

Drew County 2007 Policy Guide



Mission & 4-H Year



The mission of the Family, Youth, and 4-H Education program is to help children, youth, and families realize their full potential and to improve the quality of life for Arkansas children, youth and families. The 4-H youth development program provides opportunities for youth to acquire knowledge, develop skills, form attitudes, and practice behavior that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

The 4-H year is from October 1 of the current calendar year to September 30 of the following calendar year.

Membership

To be considered a 4-H member, an individual must be 5-19 years old, must have a current membership card on file with the Drew County Cooperative Extension Service Office and must be affiliated with an active 4-H club or must have permission from the County Extension Agent to receive an "independent" status. Current 4-H members must re-enroll every year.

Individuals may be a member of only one community club. This does not include specialty clubs such as shooting sports, teen leaders, livestock clubs, etc. Also, you may only be a member in one county to compete in any county activity.

Age Categories

- Cloverbuds—ages 5–8 years old
 - Become official participants on their 5th birthday
- Juniors—ages 9–13 years old
 - Must be 9 as of January 1 to compete in county, district or state activities as a junior
- Seniors—ages 14–19
 - Must be 14 as of January 1 to compete in county, district, or state activities as a senior
 - May compete as a senior until December 31 of the year they celebrate their 19th birthday

The Cooperative Extension Service State 4-H Office sets the age regulations, and the rules are listed in the State 4-H Policy Handbook.

Scoring

The following awards system will be utilized for presenting awards at all county activities. Placing and ribbons are:

1 st – Blue	4 th – Pink
2 nd – Red	5 th – Yellow
3 rd – White	Participation – Green

County Activities

Junior and Senior 4-H members are eligible to participate in all county activities. Rules for each activity in the District and State O-Rama packet will apply to county events unless otherwise indicated by the county Extension staff or the Calendar of Events.

Cloverbuds may participate in activities on the county level, but they are limited to certain divisions as indicated in the Calendar of Events.

All 4-H'ers MUST pre-register by the date indicated in the Calendar of Events and monthly 4-H News newsletter for all activities.

Dress Code

The dress, grooming, and manners reflect the general climate of any organization; therefore, 4-H'ers are expected to wear appropriate clothing and to present a neat appearance when participating in the program. Moderation in type and style of clothing should be the basic standard. The following clothing items are **not** permitted in casual and business casual attire:

- Pants, shorts, skirts, and dresses that are not longer than the fingertips of hands held at sides (arms length); the tip of the waistband must be no lower than the top of the hipbone
- Clothing with slits and/or cutout areas that are above the finger tips of hands held at sides
- Any backless dress, top, or cutoff shirt that exposes any part of the midriff or back
- Clothing with revealing necklines and sleeve openings
- Mesh-type or see-through shirts
- Visible undergarments
- Clothing with inappropriate or unsuitable graphics or slogans (vulgarity or obscenities and/or drug, tobacco or alcohol advertisements)
- Any clothing item that an Extension faculty member deems inappropriate

Appropriate clothing for events that specify casual attire includes walking-length shorts (fingertip length), jeans or pants, and T-shirts or sweatshirts. Business casual attire includes blouses or shirts with slacks or pants, including khakis and dress denims. Semi-formal and formal attire includes coat and tie and slacks for males and dressy dress or pantsuit or party dress for females. Semi-formal and formal attire should be age appropriate for the youth and should be moderate in type and style. Youth and adults selected to 4-H events should be notified by Extension personnel of appropriate type dress for the event. Extension staff and adult volunteers are responsible for enforcing this policy at all 4-H events.

Arkansas 4-H Code of Conduct Agreement

- Maintain responsibility for personal and public property and assume financial responsibility for any damages resulting from my behavior.
- Be responsible for attending all scheduled activities, which includes remaining on the premises of event unless absence is approved.
- Be considerate of others attending the event. Using abusive language, sexual misconduct, assault or threat of personal harm will not be tolerated.
- Not possess or use alcohol or other illegal substances, weapons, and fireworks.
- Observe curfew guidelines in sleeping rooms and public areas as indicated by the program. Curfew means in own room and not disturbing others. Males and females may not be in the same sleeping room at any time except in rooms reserved for families.
- Only use a vehicle during the event with adult permission.

Consequences

Any youth accused of a violation may be required to appear before a review board, be sent home at parents' expense after notification of parents, and/or be suspended from participating in 4-H activities for up to 12 months.

The Review Board will consist of at least one Extension employee, one or two adult volunteers, and three youth participants. The person in charge of the event or delegation will appoint the board at the beginning of the event and will serve as chair. The review board may be convened by the person in charge of the event or delegation, by an Extension faculty or staff member, or at the request of the involved youth(s).

Other Guidelines

4-H member charged with a criminal offense may be expelled or suspended from the 4-H program for a period of up to 2 years or until charges have been resolved.

- The guidelines governing an activity or event will be provided to and/or discussed with agents, adult volunteers, and youth participants prior to or at the beginning of each event.
- Participants will be under the supervision of Extension representatives and/or adult volunteers assigned to the event.
- Decision to review situations for possible disciplinary action rests with the Extension faculty in charge of the event.
- These guidelines are not "all inclusive." The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service reserves the right to make adjustments.

Appeal Procedures

A youth appealing the decision of the review board must appeal through their county Extension office, in writing and within 30 days following notification of punishment. As necessary, the District Director will appoint an appeal board no later than 30 days following the date of the youth's request. The appeal board will consist of one County Extension Agent, three youths, one adult volunteer, and a District Director or Associate District Director.

Every 4-H member must have a signed copy of the Code of Conduct on file in the Extension Office (enrollment card).

All meetings and activities are open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 19 without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or disability. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.