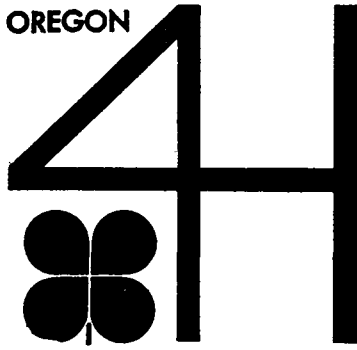


OREGON



Leaders' Handbook

Section 3

4-H Information

The 4-H—Youth Program is the informal, volunteer, off-campus youth education program of Oregon State University Extension Service.

As such, it is open to all without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, or geographic location. Leaders are urged to search out and welcome youth who might not otherwise become involved.

Membership

For a youngster to be considered a "4-H member," he or she must:

1. Be enrolled in the fourth grade and have not completed the twelfth grade.* (The 4-H year begins in the fall and continues through the following summer.)
2. Enroll for one or more 4-H projects.
3. Have such enrollment recorded with the county Extension office.

Associate membership may be extended to youngsters under the fourth grade. This is generally done with younger brothers or sisters who would be in attendance at most of the club's meetings and where it can help make them a "part of" the group.

Certain programs have materials especially developed for younger children. This is true in the Nutrition Education (EFNEP) area.

These younger children can have an excellent home and/or group related experience. They should not be participants in county-wide competitive events.

Age Divisions

For purposes of planning, developing, and providing meaningful educational experiences, certain divisions have been established. These are:

Junior — 4th, 5th, 6th graders

Intermediate — 7th, 8th, 9th graders

Senior — 10th, 11th, 12th graders

* Mentally retarded persons are encouraged to enroll and remain in 4-H as participants as long as 4-H is beneficial to them.

Uniforms

Oregon does *not* require 4-H members to wear uniforms.

Dues

There are no national, state, or county dues. However, individual clubs may decide to have dues to cover expenses. For example, a foods club may require funds for the ingredients members use.

Fund Raising

The policy statement issued by the Federal Extension Service states: "Any use of the 4-H name and emblem is forbidden if it exploits the 4-H club program, its volunteer leaders, or members."

Selling commercial products under the name 4-H is discouraged. Some acceptable ways of raising money are:

- collecting bottles and cans for recycling
- bake sales
- car washes
- paper drives
- barbecues
- other services
- entertainment programs
- socials

Clubs should not strive for a large treasury. Funds should be for specific uses, and expended annually.

Insurance

Accident and Sickness

Two types of accident and sickness insurance are available. One is the annual program for which members and leaders pay for coverage while participating in all regularly scheduled 4-H activities for twelve months. This policy requires participation by all members in a club.

The second type is the trip or event policy which requires that notice be sent to the company prior to an event or activity indicating an intent to insure. Following the event or activity the leader sends in a specified amount for each participant.

Information on both types may be obtained from the County Extension Office. The contract of agreement is a direct arrangement between 4-H club and the insurance company.

Liability

The State System of Higher Education provides liability insurance coverage for volunteer workers. 4-H leaders, when functioning in their official capacity of 4-H leadership, are insured under this coverage. More complete details can be secured from the County Extension Office.

Livestock

Several companies make available a 4-H/FFA livestock insurance policy under which members may insure their project animals. Additional information is available at the County Extension Office.

4-H and other Youth Organizations

Cooperation with other youth organizations is encouraged at all levels. Sharing of resources will enrich all programs. It is possible for members of other youth groups to enroll in 4-H also.