

Cherokee County 4-H Rules

I. Cherokee County 4-H Rules

The Cherokee County Extension Council will be the final authority on interpretation of all 4-H rules, eligibility of members, leaders, projects, and activities. The 4-H year will be from September 1 to August 31. Club programs, selection of leaders and club officers, projects, record books, and all other 4-H activities will be carried out within this 4-H year.

II. The Mission

The mission of the Cherokee County 4-H & Youth Program is to help youth become self-directing and contributing members to society. 4-H experiential learning is founded on the knowledge base of Iowa State University and other institutions of higher education in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

III. 4-H Is For All

4-H is an educational program open to youth, parents, and volunteer leaders without regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, handicap, socioeconomic conditions, and place of residence. We purposely design specific learning opportunities so all youth can and will participate. In fact, it is essential for 4-H to seek opportunities to enlist the participation of all people. Through 4-H, we can be the catalyst for involving youth and adults who have been participating in other educational programs.

IV. Community Club Membership

1. Open to youth 4th through 12th grade of the current year.
2. Youth may join the Community Club of their choice.
3. Youth may hold membership in only one county and one state.

V. Community Club - Minimum Requirements

1. A community club must have a minimum of 3 (three) members and a minimum of one (1) adult organization leader.
2. A community club must hold a minimum of six (6) business meetings per year.
3. Many community club programs and activities are based on the following age groups:
 - Junior members.....4th, 5th and 6th grade
 - Intermediate members.....7th and 8th grade
 - Senior members.....9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade
4. A community club must plan an annual program and file one (1) copy with the Extension Office by November 1 of each year.
5. Community clubs are encouraged to review the current 4-H newsletter as part of their meeting.
6. Community club leaders are encouraged to attend all appropriate leader meetings.
7. Community clubs need to elect officers to conduct the business meeting.
8. Tours and parties are optional. They may be held if the club desires. (If a business meeting is held, these would count as a club meeting.) All tours/trips must be approved by the Extension Office in advance.
9. All clubs are encouraged to turn in a Treasurer's book by September 1.
10. All clubs are required to turn in a Secretary's book by July 1 to verify members' attendance at club meetings.
11. All clubs must plan and complete at least one (1) community service project during each 4-H year.

VI. Community Club Members - Minimum Requirements

1. Community Club members need a completed 4-H enrollment form on file in the Cherokee County Extension Office.
2. **DECEMBER 1**--Deadline for enrollment forms. New enrollments are accepted any time. Failure to enroll soon enough to meet rule #6 under this section (VI) will result in the inability of the member to participate in the Cherokee County Fair or any out of county experience. By signing the enrollment form, the 4-H'er and parent/guardian agree to abide by the Cherokee County 4-H Guidelines.
3. **MAY 15** --Deadline for livestock and small animal identification on the appropriate 4-H form.
4. A 4-H member and parent/guardian must submit a signed and dated "Iowa Youth Code of Ethics" by December 1.
5. A 4-H member must submit an "Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Release Form" by December 1.
6. **4-H members must attend at least half of their club's meetings, September 1 through July 1. Secretary's books must be turned in to the Extension Office by July 1st to verify attendance.**
7. A 4-H member is encouraged to be involved in at least one communication activity in their local club meeting. (Talk, Presentation, Event Report, etc.)
8. A 4-H member must complete at least one community service project, either with their club or on their own.
9. A 4-H member who meets the above guidelines is a member in "Good Standing" and is qualified to participate in the activities listed in sections VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV. Failure to comply would eliminate you from participating in these activities.

VII. Independent Membership

1. Independent members need a completed 4-H enrollment form and a 4-H Independent Member Agreement on file in the Cherokee County Extension Office.
2. **DECEMBER 1**--Deadline for enrollment forms. New enrollments are accepted any time. Failure to enroll soon enough to meet rule #6 under this section (VI) will result in the inability of the member to participate in the Cherokee County Fair or any out of county experience. By signing the enrollment form, the 4-H'er and parent/guardian agree to abide by the Cherokee County 4-H Guidelines.
3. **MAY 15** --Deadline for livestock and small animal identification on the appropriate 4-H form.
4. A 4-H member and parent/guardian must submit a signed and dated "Iowa Youth Code of Ethics" by December 1.
5. A 4-H member must submit an "Iowa 4-H Medical Information/Release Form" by December 1.
6. **Independent 4-H members must meet with an approved mentor at least six (6) or more times a year.**
7. An independent member is required to give at least one presentation demonstrating their knowledge during the 4-H year.
8. An independent member must complete at least one community service learning project during the 4-H year.
9. An independent member must reflect on their learning by recording goals and giving their mentor a year-end report demonstrating record keeping skills.
10. A 4-H member who meets the above guidelines is a member in "Good Standing" and is qualified to participate in the activities listed in sections VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV. Failure to comply would eliminate you from participating in these activities.

VIII. 4-H Club Leaders

1. A 4-H club leader must complete the Iowa State University Extension's Child Protection and Safety Policy process.
2. All leaders are strongly encouraged to attend at least two leaders' training a year and have regular contact with the Youth & 4-H Coordinator and other County Extension Staff.
3. Leaders must submit a 4-H Leader Enrollment form by December 1 every year.

IX. County 4-H Council

1. Any 4-H member in 10th-12th grade is eligible for County Council.
2. Once accepted to the council, a member may serve until they graduate.
3. County Council members must attend at least five (5) of the regularly scheduled meetings.
4. County Council meetings are held the third Monday of the each month (except August and December) at 6:30 p.m. at the Cherokee County Extension Office.
5. The due date for County Council applications will be announced in the "4-H Highlights" newsletter.
6. If a member can not attend a meeting or event, they must notify the Youth & 4-H Coordinator by phone or e-mail by noon the day of the meeting or event. A member must find their own replacement if they can not attend an event.
7. County Council members are expected to assist with at least one pre-fair, fair, or post-fair event.
8. County Council members must sign and follow the Iowa Youth Code of Ethics. Failure to do so will result in removal from the County Council.
9. Council members elect officers (president, vice-president, secretary) to conduct the business meetings.
10. A Cherokee County 4-H'er serving on State 4-H council will automatically be a member of the County Council.
11. County Council members are encouraged to serve as role models to younger 4-H'ers. As a role model, they should conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at 4-H and non-4-H events.

X. County Fair Exhibition

1. See Cherokee County Fair Book for specific exhibition rules.
2. A 4-H'er must meet all of the minimum requirements for 4-H membership in order to show any exhibit (livestock or non-livestock) at the Cherokee County Fair.

XI. Awards

1. A member must meet the basic requirements spelled out on the application forms to be eligible for an award.
2. A member must complete the required application form and any additional required material for each award they are applying for.
3. Award nominee materials must be submitted by the 4-H'er or the club leader(s) to the Extension Office by the due date announced in the "4-H Highlights" newsletter.
4. All applications will be reviewed by the Record Keeping Committee.

XII. Involvement At State Fair And Out Of County Shows

1. Entries, qualification, and transportation of projects will be the responsibility of the 4-H member.
2. The rules of the particular show or event will determine eligibility and will supersede local 4-H rules.

3. The 4-H'er must be a member in "Good Standing" in order to be eligible to exhibit or participate at the Iowa State Fair and other out of county shows.

XIII. Area, State, And National 4-H Camps, Trips, And Events

1. County scholarships are available to 4-H members for pre-approved events. Scholarship amounts are based on the cost of the event and the number of youth attending.
2. The rules of the particular event or activity will determine eligibility and will supersede local 4-H rules.
3. The 4-H'er must be a member in "Good Standing" in order to be eligible to participate in area, state, or national camps, trips, and events.

XIV. State 4-H Council State 4-H Officers

1. Nominees must be at least a high school sophomore or junior and be an active 4-H member.
2. Candidate must have completed two (2) or more years in 4-H club work prior to the current year.
3. Candidate must be an active 4-H member during the year for which they are seeking office.

XV. County 4-H & Youth Committee

1. The County Committee will consist of interested adults and youth.
2. Committee persons will be selected by geographical location as much as possible.
3. An adult term is for two (2) years and a member may serve as many terms as desired.
4. The adult term of office is from January 1 of the 1st year to December 31 of the 2nd year.
5. Youth may serve as many terms (September 1 to August 31) as they wish before they graduate.
6. Youth will be 10th, 11th or 12th grade county 4-H members in "Good Standing".
7. At the first meeting in each new year the committee will elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary.
8. Committee meetings are held the third Monday of the each month (except August and December) at 7:30 p.m. at the Cherokee County Extension Office.

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