



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding 4-H Membership



What calendar dates does 4-H follow?

The 4-H year is from October 1st through September 30th.
4-H uses the calendar year (January 1st through December 31st) to determine membership age divisions.

What are the ages for each of the 4-H membership divisions?

The following is a *general* breakdown of the different 4-H membership divisions and their respective ages. (*Please see the specific breakdown for joining & advancing.*)

Clover Kids:	5-8 years-old
Junior Members:	9-13 years-old
Senior Members:	14-18 years-old
Volunteers:	18 years-old and older

What is the *specific* breakdown of the 4-H membership division when joining 4-H?

When joining 4-H, the age of the youth on December 31st of the *current 4-H year* determines which membership division s/he will participate in. The following are some examples to illustrate this.

- A youth wants to join 4-H, but s/he is only 4 years-old on December 31st; unfortunately; s/he will not be able to join this year.
- A youth who joins 4-H in November will be 5 years-old on December 31st; s/he will be a Clover Kid.
- A youth who joins 4-H in April was 5 years-old on December 31st; s/he will be a Clover Kid.
- A youth who joins 4-H in October will be 9 years-old on December 31st; s/he will be a Junior Member.
- A youth who joins 4-H in February was 9 years-old on December 31st; s/he will be a Junior Member.
- A youth who joins 4-H in December will be 14 years-old on December 31st; s/he will be a Senior Member.
- A youth who joins 4-H in March was 14 years-old on December 31st; s/he will be a Senior Member.
- A youth wants to join 4-H, but s/he will already be 19 years-old on December 31st; unfortunately; s/he will not be able to join, but s/he could volunteer.



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What is the *specific* breakdown of the 4-H membership division when advancing within 4-H?

Advancement in 4-H occurs at the beginning of the 4-H year (October 1st). The youth's age on December 31st (three months later) determines whether or not s/he will advance this 4-H year. The following are some examples to illustrate this.

- A youth who will still be 8 years-old on December 31st must remain a Clover Kid until the next 4-H year.
- A youth who will be 9 years-old on December 31st will advance to a Junior Member for that 4-H year beginning October 1st.
- A youth who will still be 13 years-old on December 31st must remain a Junior Member until the next 4-H year.
- A youth who will be 14 years-old on December 31st will advance to a Senior Member for that 4-H year beginning October 1st.
- A youth who will still be 18 years-old on December 31st may remain a Senior Member throughout the 4-H year.
- An adult who will be 19 years-old on December 31st may not participate in 4-H as a youth member. S/he is strongly encouraged to find ways to volunteer.

What about youth who are developmentally delayed; can they continue in 4-H beyond the 4-H year in which they are 18 years-old?

The University does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs and activities. Any exception beyond the outlined measures above will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and require the approval of a 4-H agent.

As a first-year Junior Member, can I show an animal at the Arizona State Fair?

Although the State Fair allows 8-year-old youth to exhibit animals, the National 4-H program prohibits this. Additionally, Arizona 4-H views the State Fair as the culmination of the previous 4-H year. Since the State Fair occurs from late October through early November, a first-year Junior Member would not have any significant experience to draw on as a Junior Member. Once a Junior Member is in his/her second year, s/he will be eligible to exhibit animals at the State Fair under 4-H.

However, 8-year-old youth are permitted to exhibit animals at the State Fair as an Open Youth Entry. This is not in any way affiliated with 4-H and the youth has the responsibility to adhere to all of the State Fair's rules and regulations.