enrolled in the Howard County 4-H program. Only Howard County 4-H members may show or hold another member's exhibit. (See 4-H Livestock Exhibit Rule #10.)
3. 4-H members will not be allowed on the fairgrounds after midnight by order of the Howard County 4-H Exhibit Association, Inc.
4. No 4-H project may be advertised for sale by posting by any member during the 4-H Fair. No advertisement of any kind is allowed, except by authorization of the Howard County 4-H Exhibit Association, Inc.
5. ALL judges' names will be concealed until June 15<sup>th</sup> and will NOT be released before that time.
6. Project exhibits are to be by exhibit requirements found in the Project Summary and the State Fair book. If project requirements are not met, the exhibitor will receive one (1) ribbon placing lower. Exhibits that may become soiled should be covered with a transparent material.
7. **ALL** poster exhibits must be covered with plastic or transparent material (no Saran Wrap) unless noted

otherwise under project rules. All other projects are optional. **ALL** posters must have stiff backing such as plywood, heavy corrugated cardboard, or foam board to support them and must be displayed **HORIZONTALLY** with the dimensions of 22" x 28" unless otherwise specified. Posters may be of any color. An exhibit card supplied by the office must be placed in the lower right-hand corner.

8. **Regardless of 4-H member's age, ALL 4-H Record Sheets must be signed by their parent, grandparent, guardian, 4-H Adult Leader, and/or helper.**
9. **A record sheet may be used for project completion if unable to exhibit. (Livestock, Event, Static)**
10. **Project exhibits may only be entered during the designated entry time(s) or open drop-off times for each project.** It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to make arrangements to get their exhibit entered during the designated time for each project. Projects not entered during the designated time for that project will be dropped one ribbon.
11. Projects in the metal and block buildings **WILL NOT** be released until **the designated time. Projects not picked up during the designated time WILL be disposed of by extension staff and/or 4-H program volunteers.**
12. **If any person removes a building exhibit from the fairgrounds before the designated release time of that project, they will not be allowed to show at the state fair that year and/or will be barred from exhibiting that project at the county fair for one year.**
13. All entries will receive ribbons. Champion and reserve champion ribbons will be awarded at the discretion of the judge. To be eligible to receive a champion or reserve champion ribbon, the exhibit must earn a blue ribbon first.
14. In projects where state fair entries are selected, **the state fair entries will be selected first from the champion(s) then from the reserve champion(s)**, and subsequent ribbon levels beyond this point as needed. Projects may be revised after the Howard County 4-H Fair before being taken to the state fair for entry.
15. The Howard County 4-H Exhibit Association, Inc. assumes no responsibility for damaged or stolen exhibits. **Exhibits should not be brought to the fair that are valuable or irreplaceable.**
16. Any article that has been exhibited at a previous Howard County 4-H Fair is ineligible to compete again unless otherwise stated.
17. The judge must, if any attempt is made by an exhibitor or their agent to interfere with or influence the judge's decision, report the fact at once to the superintendent and/or extension educator.
18. An exhibitor who removes a premium ribbon or authorizes another person to do so in the presence of the judge or shall in any manner insult the judge shall forfeit all premiums, be excluded from exhibiting, and the 4-H Exhibit Association may impose any additional penalties it so desires.
19. The judges are not required to award prizes to unworthy exhibits whether there is competition or not. Judges are **NOT** required to award honors, champions, or state fair entries. When there is only one exhibit placed in a class, the award placing will be made according to the judge's evaluation of the exhibit's quality. All decisions made by 4-H judges are final.
20. Observance of all rules governing the exhibit will be required, and when in doubt as to the application of the meaning of a rule, the superintendent shall clarify the rule. When required by either the exhibitor or judge, this opinion must be reduced to writing and returned with the award book to the office.
21. In the event of a conflict of general and special rules, the latter will govern.
22. Most pre-fair judging is done by using the open judging concept. This allows time for the 4-H member to talk one-on-one with the judge. After this initial step is completed, the judge will finish with the selection of champions, reserves, and state fair entries.

23. Violation of 4-H rules by 4-H members and/or families may resolve in suspension or other penalty as outlined in the Determination of Violation of Rules and Regulations section.

### **DEADLINES, PARTICIPATION, EXHIBITION AND COMPLETION**

**Deadlines:** Proper compliance with established, stated, and published final dates and deadlines is considered an appropriate expectation of 4-H membership. Submitting things on time and following the rules is part of the 4-H learning experience and is considered a reasonable thing to do. Individuals not complying with these expectations may lose awards and privileges. This is especially true in animal projects where animal ownership, raising and identification have a specific time as part of the project requirements. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied exhibition privileges as well as awards for that project.

**Participation:** Attendance and participation at 4-H meetings is highly encouraged as a part of the overall educational experience. However, attendance or participation at club meetings cannot be required as criteria for project completion. 4-H meetings should be of the quality that 4-H members should want to attend, participate, and learn something beneficial. Also, rewarding 4-H clubs, 4-H members, and 4-H volunteers for attendance and participation in meetings, tours, workshops, local and county exhibits, etc., are encouraged. The rewards for participation in 4-H meetings, tours, and activities should be significant enough to cause the 4-H member to see the advantage of reacting positively. 4-H volunteers and members of local clubs may establish goals for attendance, exhibits, completion, etc., to meet the criteria established for awards and recognition as long as they do not conflict with stated county, area, or state policies.

### **EXHIBITION - COMPLETION - BEHAVIORAL CRITERIA**

**Exhibition:** Exhibition of 4-H projects in local, county, or state exhibits/fairs is considered a privilege and is voluntary on the part of the exhibitor. The exhibition of 4-H projects provide the 4-H member an opportunity to display their 4-H projects, entertain wholesome competition, and enjoy an educational/social environment with their peers. With the privilege of exhibition also comes the responsibility for abiding by all of the rules applied to the respective 4-H project. Not following the established rules of the projects will be grounds for exclusion from the competition/exhibition.

**Completion:** The completion of a 4-H project must not be misinterpreted as an exhibition of said project at a local county or state fair. A 4-H member is considered complete in their project work for that year when they have completed each of the following:

1. Completed the 4-H club member enrollment process on 4-H Online before the established and published date for enrolling; May 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Turned in a complete 4-H project record sheet before the established and published date; and
3. Had an officially recognized 4-H leader/extension educator verify the existence of the completed project work.

Though exhibiting in local/county and state exhibits/fairs is not required for project completion as it does not necessarily directly relate to learning received in the development of a 4-H project, project exhibition should be encouraged as a continuation of the educational experience.