

NAE4-HYDP Excellence in 4-H Club Support Award

Shreemoyee Ghosh

UF/IFAS Extension Polk County

Empowering Volunteers, Supporting Clubs: Polk County 4-H's Path to Success

Abstract

The 4-H club program serves as a cornerstone for positive youth development (PYD), offering a nurturing environment for youth to belong, grow, and thrive. In Polk County, where club programs are popular, averaging 30-40, the 4-H agent has tailored support systems to bolster volunteer engagement, crucial for sustaining the program's quality. Through four distinct initiatives, the agent facilitates volunteer training and resource accessibility. The Volunteer Roundup, an annual event, equips volunteers with workshops on applying PYD principles. New club leader training series, a comprehensive four-part training series teaches facilitation and club management techniques. Polk County 4-H Connections, a webinar series provides on-demand education tailored to volunteer needs, enhancing program adaptability. Moreover, a customized Member Handbook addresses volunteers' expressed needs, improving communication and engagement efficiency. By nurturing and empowering volunteers, the 4-H agent fortifies the foundation of the club program, ensuring continued success and positive impact on youth development.

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Goals and Objectives

The goal is to cultivate a nurturing environment in Polk County's 4-H clubs, promoting positive youth development. By emphasizing high-quality programs and developmental relationships that foster care, challenge growth, and share power, the aim is to create a supportive setting where youth can belong, grow, and thrive. Key to this effort is recruiting, engaging, and retaining long-term volunteers who sustain the program's success. Customized engagement opportunities and resources, including annual training events, new club leader programs, webinars, and a Member Handbook, support these volunteers, enhancing effectiveness, communication, and overall program quality.

- a. **Volunteer Roundup:** The annual volunteer training aims to equip both new and returning volunteers with practical skills and knowledge in implementing Positive Youth Development (PYD) principles. Through group experiential learning, they deepen their understanding of the 4-H Thriving Model and Essential Elements. By the end, volunteers develop plans to enhance these elements within their clubs, creating an environment where youth can thrive.
- b. **New Club Leader Training Series:** The aim of the New Club Leader Training (NCLT) series is to equip new volunteers with essential resources, policies, and facilitation techniques grounded in positive youth development principles. This process identifies and recruits suitable leaders for club positions, setting them up for success and elevating the club program's quality and impact.
- c. **Polk County 4-H Connections:** The webinar series aims to offer tailored sessions on topics requested by adult volunteers and 4-H families. By adapting content to meet their specific needs and providing on-demand access to resources, the series aims to empower participants with valuable knowledge and support for their roles in the 4-H program.
- d. **Polk County 4-H Handbook:** The goal of creating the customized Member and Volunteer Engagement handbook is to provide clear guidance, increase understanding of program activities and requirements, empower volunteers and families to effectively support youth participants, and improve communication efficiency.

Methods to Support and Strengthen Clubs

Volunteer Roundup: The annual six-hour training is conducted in-person three times to accommodate returning and new 4-H volunteer schedules, including weekdays and weekends. Developed by the applicant in 2018, this comprehensive training covers policy updates, subject matter development, and the application of Positive Youth Development (PYD) principles to create nurturing club environments. It fosters peer-to-peer learning and networking between new and veteran volunteers while engaging community organizations to enhance project work and youth volunteering opportunities. Commencing with volunteer recognitions and program success synopsis, the training provides updates on policies and requirements, followed by one or two power sessions and two to four concurrent subject matter-focused breakout sessions tailored to volunteers' needs. Power sessions, led by the applicant and other 4-H agents, address the highest-priority needs identified in club evaluations. Participants have the flexibility to choose breakout sessions based on their interests, which are led by the applicant, county extension director, and veteran volunteers. Networking is intentionally structured to facilitate peer-to-peer sharing of strategies on club management, project planning, recognition opportunities, fundraising, risk management, and more. Overall, the training emphasizes experiential learning to enhance

participant engagement and knowledge retention, equipping volunteers with the tools to implement experiential learning models in their programs. **New Club Leader Training Series:** Launched in 2018 to meet the growing demand for community clubs, the New Club Leader Training (NCLT) Series strengthens Polk County's 4-H program by equipping volunteers with essential knowledge, resources, and skills. This structured four-step process includes an application, interview, onboarding, and 12 hours of training. Shortlisted applicants complete individual interviews with 4-H staff. Three training sessions, co-led by the applicant and County Extension Director, cover Positive Youth Development (PYD), club management, risk management, member engagement, and reporting requirements. One of the four sessions is the annual Volunteer Roundup, designed to help new volunteers network with returning leaders, attend peer-led workshops, and strengthen project delivery and PYD application. Participants receive a club handbook, compiling key resources for easy reference. The applicant plays a pivotal role in application management, session facilitation, presentation development, resource creation, and evaluation, ensuring a comprehensive training experience. This program won the "Excellence in Volunteerism" award at the NAE4-HYDP regional level. **Polk County 4-H Connections:** Since its launch in 2021, the Polk County 4-H Connections webinar series has evolved to meet the needs of volunteers and 4-H families. Using Canva Pro, I create presentations for four to six sessions annually. In 2023, as volunteers sought more on-demand access, I switched to one live Zoom session (30–45 minutes) and three sessions on Canva Pro (15–20 minutes each) and housed on YouTube. **Polk County 4-H Handbook:** The applicant utilized Microsoft Word to develop the handbook, while employing Canva Pro for Teams to design the cover and table of contents. Topics were selected based on input from volunteers, families, and common queries received by the 4-H office. Developed in 2023 and updated annually as part of the Welcome Packet, this resource streamlines communication by centralizing FAQs and information requests, reducing repetitive inquiries, and improving efficiency.

Outcome and Impacts to the 4-H program

The implementation of these four initiatives has yielded significant multifaceted impacts on the overall 4-H program in Polk County:

- **Enhanced Program Quality and Youth Engagement:** Polk County 4-H served 5,472 youth in club programs, supported by 994 adult volunteers across 31-42 clubs annually. In 2024, 468 youth demonstrated service to the community, 70 teens led projects and activities, 115 youth took on club officer roles, and 261 youth delivered demonstrations and illustrated talks at club meetings, nearly doubling participation from 2023. This reflects a significant increase in youth engagement compared to previous years.
- **Establishment and Retention of New Clubs and Volunteers:** From 2018 to 2024, under the leadership of the 4-H agent, 91 new club leaders were trained, leading to the establishment of 28 new clubs while sustaining existing ones. Notably, the retention rate of these new clubs (at least two years and above) is 75% and the retention rate of these new leaders is 96%.
- **Substantial Economic Value of Volunteer Contributions:** Volunteer time contributions to Polk County 4-H from 2018 to 2024 totaled \$1,132,916.74, demonstrating the significant economic value generated by 41,451 hours of volunteer work. Additionally, two volunteer-led grants have secured \$10,000 to support two clubs' robust and growing archery programs.
- **Increased Participation in Scholarships and Awards:** The introduction of the Scholarships and Awards session in 2022 in the webinar series has significantly boosted awareness and

participation in both 4-H state and county opportunities. As a result, the Polk County 4-H Foundation's spending rose from \$8,455 in 2021–2022 to \$19,255 in 2022–2023, and further to \$25,901.96 in 2023–2024. This increased investment directly supported greater involvement by both youth and volunteers.

- **Expansion of Volunteer-Led Opportunities:** Between 2018-2024, 43 countywide volunteer led and agent supported opportunities were offered, including open horse shows, shooting sports certification trainings, archery project workshops, cloverbud fair, open house and youth showcase, service-learning projects, and more, significantly expanding opportunities for community involvement and engagement.
- **Polk County Handbook:** Volunteers have expressed that the handbook is a valuable resource for communicating consistent message to families. It serves as a go-to guide, helping families navigate 4-H with ease. As a living document, it evolves yearly based on volunteer feedback, ensuring it remains relevant and effective. This ongoing refinement enhances its effectiveness, making it an essential tool for volunteers and both new and returning members.

Leadership and Volunteer Development: The initiatives implemented within Polk County's 4-H program reflect a comprehensive approach to nurturing leadership and volunteer development. Through events like the Volunteer Roundup, both new and seasoned volunteers receive hands-on training and practical skills, enabling them to effectively implement PYD principles. This not only equips volunteers with essential knowledge but also deepens their understanding of the 4-H Thriving Model and Essential Elements, fostering leadership capabilities as they apply these principles within their respective clubs and to the overall 4-H program. Additionally, the NCLT series provides a structured pathway for new volunteers, guiding them through essential resources, policies, and facilitation techniques. This initiative not only identifies and recruits suitable leaders but also elevates the quality and impact of club programs by ensuring that leaders are well-prepared and equipped to lead effectively. The Polk County 4-H Connections webinar series further supports volunteer development by offering tailored bite size education sessions, empowering participants with valuable knowledge and continuous learning opportunities. Lastly, the Polk County 4-H Handbook serves as a centralized resource thus allowing volunteers to provide consistent information thereby increasing communication efficiency. Overall, these initiatives empower them to lead effectively within their clubs and communities. By investing in volunteer development, the 4-H program in Polk County ensures the sustainability and success of its initiatives while fostering a culture of leadership and growth among its volunteers.

Scope of Adult and Youth Involvement: Involving volunteers and youth in program creation ensures initiatives cater to their needs and align with their experiences and perspectives. During the Volunteer Roundup, volunteers lead sessions, share tools, and discuss successful methods for activities and projects, while youth are provided opportunity to share their experiences and programming needs, aiding in the development of programs tailored to their requirements. The webinars provide concise informational and educational sessions based on the needs identified and expressed by volunteers, families, and senior 4-H members. Additionally, the comprehensive handbook is specifically developed based on the expressed needs and frequently asked questions of volunteers, families, and 4-H senior members. The final draft underwent review by volunteers attending the trainings to incorporate their feedback, ensuring its effectiveness and relevance.

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Supporting Document

Volunteer Roundup

Polk County 4-H	Polk County 4-H
<h3>Volunteer Roundup</h3> <p>Saturday, July 27 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Agenda</p> <p>8:30- 9:00 a.m.: Doors OPEN, Check in, refreshments, networking.</p> <p>9:00 - 9:15 p.m.: Connection Before Content—Photo Scavenger Hunt</p> <p>9:20 - 10:05 p.m.: Power Session One</p> <p>From Vision to Achievement: Using S.M.A.R.T. Goals in Annual 4-H Club Planning Shreemoyee Ghosh 4-H Youth Development Agent</p> <p>10:10 - 10:40 p.m.: 4-H Volunteer Needs Assessment Activity Breakout Nicole Walker and Shreemoyee Ghosh</p> <p>10:45 - 11:30 p.m.: Power Session Two</p> <p>Risk Management Updates Shreemoyee Ghosh and Nicole Walker</p> <p>11:30 - 12:00 p.m.: Lunch</p> <p>12:05 - 12:45 p.m.: Capacity Building Breakout Session One</p> <p>Choice 1: Goal setting <i>We face challenges every day. This session will help gain a new perspective on how to face the challenge, set the goal and be refreshed.</i> Rachel Wyniger Project Manager in Sustainability at Publix & Toastmasters</p> <p>Choice 2: Why Do 5% Win 95% of the Time? Dennis Robinson Polk County 4-H Volunteer</p> <p>12:45 - 12:50 p.m.: Break</p> <p>12:50-1:30 p.m. Capacity Building Breakout Session Two</p> <p>Choice 1: Pathways to Achieve Mastery and Independence through 4-H Projects - Healthy Living Andrea Nikolai Family and Consumer Sciences Agent</p> <hr/> <p>University of Florida is An Equal Opportunity Institution</p>	<h3>Volunteer Roundup</h3> <p>Saturday, July 27 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Choice 2: Explore 4-H Resources and Events that support Mastery and Independence in Plant Science and Entomology Geraldyn Sachs 4-H Regional Specialized Agent</p> <p>1:35 p.m.: Closing and Evaluation</p> <hr/> <p>University of Florida is An Equal Opportunity Institution</p>

Power Session 2024 Example

From Vision to Achievement: Using S.M.A.R.T. Goals in Annual 4-H Club Planning

Presented by: Shreemoyee Ghosh
Polk County 4-H Agent
July 27

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Club Planning

4-H Thriving Model

How it all fits together?

DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT (4-H Programs)

- Sparks
- Belonging
- Relationships
- Engagement

- Progress: Leadership Opportunities, Service Learning Projects
- Positive relationship with caring adult
- Safe Environment
- Inclusive Environment
- Developmental Relationships
- Express Care
- Challenge Growth
- Providing Support
- Sharing Power
- Expanding Possibilities
- By providing opportunities of Independence & Mastery

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Goals with Action Steps

Use the goal setting template on page 10 of goals for 2024-2025. After you have identified and set 1-3 S.M.A.R.T. goals, list ways you will achieve them throughout the year.

Goal 1: Successfully complete three projects in Environmental Science (soil, Entomology, Forestry and Botany)

Action Steps:

- 1) Use role as project notebook
- 2) Develop schedule to complete each project
- 3) Follow goal opportunities and leaders to fulfill projects
- 4) Work on project books

Goal 2: Participate in meetings with outside organizations such as youth, BSA and other professional clubs.

Action Steps:

- 1) Ask club members for suggestions and interest for new activities
- 2) Plan and schedule dates for new activities

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New Leader Training Series: Session 1, 3 and 4

Foundations of 4-H Youth Development

Shreemoyee Ghosh: 4-H Agent
Nicole Walker: CED

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Session Agenda

Part I

- 4-H History - Polk
- How Extension and 4-H connect?
- What is 4-H? 4-H Elevator Pitch Activity
- 4-H Delivery Modes
- Membership Requirements
- 4-H Club Volunteers

Part II

- 4-H Foundations: Frameworks, Models and Principles
- Essential Elements Deep Dive
- Essential Elements "Belonging" activity
- The Eight Indicators of Belonging
- Session Q and A
- Preview Session Two, Three and Four

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4-H Membership Requirements

1. In-school/School Enrichment
 - Youth ages 5-18 years as of September 1 of the current year
 - Students attending the school
 - Annual Membership Fee: Membership fees NOT REQUIRED.
 - Enrolled in at least 1 project
2. After School
 - Youth ages 5-18 years as of September 1 of the current year
 - Students attending the school ONLY
 - Annual Membership Fee: \$25/year, also Cloverleaf DO NOT pay annual membership fee \$20/year/ youth, 12-18 years: Pay the annual \$20/year/youth
 - Enrolled in at least 1 project
 - Multiple grades can be involved or can be grade specific

Special Case:

- Dual County Membership
- Dual Club Membership

*Scholarships are available

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Session 3

Components of Club Management

Shreemoyee Ghosh | 4-H Agent
Nicole Walker | CED, 4-H Agent

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Club Meetings

4-H Club Meetings = Essential Elements

- Pre-Meeting Basics
 - Location, day, and time are consistent and communicated
 - Planned agenda with officers and leaders collaborating
 - Make plans for FUN to encourage belonging
 - Room arrangement
 - Greet members
- During the Meeting
 - 1/4 Business; 1/2 Education; 1/4 Recreation
 - Officers conduct the meeting with age-appropriate support from leaders
 - Use of basic parliamentary procedure
 - Youth speeches and demonstrations: guest speakers; project meetings and guided group work

- Number of meetings
- Agenda
 - Business
 - Education
 - Recreation

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Club Planning

Educational Plan

- Overall club projects (2-3 max) and leadership opportunities like club officers.
- eg. guest speakers, curriculums, project leaders, field trips, demonstrations or talks, contests etc.

Club Special Activity

- should support club goals and education
- eg. fundraisers, field trips, end of the year party, marketing event during TSC, christmas parade, National 4-H week etc.

Beyond Club Participation

- connecting youth to county, state and national opportunities
- eg. Youth Council at County, District & State Level, 4-H project showcase aka County Events, 4-H camps, photo contest, nature poetry contest, clinics and workshops, iLead, 4-H University, 4-H Day at the Capitol, SRLTC etc.

- Educational Plan
- Club Special Activities
- Beyond Club Participation

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Club Finances

Overview

4-H Money = Public Funds

- Purpose of 4-H club and committee funds: support the educational and life skills development of club members
- Policies are governed by the IRS, State of Florida, University of Florida, and the Office of the Dean for Extension
- Petty Cash up to \$100
- Annual Reporting

- Overview
- Banking Process
- Deposits, Withdrawals & Reimbursements
- Fundraisers- What, Why, How?

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Fundraisers

Funds to be raised ONLY for EDUCATIONAL Purposes or ENHANCE PYD Principles

1. Club Planning

- What - Activity
- Who - Plans
- Why - Purpose
- When - Time
- How - Enhance 4-H Experience

2. Application

Requirements:

- Fill out the application
- Club Treasurer Signature
- Meeting Minutes
- Timeline: 15 business days
- Submit to Slave or Rita

3. Approval

- Completed applications
- All Signatures
- Educational Purpose
- Meeting Minutes

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Case Study 1

May 4-H club purchase materials to make something to donate to an organization? Example: purchasing cloth to make face masks and donate them?

Case Study 2

May a 4-H club use 4-H club money to sponsor a Belt Buckle award by giving those funds to the county fair association?

Case Study 3

A 4-H club wants to participate in the Angel Tree program during the holidays by sponsoring a child. May the club use 4-H club funds to purchase and donate toys and other gift items for the Angel Tree program?

Case Study 4

A club decided to do a recognition event for their club members by going to a national park for overnight camping. All members and their families are invited to this camping trip. There is an entry fee per person and the club decided to pay the entry fees for everyone using the club funds. Is this an acceptable use club funds?

Case Study 5

In their monthly club meeting, 4-H members decide to donate \$X from their club funds to support the family of one of their club member. They want to buy the family groceries and other necessities following an unfortunate incident. Will it be acceptable to use 4-H club funds for this cause? Bonus Question: May they fundraise for this cause using the 4-H name and emblem?

Case Studies

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Polk County 4-H Connections: Webinar Series

Polk 4-H Connections

4-H VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILIES

SAVE THE DATES

Nov 21: Polk 4-H Scholarships & Awards

Jan 16 : 4-H Project Reports aka Record Books

Mar 19: 4-H Summer Opportunities

May 21: Volunteering Opportunities with Polk 4-H

6:30 P.M.

ZOOM

Scan the QR code to Pre-Register

Pre-Registration Required

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YouTube Link to Session 1: Polk County 4-H Scholarships and Awards

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVAcHgPBVh8>

YouTube Link to Session 2: 4-H Project Reports aka Record Books

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpHW09oOm_8

YouTube Link to Session 3: 4-H Youth Opportunities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n19-VP1WyLc>

Polk County 4-H Review Polk County 4-H Member Handbook

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

YOUTH

Polk County 4-H Foundation sponsors all county-level recognitions and scholarships for youth, adult volunteers and clubs. The awards are presented at the 4-H Annual Recognition Banquet at the end of the year. Review [Polk County 4-H Member Handbook](#) for more details.

COUNTY LEVEL AWARDS

4-H Project Report Award

- Ribbons
- Project Pins only to Blue Ribbon winners
- Travel Scholarship to 4-H State Events to overall top Junior, Intermediate, Senior up to \$300

Volunteer Hours (not 4-H related)

- Top three with highest hours receive trophies

4-H Green and White Award

- Trophies and certificates
- Travel scholarship for 4-H state and regional events or conferences for up to \$450

4-H Standard of Excellence aka Clover Awards

- Level Certificates: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Emerald
- Mention in 4-H newsletter or article
- Emerald award winners - pins, local news article

COUNTY LEVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

State 4-H Events

- Judging Contests registration fee
- Archery Field Match registration fee etc.

Annual 4-H Membership Fee Scholarship

- Applications available year round

State 4-H Summer Events

Applications: February 1 to April 30, 2024

- 4-H
- 4-H University
- 4-H Legislature
- SRITC
- Horsemanship School

4-H Day and Residential Camp

- 4-H Camp Cloverleaf
- 4-H Camp Timpochee
- 4-H Camp Cherry Lake

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CONTEST

Supports youth qualifying for National/Regional 4-H contests

- Shooting Sports 4-H
- Regional Horse Shows
- Forestry Invitational
- National Tagging Contest

STATE LEVEL RECOGNITION

- Refer to [Florida 4-H website](#) to learn about recognition and scholarship opportunities at the State Level.
- Scholarship Application - Videos

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Polk County 4-H Review Polk County 4-H Member Handbook

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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- SRITC
- Horsemanship School

4-H Day and Residential Camp

- 4-H Camp Cloverleaf
- 4-H Camp Timpochee
- 4-H Camp Cherry Lake

4-H Livestock Judging

Florida State Fair

Asley C. Waddell, C. Lacey C. Family C. Ryse J. Maribel T.

4-H State Contest

Polk County 4-H Summer Scholarship Winners

4-H Summer Camps

- 4-H University
- 4-H Legislature
- SRITC
- Horsemanship School

4-H Day and Residential Camp

- 4-H Camp Cloverleaf
- 4-H Camp Timpochee
- 4-H Camp Cherry Lake


Polk County 4-H Handbook

The link is to the updated handbook (July 2024)

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:b55e44a6-47b2-4283-bec9-7225774a3699>

Polk County 4-H Handbook

A guide to member and volunteer engagement



2023-2024

Prepared by: Shreemoyee Ghosh | 4-H Agent | Polk County
Reviewed by: Nicole Walker | County Extension Director | Polk County

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Understanding 4-H

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 - The 4-H stand for
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- Eligibility for Participation
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 - Cross county participation & criteria
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 - 4-H Open House and Youth Showcase
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 - 4-H County Events
 - 4-H Open Horse Shows
- State and National Level Opportunities

Recognition and Scholarships

- County Level Recognition Opportunities
- Polk County 4-H Scholarship Opportunities
- State Level Recognition and Scholarship Opportunities

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Eligibility for Participation in Polk County 4-H

For more information on criteria for 4-H competitive events visit the [Florida 4-H website](#) and review [Florida 4-H State Events and Activities Handbook](#).

Eligibility for Participation in Polk County 4-H

The county of residence serves as the primary county for 4-H enrollment. Youth and adults are expected to participate in 4-H activities and clubs within their home county. To become a member of the Polk County 4-H program, youth must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Residence:** Youth must reside in Polk County to be eligible for enrollment in the Polk County 4-H program.
- Age Requirement:** 4-H is open to youth between the ages of 5 and 18 as of September 3 of the current year.

Dual County Participation Criteria and Process

The Dual County participation process allows 4-H members to explore additional opportunities in different counties while maintaining their primary county affiliation. By obtaining the necessary approvals, participants can enjoy a broader range of projects and experiences, enhancing their overall 4-H journey.

Criteria

- Access to Specific 4-H Projects:** Dual County Participation can be requested when a neighboring county offers projects that are not available in the participant's home county. If the family desires to participate in projects offered in both counties, Dual County Participation may be considered.
- 4-H Through Schools:** If a student attends school in a county different from their county of residence, and the school offers a 4-H program, they may request Dual County Participation to participate in both their home county and the school's 4-H program.

Process

To participate in 4-H activities outside your home county, members must obtain written approval from the 4-H agents in both their primary county and Polk County and vice versa. This ensures effective communication and coordination between the counties.

Cross County Participation Criteria and Process

Engaging in cross-county participation within 4-H provides young individuals with the opportunity to explore particular projects within clubs that match their passions but may not be available in their primary county. This form of involvement requires endorsement from both the primary and secondary 4-H agents. Upon approval, the alternate county then becomes the participant's primary 4-H county. To be eligible for Cross County Participation, the following criteria must be met:

Polk County 4-H 2023-2024

Eligibility for Participation in Polk County 4-H

Criteria

- Geographical Proximity:** Cross County Participation is considered when the closest 4-H club is located in a different county than the participant's county of residence. This option is suitable for youth who live near a county line and find it more convenient to engage in activities in the neighboring county.
- Access to Specific 4-H Projects:** If a neighboring county offers projects that are currently not available in the participant's home county, and the family wishes to participate solely in those specific projects and club, Cross County participation may be requested.

For example: Consider Jane Doe, a resident of Polk County, who is keen on enrolling in a 4-H Graphic Design project within Polk County. Regrettably, her primary county, which is Polk, does not offer this project, and she desires to become a part of a 4-H club for the purpose of making new friends and delving into the world of graphic designs. In proximity, ANS County happens to have a Graphic Design project available. However, Jane Doe's sole interest is in joining the Graphic Design project in a club setting. In such a scenario, she would communicate her interest and intention to the primary county's 4-H agent. The 4-H agent would then initiate the process for requesting cross county participation on her behalf. Granting cross-county participation is subject to the agents' discretion.

Process

- Cross County Agreement:** To initiate Cross County Participation, interested members must complete a Cross County Agreement. This agreement outlines the intention to participate in 4-H activities outside the county of residence.
- Primary County Approval Process:** The Cross County Agreement is then submitted to the Primary County 4-H agent for review and approval. The Primary County agent has the discretion to approve or decline the request based on factors such as program capacity and geographical considerations.
- Secondary County Approval:** After receiving approval from the Primary County agent, the Cross County Agreement is forwarded to the 4-H agent in the secondary county for their approval and further guidance on participation.

Agent Discretion: The decision to grant Cross County Participation is at the discretion of both the Primary County and Secondary County agents. They consider factors such as available resources, capacity, and the best interests of the participating youth. If cross county participation is not approved for any reason, kindly get in touch with your primary county 4-H agent to explore alternative engagement possibilities.

Polk County 4-H 2023-2024