

Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington Counties

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STAFF

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Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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For additional information or assistance with equal opportunity policies in program and employment of University of Illinois Extension, please contact the Affirmative Action Officer, 111 Mumford Hall, 1301 West Gregory, Urbana, IL 61801, 217-333-5900.

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, call 618-327-8881. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

POLICIES

MEMBERSHIP

- A club year is September 1 through August 31.
- Any youth who is at least 5 years of age but has not yet turned 19 years of age on September 1 of the current 4-H year can be a member.
- Members ages 5-7 are Cloverbuds and should refer to the Cloverbud Show Book.
- A youth may enroll in a club or as an independent member with a mentor.
- Multi-county 4-H members: 4-H members who belong to a club in multiple counties must have a shared membership agreement on file with all counties, signed by staff, and clarifying which county will be responsible for paying premiums on exhibits. They CANNOT enroll in the same project and CANNOT exhibit the same project in more than one county.

“Shared membership is designed to meet the changing needs of today’s families, including youth who live with parents or guardians in dual or multiple legal residences due to divorce or separation. Shared membership is also an option when a project(s) or exhibitions are not offered in the county of residence. It is NOT an option just because a 4-H show is deemed better in a neighboring county or the 4-H member has friends or relatives who are enrolled in another county.”

PREMIUMS

Premium checks may be awarded to exhibitors. The total amount of premiums awarded per county is based on the Agriculture Premium Fund. The amount of the individual premium is determined by an X factor calculation. Exhibits must remain on display until the posted release time or whenever judging is completed, whichever is later, to be considered for a premium.

*NOTE: The Illinois Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in the Illinois State Fair Junior Department Premium Book and the Unit 4-H Show Book.

Tax Implications for Prizes, Gifts or Awards: Program participants (including minors) may be required to provide their social security number or foreign national tax ID number prior to receiving a prize, gift or award, including 4-H Premiums, to ensure proper IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security-protected software (PEAR). Participants will not be able to receive the prize, gift or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided. Contact the Extension office if you have questions.

ENROLLMENT

- Every enrolled 4-H member must attend a minimum of four 4-H sponsored meetings, activities, or events during the current 4-H year (Sept. 1 - show day) in order to be eligible for 4-H exhibition, premiums, or other 4-H awards and recognition.
Exhibitors must be currently enrolled as a 4-H member. Exhibitors must be currently enrolled in the project in which they are exhibiting during the current 4-H year. Please check with your county's Extension staff for specific information.
- All entries must be products of the current 4-H year (Sept. 1 - show day).

PROJECT JUDGING AND RECOGNITION

- Conference judging is used for judging most exhibits. This is a one-on-one discussion between the 4-H member and the judge of that project area. The judge will ask the member questions about their project. For example, the judge may ask:
 - Why did you do it this way?
 - What did you like about what you made?
 - What changes would you make to your 4-H project?
- Judges decisions are final.
- All judging score sheets can be found under their specific project areas on the Illinois 4-H Website: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/projects>
- Blue, red, or white ribbons will be awarded for each exhibit.
 - Blue: exhibit meets standards
 - Red: exhibit needs improvement
 - White: exhibit needs much improvement
- **Parents/guardians/friends will not be allowed in the judging area.**
- Champion awards and State Fair awards in any class will be determined at the discretion of the judge. If exhibits are not of exceptional quality, the judge is not required to promote exhibits.

GENERAL SHOW EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- 4-H members should dress appropriately according to the Illinois 4-H Code of Conduct.
- Exhibits illustrating inappropriate subject matter and/or graphics are not acceptable. Extension staff reserve the right to remove exhibits deemed inappropriate or dangerous for youth audiences. The content of any 4-H competitive presentation does not necessarily reflect the beliefs or views of University of Illinois Extension, 4-H, or the Illinois State Fair.

- Some exhibit areas may have size limitations. Keep in mind that members exhibiting might not have easy access for unloading and will need to carry their projects to the show location.
- **No equipment will be provided for any exhibits.** Exhibitors should be aware that electrical outlets and internet availability are not always located near judging locations and should take that into consideration when bringing exhibits.
- All exhibits must be left on display until all judging is complete, winners have been announced in the project area, and exhibits are released by Extension staff. If you are unable to pick up your exhibit(s) after judging, please make arrangements for someone to pick up your exhibit. Extension staff or their assigned agents do not assume liability for loss, theft, or damage to any exhibits.
- The 4-H member must show their own exhibit. In the event that a 4-H member cannot show their exhibit, permission must be granted from Extension staff **PRIOR** to the show for alternate arrangements. Any emergency situations that arise with a request related to this, will be examined on a case by case basis by Extension Staff.
- Extension staff reserve the right to make changes as necessary.
- Members are only allowed one entry per exhibit class, except where noted.
- The 4-H program is based on progressive learning, members should compete at the highest level based on his/her experience and skill.
- All exhibits must be a product of the current 4-H program year (Sept. 1-show date).
- The Illinois State Fair General Projects Show date for Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Clinton counties is August 15. For specific guidelines for the Illinois State Fair, please visit <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/illinois-state-fair-4-h-project-show>.

ENTRIES

- Entries should be completed online at fairent.com. Families should use their 4-H Online ID and password to log in. Instructions are available at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bcjmw/4-h-youth-development>.
- If a member does not enter their exhibit classes in Fair Entry, they will not be eligible to show.

ILLINOIS 4-H CODE OF CONDUCT

The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege and not a right. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff – who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Illinois 4-H program and conduct themselves according to the following standards. These standards also apply to online 4-H activity, including social media and internet presence.

1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to: race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, immigration or citizenship status, sex, gender identity and expression, transgender status, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, educational level, learning style, pregnancy, physical appearance, body size, and individuals with disabilities.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H contests with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
3. **Obey the Law.** Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.

4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others’.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons who participate in 4-H programs.
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not engage in romantic displays or sexual activities in either public or private situations. Be kind and compassionate toward others. Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property.
6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge. Respect the integrity of the group and the group’s decisions.
7. **Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and teach 4-H youth to provide appropriate animal care.
8. **Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others. Have fun!
9. **Watch What You Wear.** Use good judgment. Wear clothing suited for the activity in which you will participate. Dress in a manner that is respectful to yourself and others. Clothing that displays or promotes violence, obscenity, illegal activities, discrimination, or intimidation is prohibited. Do not wear revealing clothing, such as short skirts or shorts, midriff-baring tops, or anything showing undergarments.
10. **Be a Positive Role Model.** Act in a mature, responsible manner, recognizing you are role models for others and that you are representing both yourself and the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Be responsible for your behavior, use positive and affirming language, and uphold exemplary standards of conduct at all 4-H activities.

Extension Staff has the right to take disciplinary action if any member does not abide by the Code of Conduct.

ILLINOIS 4-H SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-PERSON EVENTS

If current local conditions are conducive to in-person events, the opportunity for face-to-face judging for Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion and Washington counties will require that all participants, spectators, and volunteers adhere to Illinois 4-H event guidelines. We are counting on our 4-H members, their families, and our staff and volunteers to do their part to help make our upcoming events as safe as possible, whatever format they take.

The following COVID-19 social distancing and safety practices reflect requirements of the Illinois Department of Public Health and University of Illinois event guidelines. These mitigation protocols also may be modified to reflect any requirements of the local public health departments based on local conditions at the time of the event.

1. Face coverings are required for all youth, spectators, volunteers, and staff when within the defined 4-H event space (inside or outside)
2. Everyone in attendance will practice social distancing during the event, including maintaining six feet of separation (both indoors and outdoors) from those who are not in their households. To allow for social distancing, building and spectator capacity may be limited based on current public health department guidelines.
3. Handwashing and sanitizing stations will be provided throughout the venue.
4. Anyone who has experienced COVID-19 symptoms within the previous seven days is asked to stay home. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, or shortness of breath.

If any of these guidelines presents a challenge for you, please contact us directly at 618-327-8881. We are happy to discuss what accommodations are possible so that we can look for ways that all youth can safely participate in this event.

As excited as we are about the possibility of stepping back into face-to-face judging, we also recognize that this is a continually evolving situation. Illinois 4-H reserves the right to adjust or cancel events in the case of identified risk, such as changes in local COVID conditions or known instances of non-compliance with safety guidelines.