

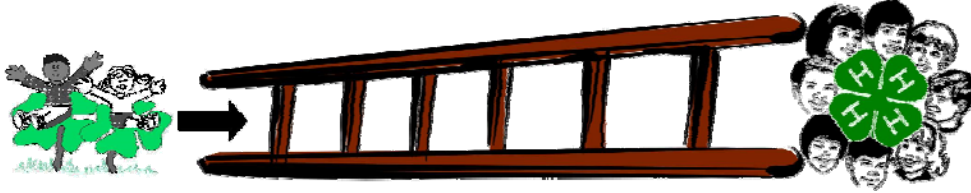
# Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers Working with Grades K—2

July - September 2014 Issue

## Cloverbuds...Moving To The Next Level

*By Rhonda Williams, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Darke County (OSU Extension)*



Finally! It's an exciting time for a Cloverbud when they are ready to take 4-H to the next level and become engaged in 4-H projects like their older siblings or older

club members. How can you, as a volunteer, help them to be successful during this time of transition?

First of all, does your club have some type of "ceremony" acknowledging this milestone? This ceremony could be a graduation activity, a special induction or initiation ceremony, or something else that is appropriate for your club. In addition to some type of acknowledgement activity, you might want to plan a meeting with the Cloverbuds and their parents to explain the different types of projects and the opportunities that are available to members who are eight and in the third grade and older. Take time to explain that projects are primarily self-directed but there is help available. Let them know your expectations in terms of project completion and project deadlines. Help them to be realistic in project selection for their first year. Encourage them to take one or two projects, rather than several, so that the member and the parent do not become overwhelmed and discouraged. Lastly, check in with them throughout the project year to be sure that they are on target and meeting their goals.

It might be helpful to assign an older 4-H member to serve as a mentor for the younger member. The older 4-H member should have similar project interests and be willing to assist the younger member with their project work.

Celebrate and enjoy this momentous occasion along with your Cloverbuds, as they move to the next level!



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### Introduction to 4-H Projects

Looking for easy to teach resources for your next meeting? Check out the most recent Click it, Print it, Do it activity for your Cloverbuds!

# Cloverbud Graduation

*By Joyce Shriner, 4-H Youth Development Educator,  
Hocking County (OSU Extension)*

Graduation marks a transition from one stage of life to the next. 4-H graduation events are held to signal the transition from Cloverbud to traditional membership and to recognize and celebrate the 4-H career of older youth as they move into adulthood.

The 2014 4-H Graduation in Hocking County will be held on Sunday evening prior to the opening of the Hocking County Fair. Sunday is a free day at the fair – all family members and friends can attend without having to pay admission. Attendance is expected to be greater than in years past when the event was held during the fair, and, family members had to pay admission to see their 4-H'er graduate.

Approximately one month before graduation, letters of invitation are mailed to all eligible Cloverbud and high school graduates. Graduates are required to RSVP to participate. Cloverbud graduates complete the following information on their reservation form: Cloverbud's name, age, grade, parent's names, name of 4-H club, and a sentence describing what they enjoyed most about being a Cloverbud. High school graduates provide the same information. However, instead of a sentence, they write a story highlighting significant events and activities of their 4-H career. Each of the senior's stories is compiled into a graduation program booklet.

During the event, graduates sit in pre-assigned seats in alphabetical order with all Cloverbuds seated together and all seniors seated together. As their name and information/story is read, each graduate comes forward to receive a gift and be congratulated. Cloverbuds receive a 4-H water bottle. High schoolers receive a pen desk-set and a copy of the graduation program booklet. Photos, taken at the conclusion of the event, are posted on Facebook and submitted to area newspapers.



# Campus Connections

*By Scott Scheer, Ph.D., State Extension Specialist,  
4-H Youth Development (The Ohio State University)*

Hello again! Great to make this 4-H Cloverbud Connection with you!

Kids in the 4-H Cloverbud program engage in educational activities in which they work together, share, and encourage each other. We call this cooperative learning. As 4-H Cloverbud kids move on to the 4-H program for older youth they are usually involved in more competitive activities such as those at county fairs or animal shows.

Sometimes it is assumed that the earlier in life we engage kids in competition the better they will be prepared to compete successfully later in life. Actually, children who experience success through cooperative learning early in life develop a strong sense of self which is a great foundation when involved in competitive activities.

As 4-H Cloverbud children transition from the 4-H Cloverbud program there are some points to keep in mind: 1) provide encouragement in cooperative and competitive events, 2) focus on the process of doing the activity, not just the judged outcome, 3) be a positive role model and enthusiastic and 4) stress fun, sharing and support for each other.

Thanks for your commitment to the 4-H Cloverbud program as we enhance the healthy development of children throughout the state!



**Cloverbud Connections** is published four times annually by OSU Extension in Monroe and Hocking Counties, providing volunteers and teachers working with kindergarten through second grade access to unbiased, research-based information.

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