

Vermont 4-H Club Guidelines (Nov 2023)

- A. At a minimum, clubs must have at least 4 business meetings per year.
- B. In addition to business meetings, club members participate in projects. Project groups are youth working on a common educational goal with the guidance of a volunteer leader. Children learn best when involved in a sequential learning experience, meeting a minimum of 6-8 hours over a period of several weeks. A planned sequential learning experience usually involves an approved 4-H curriculum and documentation of learning in the form of a project record or an alternative option that has been approved by the educator.

It is possible for a 4-H'er to participate in a project individually as an independent member. In consultation with an advisor, the independent member develops a contract stating specific project goals, outlines action steps to be taken in reaching these goals and defines the evaluation and sharing processes to be used.

- C. Approved 4-H curriculum must fall into one of the following categories:
1. 4-H Curriculum developed in Vermont and approved through the State 4-H Office.
 2. 4-H Curriculum which is listed in the "National 4-H Council Source Book" (catalogue)
 3. Juried 4-H Curriculum. This is curriculum which has been through the national 4-H curriculum jury procedure.
 4. 4-H Curriculum developed by another state (but not juried at the national level.) This curriculum must be approved through the Vermont State 4-H Office.

Any project carried out which does not have an approved 4-H curriculum is considered an activity

To be a member in good standing (which qualifies you for scholarships, national trips, and other leadership opportunities) a 4-H'er must:

- 1.) attend 75% of the regularly scheduled club business meetings;
- 2.) attend 75% of the regularly scheduled project meetings for the project(s) in which the member is enrolled;
- 3) complete a 4-H record and have it approved by the 4-H leader, annually.

It is important that these criteria be reviewed with 4-H members at the beginning of the 4-H year. It is recommended that clubs maintain a 4-H calendar which is updated at each meeting (and at project meetings if necessary). Each 4-H member should be encouraged to bring a calendar to meetings to keep updated.