

Frequently Asked Questions 4-H Volunteers and Members

Effective January 20, 2021

- **What resources are available to 4-H club volunteers to use when meeting virtually?**
 - On the [Stay Connected!](#) page, look for “Volunteer Resources” that offers:
 - Virtual meeting agenda and meeting considerations,
 - Recreation resources,
 - How to Zoom,
 - Tips and Tricks for meeting with Your Club When You Can’t Meet (in-person),
 - Communicating Online with Your Club

- **Is a 4-H member eligible to take a project they completed in 2020 to the Ohio State Fair in 2021?**
 - 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.
 - The state fair guidebook reads:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - For 2021, a member who was a winner of any one class at the 2019 Ohio State Fair will not be eligible to participate in the same class this year.

- **What fundraisers or community service project can my club conduct?**
 - Refer to the [4-H Club Fundraising and Community Service Guidance](#) for considerations, preparations, examples, and more.

- **How can we get our 4-H project books?**
 - There are several options. Visit www.ohio4h.org/booksresources for more information.

- **Will we have camp?**
 - The decision to hold in-person summer camps will be made by April 1 based on guidance from OSU and health officials. This includes Sea Camp, Leadership Camp, Shooting Sports, Special Needs, Space and all other statewide programs.



- **Do 4-H members who completed their last year of membership in 2020, camp counseling, junior fair board, etc. have another year of eligibility?**
 - Ohio 4-H membership begins with Cloverbuds when a child is five and ends on December 31 of the year they turn 19. Due to cancellation of activities in 2020, there have been requests to extend a year of eligibility for 4-H members. This was given strong consideration at the national and regional levels. The decision was made that national 4-H programs will follow existing age requirements and another year of eligibility will not be granted. Following conversations with our 4-H professionals, Ohio will follow that policy.
 - A change in policy would set an unsustainable precedent for youth participation in years to come. It creates increased unfairness when considering competitive events with cascading impact on those who would have aged out taking the place of current youth. COVID-19 has created a loss of experiences for everyone however, our youth are resilient. Over the past few months, their ability to adapt and willingness to persevere has been evidenced by their participation in virtual camps, meetings, and other 4-H activities.
 - Ohio 4-H is proud of how our volunteers and young people have adapted in this unprecedented time.

- **Will we have our fair?**
 - 4-H and FFA support the education and development of youth for the fairs, but the decision about whether fairs occur is made by local and state health officials and local Senior Fair Board/County Agricultural Societies after considering the risks to health and safety of the community.

- **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. In these situations, most counties have guidelines to get credit for project completion. More information can be found on page 6 of the [Family Guide](#).

- **Will Ohio 4-H be sending delegates to Citizenship Washington Focus/Leadership Washington Focus?**
 - All in-person summer programs hosted by National 4-H Council will be moving to a virtual format or cancelled.

