

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 4-H?

4-H is an opportunity for boys and girls ages 5 to 19 to learn and develop life skills that may assist them in becoming responsible adults. 4-H is a part of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Projects are based on research and knowledge from Cornell University, other land-grant universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

4-H is provided to the youth of Oneida County through a variety of delivery methods including: 4-H clubs, independent membership, **special interest programs, school enrichment and community outreach.**

How Do You Join 4-H?

Youth who are five through eight years of age on or before January 1st of the club year and enrolled in Kindergarten through second grade should enroll as a 4-H Cloverbud member. If a Cloverbud member will turn 9 during the 4-H year (October – September), at the time of enrollment, it must be determined whether the member will be a cloverbud or traditional member. Youth who are at least eight years of age by January 1st of the current club year and in the third grade or higher should enroll as a 4-H member. Youth who have reached their nineteenth birthday before January 1st of the 4-H club year may not enroll as a 4-H member. The annual 4-H enrollment program begins on October 1st and the annual 4-H enrollment fees are due by October 31st. Enrollment is \$15.00 per youth or \$30.00 per family. Call the Oneida County 4-H office (315-736-3394) regarding enrollment.

4-H Clubs

A 4-H club must have 5 or more members. Clubs may meet at any convenient location. Some clubs meet in the leader member's homes, others meet in a central place such as a school, church or a community room. 4-H clubs usually do the following: project work, business meetings, or recreational and social activities. There are activities that supplement regular 4-H project work. These include: horse communications, hippo logy, dairy bowl, sewing revue, public presentations, contests, community service projects, achievement banquet and county and state fairs.

Who Can Be a 4-H Leader?

Parents or other interested adults who are willing to volunteer a part of their time and skills by sharing their abilities with youth. Interested adults may call the Oneida County 4-H office at 315-736-3394. You will be sent a leader application that should be filled out immediately and returned to the 4-H office. A 4-H staff person will contact you and help you start your club. You will be invited to attend a variety of workshops. 4-H staff are available to assist you. The 4-H News Letters keep you informed.

“How many leaders should a 4-H Club have?” is a question that has been asked frequently. That depends on the size of the club and how old members are. At least two are recommended. A club may have “project leaders”. They usually have a special interest or skill such as photography, clothing, gardening etc. that is taught to the children. Organizational leaders coordinate meetings & paper work.

What are 4-H Projects?

A project is a planned series of learning experiences through which youth develop knowledge, skills and/or attitudes. 4-H projects always teach the” whys” as well as the “hows”. Projects can be done individually or as a group.

What is Expected of a 4-H Parent?

Since a 4-H leader is a volunteer who is there because of their interest and love for youth, your support for your child and club’s activities is very helpful. Basic support can come in the form of seeing that your child is properly prepared for each meeting, has transportation to and from the meeting place, completes any activities that are to be done at home, bring refreshments to the meetings, help the leader during the meeting and etc.