

3. 4-H Eligibility

3.1. Age Requirements

The WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program abides by the nondiscrimination policies of WSU and the USDA. 4-H is open to all youth between the ages five (5) and nineteen (19) (4-H Age), regardless of race; sex/gender; sexual orientation; gender identity/expression; religion; age; color; creed; national or ethnic origin; physical, mental, or sensory disability, including disability requiring the use of a trained service animal; genetic information; and/or status as an honorably discharged veteran or member of the military as determined by the following age criteria:

- 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).

****Exception – For the 2016–2017 4-H Year, those 4-H members who are in 12th grade or who have not reached their 19th birthday before (January 1, 2017) may enroll in the 4-H Program through their local county faculty.****

- The following groups are identified for special programs and activity participation, including all competitive events/activities, within the WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program:
 - 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
- Cross-age division competitive events are not allowed.
- Members must have reached their 8th birthday by October 1st of the current 4-H year to be eligible for:
 - Competitive situations, including livestock shows or sales
 - Enrollment in large animal projects including beef, dairy, goat, equine, sheep, llama, and swine
 - Enrollment in shooting sports projects
 - Enrollment in projects using motorized vehicles
 - Enrollment in food preservation projects
- Cloverbuds may participate in age-appropriate activities and projects. Projects recommended for Cloverbuds youth may include: Dog, Cat, Poultry, Rabbit, Pygmy, or Miniature Goat, Horseless Horse, Cavy, Exploring the World of Small Animals, Exploring Farm Animals, Discovery, Creative Arts, Performing Arts, Aerospace, Bicycle, Computer, Photography, Clothing, Just Outside the Door, and Exploring 4-H. Cloverbuds may not participate in competitive activities.

- Special Education youth, older than 19 and less than 21 years of age, may enroll with the approval of the WSU Extension 4-H faculty.
- Youth that are married and/or youth that are parents are allowed to participate in all activities within the 4-H program.