

Stevens County 4-H Policy

I. State 4-H Policy

The 4-H Youth Development Program is the youth outreach program from the land grant universities, Cooperative Extension Services, the national Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County governments. The State 4-H program is governed by Washington State University Extension in Pullman, Washington, through the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

The State 4-H Administration sets the state 4-H policy. The state 4-H policy is the governing regulation for 4-H, and is found in the WSU 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook.

The county policy establishes rules deemed by the state to be county options. Both policies are revised periodically.

II. Stevens County 4-H Policy

County 4-H policies are set by the Executive Board of the Stevens County 4-H Leaders' Council, with the Stevens County Extension faculty. Leader input is sought whenever changes or revisions are considered. A county may have policies more restrictive than the state policies, but not less restrictive.

III. Eligibility Requirements for 4-H Members

4-H is open to all youth between the ages five (5) and nineteen (19). 4-H Age is determined by October 1st of the current 4-H year. Youth who have reached their 5th birthday (before October 1st of the current 4-H year), through those who have not reached their 19th birthday (before October 1st of the current 4-H year) are eligible.

Four (4) groups, designated by age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year, are recognized in the 4-H program for county, state and national events.

- Cloverbuds: 5 to 7 years of age
- Junior: 8 to 10 years of age
- Intermediate: 11 to 13 years of age
- Senior: 14 to less than 19 years of age

A. Cloverbuds

1. Cloverbud members may enroll in any 4-H project except—large animal projects including horses, beef, goats, dairy cows, sheep, swine, and llama; shooting sports projects; projects using motorized vehicles; and food presentation projects.
2. Cloverbud members are not eligible for out-of-county 4-H activities or competitive events.
3. Some 4-H competitive events in Stevens County do allow Cloverbuds to participate. In all such events, Cloverbud members will receive participation ribbons **only**, and not be rated using the Danish scoring system. In such situations, written and oral comments are strongly encouraged.

IV. The 4-H Year

- A. The 4-H Year begins October 1 and ends September 30.
- B. National 4-H Week is celebrated during the first week of October.

V. Annual Achievement Pins

- A. To be determined and provided by the individual clubs.

VI. Starting a 4-H Club

- A. See 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook for club structure and chartering requirements. All new leaders must complete the Volunteer Application process outlined in Section 7 of the 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook, in addition to completing leader training within one year of their enrollment. This training will be offered annually.
- B. To teach responsibility and decision-making, all leaders are encouraged to provide guidance, but allow the 4-H members to make their own decisions regarding club operations and activities.
- C. Funds may be collected to cover program costs. However it is strongly encouraged that financial support be available for those in need.
- D. Member project materials are ordered directly from WSU—prices vary. Many are available online for no charge.

VII. Standing Dates and Deadlines

- A. 4-H members will be accepted at any time of the year.
- B. Those who wish to exhibit as a 4-H member must be enrolled in their project(s) by May 1.
- C. See Stevens County 4-H Equine Committee Mission Statement and Policies for horse project deadlines and requirements.

VIII. Supervision and Safety

- A. All 4-H activities must be supervised by WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program Certified Volunteers.
- B. Before each activity, a club should complete a safety risk-management plan. Potential risks and appropriate safety measures should be explained to all members and their parents. The plan should identify emergency phone numbers and participants with first aid, CPR, or other training.
- C. Accident insurance policies covering clubs members/leaders are strongly encouraged. Each club individually contracts with the insurance company.
- D. Volunteer liability is provided for all trained, certified, and enrolled Stevens County 4-H Leaders. See: 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook "Volunteers, Section 7."

IX. Youth Leadership

- A. Any 4-H member who has reached their thirteenth birthday by October 1 of the current 4-H year may be enrolled in Leadership projects at the discretion of adult leaders.
- B. Teen leaders are not covered by the WSU liability insurance.
- C. A person may become a volunteer adult 4-H leader if she/he is at least 19 years old and not enrolled as a 4-H member.

X. Projects

- A. 4-H/FFA Relationships
 - 1. Refer to 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook "Relationships," Section 12.
- B. Members must be enrolled in the appropriate project by required deadlines in order to compete at the state level. See section VII.

XI. Awards

- A. County Award Medals
 - 1. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Members are eligible for county award medals.
 - 2. Winners will be determined by application. Members need to complete the application with the help of their leader.
 - 3. There is no limit to the number of medals each 4-H'er can receive.
- B. Outstanding 4-H Teen(s)
 - 1. Candidates must be either a high school junior or senior.
 - 2. Candidates must be nominated by leaders, parents, or other teens.
 - 3. A maximum of two winners will be selected by an interview process before a committee in the fall.
 - a. All 4-H'ers nominated will be asked to interview.
 - b. Candidates not attending the interview will not be considered.
 - c. Each candidate's entire 4-H career will be considered.
 - 4. Selection of Outstanding Teen(s) and any honorable mention awards will be given at the interview committee's discretion.

XII. Record Books

- A. Stevens County Leaders' Council strongly recommends clubs implement Record Books into their club programs.
- B. Record Books must be completed by September 30.

XIII. Public Presentations

- A. See County Public Presentation Policy

XIV. Judging

- A. Livestock Judging: see county project GBU guidelines.
- B. All other judging contests should follow the rules as designated by project materials.

XV. State and Out-Of-County Events

- A. All participants will abide by the state 4-H Code of Conduct for events.
 - 1. Sanctions against violators will be enforced.
- B. Specific guidelines for each event must be followed.
- C. Selection procedures may be established as necessary.
- D. One adult chaperone is needed for every five participants. Chaperones must be Certified and enrolled 4-H Volunteers.
 - 1. Members will find their own chaperones.
 - 2. Chaperones will receive primary consideration for Leaders' Council financial support for travel costs and fees to 4-H events as determined by Leaders' Council.

XVI. Project Animals

- A. Refer to 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook "Animal Management and Ownership" Section 9.
- B. Members can appeal to the 4-H Leaders' Council to replace a project animal in the case of documented (veterinary statement) death, injury, illness, or pregnancy/birth.
- C. Animal preparation and exhibiting must be the **4-H member's own work**. If a member needs help, they should have an experienced member assist them.

XVII. Safety

- A. Refer to 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook "Safety" Section 10.