

Frequently Asked Questions 4-H Volunteers and Members

Effective April 10, 2020

Updated June 5, 2020

- **Is a 4-H member eligible to take a project they completed in 2020 to the Ohio State Fair in 2021?**
 - The state fair guidebook reads:
 1. Each person exhibiting or participating in the 4-H Department must be a 4-H member in the year of exhibition and be enrolled in the project in they are exhibiting or participating, except demonstrations, safety/health speaking, health and safety skits and livestock judging contests. All projects must have been developed, produced or made in the current 4-H year.
 2. All 4-H members entered and/or exhibiting at The Ohio State Fair must also have met eligibility requirements for exhibiting at their county or independent fair as certified by the county Extension Educator's signature on the entry form.
 3. A member who has been a winner of any one class in 2019 is not eligible to participate in the same class in the following year. For 2021, members who won in 2019 will not be eligible to participate in the same class.
 4. Unless specifically outlined in the project book, members are permitted to take a 4-H project more than one year. They are expected to expand on their project learning each year by completing different activities, challenging themselves and demonstrating what additional knowledge they gained.
- **Why was the decision made to cancel camps so far in advance?**
 - The Ohio State University made the decision to cancel or postpone in-person events through July 6. This includes all OSU Extension and 4-H events. The safety of campers, counselors, and staff is always our highest priority. We considered information from health experts who have discussed the pace of transmission of COVID-19 and the fact that individuals are infectious prior to showing symptoms. Additional considerations included the extent of recommended sanitization and cleaning protocols, along with the unknowns about how long COVID-19 remains viable on surfaces, and the time required between user groups to reduce the likelihood of transmission. We also considered the likelihood of reoccurrence, given the absence of a viable vaccine and the percent of the population that could still be vulnerable to infection. Sources include the [American Camp Association](#), [Centers for Disease, Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation \(IHME\)](#), [The Lancet COVID-19 Resource Centre](#), [The Ohio Department of Health](#), [Stanford University Researchers COVID-19 Modeling](#), and [World Health Organization](#).
- **Are Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp and Sea Camp cancelled?**
 - Yes, in-person camps are cancelled this summer (through August 31, 2020). Registrants will receive follow-up information from the respective camp director regarding any new virtual options.
- **Will Ohio 4-H be sending delegates to Citizenship Washington Focus/Leadership Washington Focus?**
 - No. Allen Auck will contact registrants to work through cancellation and reimbursement of fees.
- **Will we have our fair?**
 - The decisions regarding how fairs will be held are determined by local health departments, county commissioners, and ag societies, as well as Governor DeWine's administration.



- 4-H and FFA support the education and development of youth for the fairs, but the decision about whether fairs will occur is in the hands of other partners.
- **If I don't end up exhibiting my animal live at the fair, do I still get 4-H membership credit?**
 - Exhibition at the county fair is encouraged, but not a requirement in any year. Counties likely have something in place to get credit for project completion in these instances.
- **What fundraisers can my club conduct?**
 - Clubs are **not** permitted to engage in any activities, projects, programs, events, meetings, etc. that would require face-to-face contact before July 6. This includes many traditional fundraisers, such as plant sales, frozen food, gift wrap, etc. This also includes online sales that would require volunteers to gather and package orders. This is not permitted at this time.
 - Consider postponing fundraisers to the fall.
 - If you have already have orders out, have delivery made by the vendor directly to the purchaser or ask if a refund can be made. We must abide by current government orders related to staying at home.
- **Can we do community service projects, such as picking up trash in the park?**
 - Nothing can be organized as a group to happen in-person through July 6.
- **Are clubs required to meet a minimum of six times?**
 - Yes. Remember, the year runs through December 31, 2020. Virtual meetings count toward this meeting requirement, and meeting together as a group is a core part of the 4-H experience.
- **Will 4-H members in their last year of membership, camp counseling, junior fair board, etc. have another year of eligibility?**
 - The National Program Leaders Working Group and the Ohio 4-H Internal Advisory Committee are discussing possibilities. Information will be shared as decisions are reached.
- **How can we get our 4-H project books?**

[From ohio4h.org/booksresources.] While county offices are closed and local distribution of project books is on hold, choose one of these methods:

 - **Download one for free.** A special collection of project books is available for free on the [Perfect Stay-at-Home Projects](#) web page. Click on the book you want, and when the file opens on your screen, save or print it from there. Horseless Horse and Science Fun with Physics are being added soon! (For accessible formats of these publications, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.)
 - **Buy one online.** If you would like to buy a print copy of a Perfect Stay-at-Home project or any other project book, you can order directly from extensionpubs.osu.edu with one of these special discounts for Ohio residents: FREE2020 (for free shipping) OR 20IN2020 (20% off the entire order). Use the coupon that works best for you. Orders can be shipped directly to a person's home as long as it is an Ohio address. *Please review your order carefully. No returns are accepted.* There is no restriction on the number of times a coupon can be used. See printable ordering instructions [HERE](#).
 - **Make your own.** If you would rather not purchase a book in this way, self-determined projects are an excellent choice for self-motivated members eager to get started by creating their own projects. Although self-determined projects may be better suited for older 4-H members, they are available for any member and are often based on [idea starters already available online](#). Many of the idea starters are great stay-at-home projects too, for example, Music, Bats, String Art, Climate Change, American Sign Language, etc. Our extraordinary educators are even preparing one called My Stay-at-Home Summer! (For project judging, self-determined projects are judged in self-determined categories.)

If none of these options work for you and your family because of affordability or internet access, contact Jane Wright, 4-H curriculum manager, who may be able to help (wright.646@osu.edu).