

NEW KIDS IN THE CLOVER



Dear 4-H member,
Welcome to 4-H!! This is the first issue of New Kids in the Clover. You will receive 5 more newsletters like this one during your first year in 4-H. New Kids in the Clover will help you understand what 4-H is all about.

Sincerely,
Kansas 4-H

CHOOSING A 4-H PROJECT

Sometimes it's hard to decide which project to take. There are more than 30 projects to choose from. You can take as many as you like, but it's best to select just two or three projects a year. That way, you'll be sure to finish the ones that you enroll in. You can always add more projects later if you finish early in the year. You have many years of 4-H ahead of you and lots of time to try more projects.

Where do you find out about 4-H projects? *The Project Selection Guide*, printed in the Kansas 4-H Journal has all the details that you need. *The Project Selection Guide* looks like a magazine. It lists all the 4-H projects, and it is full of other information about 4-H. You can get a copy from your club leader. Look the projects over with your family and then choose the ones you are most interested in. There are all kinds of projects. Here are just a few of the things that you can learn.

In agriculture, you can learn to care for cows, cats, dogs, horses, pigs, and rabbits. You can also learn to raise flowers, vegetables, and soybeans. Community involvement and global awareness projects will teach you about understanding your local government and how to plan community changes. You can also study other countries.

Under environment and natural resources, you'll find projects like camping and soil conservation. Or, there's entomology (bugs), trees and leaves, and geology (rocks). In food, nutrition, and health projects, you can learn to cook. You can cook with a microwave or on a stove, bake in the oven, or fix food on an open fire. You can learn to bake bread, make strawberry jam, and fix foods from other countries. You can also learn about exercise and the food pyramid, which tells you what sorts of foods you should eat each day to remain healthy.

In home and family projects, you can learn how to baby-sit for other children, how to sew your own clothes, and how to decorate your bedroom or other rooms. Mechanics and technology projects include model rocketry, bicycles, and computers. You can also make extension cords and lamps or build a birdhouse or a toolbox. Under personal development, you'll find projects that will teach you to take photographs, give a good speech, or do an art project. And these are only a few of your choices!

When you are choosing a project, think about these things.

- ✓ Some projects have more than one level. For example, there are projects for members who are just beginning to learn about gardening. And, there are other projects for members who have had a little experience in gardening. You will probably want to start at the beginner level. As your skills increase, you can enroll in projects at more advanced levels.



- ✓ Take projects that are recommended for your age group.
- ✓ You can do most 4-H projects on your own, working at your own speed. Some projects have county workshops or classes. Watch your county 4-H newsletter to learn more about these workshops.
- ✓ You can take animal projects even if you don't own an animal.
- ✓ Talk to your club leader or other club members if you want to find out more about a project. Other members can tell you about their experiences.

When you have decided which projects to take, fill out a 4-H Enrollment Form. You can get this form from your club leader. When you're finished selecting your projects, give the form to your club leader. You can add or drop most projects any time before May 1 of the current 4-H year (some exceptions include various livestock projects). Watch your local 4-H newsletter closely for those deadlines.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A 4-H MEETING?

Your 4-H club will probably meet once a month. Your leader can tell you where and when the club meets. Be sure to attend club meetings so you know what is going on in your 4-H club. You will also learn what's happening in 4-H at the county and state levels. There are lots of things to do in 4-H, but you have to attend meetings to learn what is happening.



At least one adult leader attends meetings to answer questions and make sure things go smoothly. But really, each club is run by its members. Each club elects officers. Here are some things that each officer does.

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!



KANSAS 4-H WEBSITE:

www.Kansas4-H.org

- ✿ **President:** The president leads the club meetings. Usually, the president has been in 4-H for quite a few years.
- ✿ **Vice President:** This person helps the president. He or she takes over when the president cannot be there.
- ✿ **Secretary:** This person writes a report of everything that happens at a meeting. This report is called the minutes. The secretary reads the minutes at the next meeting to remind members what happened the last time that they met.
- ✿ **Treasurer:** This person keeps track of the club's money. He or she takes money to the bank, writes checks, and gives a report at club meetings.
- ✿ **Reporter:** This person writes short news articles and sends them to the local newspaper. That way, everyone in the community knows what the 4-H club is doing.

Some clubs have other officers, too. Sometimes, there is a member in charge of games after the meeting. There may also be a historian. The historian keeps a scrapbook of the club's history. Clubs also need help planning special events and activities. You would probably enjoy being on one of these planning committees.

A 4-H meeting lasts one to two hours. During the business part of the meeting, officers give their reports. Club members also discuss what's going on in the club. After that, members may give speeches or demonstrations, play games, and have refreshments. A special meeting might include a guest speaker or a club tour. Meetings are a great time to find out about something new.

**Originally written by University of Illinois 4-H Youth Development, College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Science, University of Illinois Extension. Revised & adapted with permission December 2011.*