Welcome to Washington County 4-H

We are excited to have you as part of our County 4-H program. There are many opportunities for youth in 4-H and we hope you will make the most of them. The Arkansas 4-H program is administered through the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service. 4-H teaches leadership, teamwork, citizenship, record keeping, public speaking, and skills young people will use throughout their lives. Each year Arkansas 4-H youth receive more than $80,000 in college scholarships at the state level for their 4-H accomplishments.

The Washington County Extension Service office is located across the street from the fairgrounds in Fayetteville. Our address is 2536 N. McConnell, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72704. The phone number is 479-444-1755. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Online: http://www.uaex.edu/washington or agoff@uaex.edu If you need to reach Anna Goff after office hours, please call her cell phone 479-856-8565 and leave a message.

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What 4-H does
4-H prepares young people to step up to the challenges in their community and the world. Using research-based programs around positive youth development, 4-H youth get the hands-on real world experience they need to become leaders.

4-H Mission
The mission of 4-H is to provide opportunities for youth to acquire knowledge, develop life skills, form attitudes, and practice behavior that will enable them to become self directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

4-H Emblem
The 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf. The letters in the emblem stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health - the foundation of all 4-H programs.

4-H Pledge
I pledge my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service, my Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H Slogan  Learn by doing  4-H Motto  To make the best better

Membership
4-H offers its programs to all youth between the ages of 5 and 19 regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status.

Washington County 4-H Program
There are over 20 different clubs with a total membership of over 460 youth. Contact the Extension Office to help find a club that works best with your schedule and interests.
**Definitions**

**4honline** - All 4-H families and members must be enrolled. Go online at: https://arkansas.4honline.com or contact the Extension Office if you need help with the online part of registration.

**4-H Year** - October 1 - September 30 When referring to age “as of January 1”, it is during that 4-H year.

**Adult 4-H Volunteer/Leader Requirements**

All adult volunteer leaders in the 4-H program are required to register in 4honline, pass a background check and child maltreatment check, submit a physical volunteer leader application, abide by the volunteer leader’s Code of Conduct, and uphold 4-H policies and guidelines. A dult volunteers must receive training credits to complete their approval.

**County Newsletter** - Once the 4-H enrollment card is on file at the Extension Office you have officially joined the 4-H program. You will then receive our county 4-H newsletter bimonthly and other mailings to let you know about 4-H events. Newsletters are posted online at: http://www.uaex.edu/washington/4H/ and choose “The Clover Network – 4-H Newsletter” Members can join our 4-H Facebook page by searching for agoff@uaex.edu or contact the Extension Office.

**District** - Washington County is part of the Ozark District that is comprised of 25 counties.

**Enrollment Forms** - Annually

Each 4-H year an enrollment form must be completed for each 4-H member and adult volunteer leader to remain active and continue receiving correspondence regarding the county 4-H program. Place a note on the top of the youth enrollment card if you need the Extension Office to complete the enrollment in 4honline for youth members.

**O-Rama** - Competition that is held on the county, district (25 counties), or state level. On the county level 4-H members may enter several different contests/events, however they select one event for the District O-Rama.

**Parent & Adult Leaders (PAL)** - 4-H parents and adult volunteers that meet together and provide assistance to the county 4-H program. Meetings happen immediately following County 4-H Council meetings.

**Record Book (Journal)** - Method of recording and submitting information about projects and activities a 4-H member has completed. Purposes include developing life skills such as: record-keeping; setting goals; communication; measuring growth and achievements; and organizational skills. 4-H members may earn scholarships by submitting Record Books for competition and information recorded can be used in developing a resume and applying for non-4-H scholarships.

(4-H Policy committee clarified membership definitions - Effective October 1, 2013)

**Youth Membership:** Purpose of attending the 1st 4-H club meeting - find out information about 4-H and the specific 4-H club. An enrollment card can be provided at the 1st meeting to be turned in at the 2nd meeting. The youth is not a 4-H member until attending the 2nd meeting of the SAME 4-H club and submitting an enrollment card.

**New 4-H members:** are encouraged to join as early as possible, to receive benefits of the 4-H program.

**Returning 4-H members:** are to submit their 4-H enrollment card annually by the April club meeting to the club main leader or the Extension Office (indicating he/she has attended at least 2 meetings since October 1st).

**Attendance:**

Minimum - members are required to attend at least ½ of all club meetings. If he/she is a member of more than one 4-H club, this attendance is required for each club he/she is a member. Some clubs require stricter guidelines as indicated in their bylaws.

**All 4-H clubs:** Members absent from three (3) consecutive regular club meetings are to be removed from the club roll and from active 4-H member status (Extension Office must be notified). In order to receive an exemption, the club member must contact the club leader before the regularly scheduled club meeting and providing the reason for the absence. Exemptions can be given for: religious activity, school activity, illness, participating in another 4-H activity at same time, sports (excuses should be limited as determined by bylaws or club officer team for approval), or other (to be brought before the club officer team for approval)

**Cloverbud 4-H Member** - Eligible as 4-H member on their 5th birthday. Cloverbuds are eligible to participate in non-competitive educational programs/events. (All Cloverbud participation receives the same recognition.)

**Junior 4-H Member** - Youth that are age 9 as of January 1 and become eligible to participate in activities beyond the county level at this time.

**Senior 4-H Member** - Youth that are age 14 as of January 1. They may participate and/or compete in 4-H activities and events until December 31 of the year they celebrate their 19th birthday.

**County Fair Livestock Auction** - Washington County fair guidelines - Any youth that is a resident of Washington County, is eligible to exhibit at the County Fair. All participants in the Livestock Auction must be a 4-H or FFA member. 4-H membership guidelines stated above will be followed to verify auction eligibility.
Examples of Some of the Many County Activities for 4-H Members to Participate

**Achievement Banquet** - All 4-H members are invited and encouraged to attend the annual County 4-H Achievement Banquet. 4-H members that submit a Record Book will receive an opportunity to attend the banquet with their ticket paid.

**Activity Day** - This event is a District 4-H O-Rama qualifying activity. Members compete in events including Bait Casting & Game Fish ID, Bicycle, Crop and Seed ID, Entomology, Forestry, Gun Safety & BB Gun Marksmanship, Ornamental Horticulture, and Reel into Sport Fishing.

**Arbor Day** - This annual county 4-H activity gives a chance to give back to the local environment through tree planting.

**Bread Contest** - Baked products and the recipe are entered in either or both, quick bread or yeast bread categories.

**County 4-H Council** - Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday, at 6:00 p.m., every other month. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. Officers from all 4-H clubs serve as members of the council. Applicants are elected to serve as officers of the County 4-H Council and chair county event planning committees.

**County Educational Workshops** - Each year there are a variety of workshops available for members to participate. Many require preregistration and some have fees also. Examples of these workshops include Day Camps, Field Trips, Food Preservation, Robotics, STEM activities, Culinary Experiences, Sewing Workshops, 4-H Officer Training, Creating a 4-H Record Book, Livestock Judging, Entomology and more. These events are offered according to requests made on surveys, as resources are available, and as time allows. Please note ages and deadlines for events. If there is a registration fee, the fee must be paid to the Extension Office in order to be registered for the event.

**County Fair** - There are hundreds of different categories that county 4-H members can enter in the county fair. 4-H members with livestock entries are eligible for selection in the annual premium auction. Fair entries include vegetables, insect collections, crafts, art, photography, table settings, preserved foods, baked goods, flower arrangements, educational exhibits, sheep, swine, dairy goats, meat goats, rabbits, poultry, horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, and many others. The Extension Office will have information on entry dates and deadlines when announced.

**Dairy Foods Contest** - Categories are Main Dish and Party Ideas. Prepared dish and recipe is entered. Judging of recipes is based on the variety of milk and dairy products, originality, clearness and accuracy, availability of ingredients, and serving ideas. The winning recipe in each category is sent to the state contest. State participants must be in the 4th-12th grades. 4-H members below the 4th grade may enter but will only receive participation recognition.

**Farm Friends** - County program to educate youth and community members on farm animals and how the farm and agriculture has an impact on the community and its economy.

**Fun ‘N’ Fashion** - This event is a District 4-H O-Rama qualifying activity. Members can showcase their instrumental, vocal, and dance talents. There are constructed and purchased Fashion Revue events. Event guidelines can be found at the following website: [http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet](http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet)

**Poultry BBQ Contest** - Contestants are provided two halves of a split broiler to barbecue and turn in one half for judging. Junior and Senior 4-H members compete against each other and the top five contestants represent the county at the District Broiler Barbecue Contest. Rules and information on the event can be requested at the Extension Office.

**Ross Photography** - Each 4-H member can enter two color photographs (living and non-living category) and two black-and-white photographs (living and non-living category). Four county winners are selected, one in each category, and sent to compete in the state contest. Cash awards are presented to state winners. Guidelines can be found at the following website: [http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet](http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet)

**Scholarship Opportunities** - Local scholarships that 4-H members are eligible to apply for are announced in the county 4-H newsletter, along with deadlines for state 4-H scholarships. Information about the state scholarships can be found at: [http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet](http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet) and scroll down to the Scholarships section.

**Talk & Demonstration Day** - This event is a District 4-H O-Rama qualifying activity. At this activity, members present a prepared speech and/or demonstration on one of a number of different topics. Presentations are 2-5 minutes for junior 4-H members and 5-8 minutes for senior 4-H members. Posters, visual aids, or PowerPoint presentations are used in most categories. As part of the yearly events packet online, 4-H O-Rama is listed with updates for all of the competitive events. This can be found at the following website: [http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet](http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/event_packet)

***Please note:*** In order for a 4-H member to be eligible to represent Washington County 4-H at a district, state, regional, or national level official 4-H event (excluding fairs) the 4-H member must attend at least 3 (three) county 4-H activities within the past 24 months and submit the 1/3 page form for eligibility. This form must be submitted annually.
4-H Program Guidelines, Ethics, and Integrity

Members are eligible to join a 4-H club after attending two club meetings. Washington County 4-H members must have a signed 4-H enrollment form on file at the Extension office for the current year. Members must either be a resident of Washington County, attend a public school in Washington County, be home school tested in a Washington County School District, or petition the county review board for permission to enroll as a Washington County 4-H member. 4-H members must attend at least 50% of club meetings.

Code of Conduct

As part of the 4-H enrollment form 4-H members sign that he/she understands and agrees to follow the 4-H Code of Conduct at all 4-H functions. In addition, he/she understands that he/she will have to accept responsibility for their own actions that may result in the consequences listed below. Disciplinary action will result for any Major Offense or Minor Offense violation. Members may also be disciplined for any acts deemed inappropriate by the leaders or Extension personnel in charge of the 4-H activity.

When a 4-H member is to be sent home or removed, parents or legal guardians will be notified immediately. Sending the 4-H member home or removal from the event will be at the parent or legal guardian’s expense and without refund. Immediate removal from the activity or event will be considered temporary discipline. Further disciplinary action will be determined by a Review Board consisting of two Extension employees, two adult volunteers, and two 4-H members.

Major Offenses

When a 4-H member is found to have committed a major offense, he or she will be suspended from participation in county, district, state, regional, national, and international 4-H activities for a period of up to 12 months or greater.

The following acts of misconduct are considered major offenses that may result in immediate removal from an activity or event.

- Possession or use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages
- Theft, misuse or abuse or destruction of public or personal property
- Sexual Misconduct
- Possession of unauthorized weapons or fireworks
- Unauthorized absence from the premises of the event
- Assault or threatening a person with a weapon or bodily harm
- Smoking or use of tobacco products
- Violating the International Association of Fairs and Exposition National Code of Show Ring Ethics

Minor Offenses

The following acts of misconduct are considered minor offenses that may require the 4-H member to appear before a Review Board.

- Breaking curfew hours or disturbing others
- Unauthorized use of vehicle during the event
- Reckless behavior
- Unexcused absence from the activities of the event
- Use of foul or offensive language
- Visitation by non-registered persons

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 which 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 which are above the finger tips of hands held at sides
- Any backless dress, top, or cutoff shirts that expose any part of the midriff or back
- Clothing with revealing necklines or sleeve openings (including tank tops)
- Mesh type or sheer/see-through shirts
- Visible undergarments
- Clothing with inappropriate or unsuitable graphics or slogans (vulgatilies or obscenities and/or drug, tobacco or alcohol advertisements)
- Any clothing item that an Extension faculty member deems inappropriate

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