



HOWARD COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2020 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

In order to enroll in the Howard County 4-H Program, a youth must:

- Must attend a club meeting prior to enrolling in a 4-H club.
- Membership enrollment and the \$10 state enrollment fee needs to be completed online through the 4-H online enrollment system.
- Howard County 4-H dues for 2020 are \$10 dollars per member. (This is different than the State 4-H enrollment fee of \$10 paid online during member enrollment.) Ten dollar county dues are to be paid per member to their primary club Organizational Leader. Families with 3+ members, only pay for 3 members. Please contact Sheryl Bennett via sherylb@umd.edu or 410-313-1912 if a financial assistance waiver is needed.
- A member may not be enrolled in more than one county 4-H Program (i.e.-cannot be enrolled as a member in Howard County and Carroll County).
- A member must designate the projects in which they intend to participate and/or exhibit at the Howard County Fair or Maryland State Fair, by June 1st of the current year.
- Members may not drop a project after June 1st.
- Projects may be added throughout the entire calendar year, however, a member must be enrolled by June 1st to enter a 4-H competition or event.

COMPLETING A PROJECT INCLUDES:

- Must exhibit the project.
- Give a project related visual presentation or project talk.
- Develop and express growth/knowledge within the project.
- 4-H members are to complete a project record for all projects enrolled in as of June 1st (Note all areas in the project record must be completed accurately).

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

- **Meeting Attendance**-Members are expected to regularly attend club meetings. Members need to attend a minimum of 6 business meetings per year. (If members are absent from a meeting or meetings, they should not miss more than 2 consecutive meetings in a row.)
- **Late Attendance**-Members are expected to be punctual when attending meetings. Members who arrive at the club meeting after the first 10 minutes will not be counted as in attendance for the meeting.
- **Members Attending College**-Members who are enrolled in a college and not residing at home are excused from attending meetings when they are physically at college. Those members are expected to attend club meetings when they are home on break or in the summer. Members who are attending a local college or community college and residing at their home residence are

expected to attend club meetings on a regular basis according to the outlined criteria for meeting attendance.

RECORD BOOKS/PROJECT RECORDS

- 4-H members are to complete project records for all projects enrolled in as of June 1st. 4-H members may combine general project records (human and environmental projects may be combined and recorded on one form annually). EXCEPTION-Food and Nutrition projects must be completed on their own form. Additionally, all animal projects must still be completed on their own form.
- In the event a member does not complete and submit a required individual project record for a project or include a project on the general combined form by the February 1st deadline, they may not carry the project in the current year and are not eligible to participate in any 4-H sponsored competitions related to the project.
- Project records need to be bound or stapled when submitted.
- Project records will be evaluated using a rubric score system. If a project record does not meet the minimum criteria, it will be returned to the 4-H'er for additions or changes.
- ALL record sheets and record books must be submitted to the Extension Office by February 1st. Please keep in mind that each club has their own deadline prior to February 1st. Club volunteers review record books and project record sheets prior to turning them in to the office. It is the member's responsibility to turn them in to their club by the club deadline.

ANIMAL PROJECTS

- Animals are to be housed, owned and registered to a single 4-H'er. (Exception- lease agreements).
- 4-H'ers housing livestock animals at a location other than where they live, **need permission prior to purchasing project animals**. The request needs to be emailed to Sheryl at sherylb@umd.edu. Failure to request approval could impact a 4-H'ers status to exhibit the project.
- Anyone enrolled in the following projects must complete online Quality Assurance training: alpaca, beef, dairy, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine. The online quality assurance program must be completed if:
 - If you have not added any new animal projects and have not changed an age level (Junior to Intermediate or Intermediate to Senior), then you do not need to do anything this year.
 - If you have a new animal project this year, then you must complete the introductory section as well as the specie specific section of the online Quality Assurance training (Intermediate and Senior age youth)
 - If you changed age levels this year, then you are required to complete the introductory section and all animal sections related to your projects.
 - If this is your first year in 4-H, then you are required to complete the introductory section and all sections related to your projects. (Exception: Juniors do not have to complete individual sections for each project as they have a combined program.
- If a member is enrolled in a project as of June 1st and then decides to he/she will not exhibit that project he/she is still expected to complete the quality assurance program as outlined above.
- Bred and Owned
 - The mother of the animal must be owned and registered to the 4-H member at the time of breeding.

- A 4-H member needs to be enrolled in the breeding project for that species for the year the mother was bred and the current 4-H year.
- The mother must be under the direct care of the 4-H member while raising her young.
- A 4-H member needs to house all their market animals and the mother and offspring at the same location.
- In the event, a 4-Her decides at fair time or soon after that he/she plans to breed an animal (sheep, goat or swine) and is not carrying the breeding project, then the breeding project needs to be added no later than September 30th. A project record is required to be completed.

Diamond Clover Awards

- The Diamond Clover Award is designed for younger youth to begin at Level One and progress through 6 levels, one level per year, acquiring valuable life skills as he/she advances. Youth who are older when joining 4-H, may begin at a higher level (1 through 4) if mutually agreeable to the participant and the club/group leader *with* the permission of the 4-H Educator.
- At the beginning of the calendar year, youth will present their plan (Levels 1-5) to the club leader for approval. Please note that Level 5 also needs pre-approval from the 4-H Extension Educator, therefore, this needs to be turned in no later than January 15th to the county for appropriate signature.
- Diamond Clover Level 6 Service Project Plan approval is not automatic. A youth must apply for Diamond Clover (Level 6) Service Project approval using the appropriate plan/report form due at the state level September 30th. Since it is due to the state by September 30th, the county needs the appropriate documentation and a committee review no later than September 1st.
- Youth meeting the requirements of levels 1 through 5 will be recognized at a 4-H County/Unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) event. Youth meeting the requirements of level 6 will be recognized at an appropriate state event.
- Completed forms for levels 1-4 need to be turned in to the County Extension Office by February 1st after year of completion.
- Final level 5 completion reports need to be turned in to the County Extension Office upon completion.
- Diamond Clover Level 6 Recognition is not automatic. A youth must submit all completed materials for recognition by September 30th to the State 4-H Office the year the project is complete. If appropriate guidelines are not followed, project will not be recognized. All dates must be clearly adhered to for recognition.

Updated 10/2019

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