

Champaign County 4-H

Parent Guide

2009 – 2010



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION



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University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, United States Department of
Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating

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If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any of our programs, please contact us.

Welcome to the new 4-H year!

Inside you will find basic information regarding the 4-H Program and a suggested calendar of events for Champaign County 4-H members and their families. All programs listed are subject to change. Specific information regarding an activity or special program will be made available to 4-H leaders and 4-Hers interested in participating.

In most cases, your 4-H leader will be able to answer your questions and assist you as you navigate through the 4-H system.

The *Illinois Clover*, *Extension Connections* (county newsletter sent to all 4-H families), the electronic *Leader's Navigator*, as well as the Champaign County Extension Unit's home page will help families identify programs offered and changes made during the current 4-H year.

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/index.html>

General Guidelines

4-H Youth Guidelines

- Be courteous and respect others
- Obey all rules established by the University of Illinois Extension
- 4-H Youth Development program and those of the local club/group as well as local and state laws
- Treat all people fairly and animals humanely
- Respect the property of others
- Respect the authority of adult or youth volunteers, paid Extension staff, and others in leadership roles
- Use appropriate language and wear acceptable clothing at 4-H activities and events
- Show kindness to others and give assistance when needed
- Be honest and honor commitments
- Strive for personal best and keep trying to improve
- Accept responsibility for personal choices

Cloverbud Enrollment Guidelines

Youth ages 5 – 7 before September 1 may enroll as a 4-H Cloverbud. The 4-H Cloverbud Program is designed to introduce 5 – 7 year olds to a variety of 4-H experiences and introduces life skill development. Cloverbuds do not elect officers, give talks, or hold regular meetings; it is non-competitive. However, Cloverbuds must complete the 4-H Enrollment Form as described below and select from a limited project list in addition to the standard Cloverbud Curriculum. The adult/child ratio for these groups is five to six children per one adult leader. Groups may choose how often they wish to meet.

Member Enrollment Guidelines for Community Clubs

The 4-H year begins September 1 and ends August 31. A 4-Hers age is determined as his/her age as of September 1 of the current 4-H year. This is the age used in contests or activities where there is a division by age. Any person, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or disability may participate in 4-H programs.

Youth who are eight years old or in the third grade and have not reached their nineteenth birthday on or before September 1 of the current 4-H year may enroll in 4-H Community Clubs.

4-Hers who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in 4-H programming are encouraged to contact the office.

Each 4-Her and leader must complete and return the **Illinois 4-H Enrollment Form** and project selection forms. These forms are available through your club leader. 4-H members are encouraged to enroll and select projects at the time their club re-organizes.

Complete all information accurately including birth date, email, and specific address. This enrollment form is the sole source of information which keeps members and leaders up-to-date on 4-H events.

Illinois State 4-H program staff has determined that to preserve high quality programs, a state-wide 4-H Program Fee is necessary. Beginning September, 2009, a \$20 per year per participant 4-H Program Fee will be applied to Community Club member and Cloverbud Groups.

Project Selection

A project is an area of study the member chooses because of his/her personal interests. A list of all projects is in the *Illinois Clover* booklet provided by your leader. Project selection is facilitated by marking the appropriate boxes on Page 2 of the **Enrollment Form**. Check with the club leader or Extension 4-H Youth Development staff about enrollment deadline dates for certain exhibit opportunities especially if the member plans a live large animal exhibit (some animal possession deadlines must also be observed):

- Public Presentations
- Foods Demonstrations
- 4-H Horse Show
- 4-H Clothing & Textiles and Fashion Review Show
- 4-H Dog Show; 4-H Project Expo
- Champaign County 4-H Livestock Show

April 1 is the enrollment deadline to be properly enrolled and eligible to exhibit and receive premiums at most Summer Show events (county and state). However, members may join 4-H at any time throughout the year.

Project Support Materials

After enrollment, your leader will receive the project books the 4-Her requested from the State 4-H Office to help members learn about specific projects. Also, the member may receive project planning guides that can be used to record the progress the member is making with the project. These forms are also available on line at: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/4hyouth.html>

Ask your leader about 4-H Record Books and 4-H Record Book Workshops. Maintaining 4-H records is a good beginning to developing a record keeping life skill.

Attendance

According to the Illinois State 4-H policy, all youth must attend at least one event or meeting with their club to be eligible to exhibit at project shows. If the youth does not fulfill this requirement prior to June 15, the leader will notify the extension staff and the 4-Her will not be allowed to exhibit at the project shows, compete for awards, or receive premium funds.

For Champaign County members, we request that all 4-Hers and parents/guardians read and complete the "Attendance commitment Statement" on the back of the blue **2009 – 2010 Enrollment Form**. This form states that members agree to attend at least two 4-H club meeting/activities this club year.

However, exhibit eligibility will be in accordance to Illinois State 4-H Policy as stated in the previous paragraph.

Multiple Club Membership

Champaign County 4-Hers have the opportunity and are encouraged to belong to Specialty Clubs in addition to their “regular community club.” In Champaign County Specialty Clubs include: Horses, Livestock, Dogs, and “Girl Talk.”

Exhibit Schedule

Champaign County 4-H members, who are properly enrolled in a project, are invited to make entries and exhibit a project(s) at special project shows during the summer months. *The Champaign County 4-H Project Show Guide*, published in February, will contain all the information needed for 4-H Summer Shows and entry filing deadlines. Your club leader will provide one guide for each Champaign County 4-H family or check this website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/4hyouth.html>

Leaders

Leader Requirements

All leaders are required to comply with the Illinois 4-H Volunteer Screening process. Volunteer Applications and the Illinois Individual Enrollment forms are available at the Unit Office. All volunteer leaders are encouraged to attend 4-H Leader Meetings which feature continued training. Leaders are also encouraged to complete the six module training series, “Valued Volunteer.”

Use of Alcohol and Drugs

It is expected that adults working in the Extension 4-H/Youth program be positive role models for participating youth. Adults must obey the laws of the state and adhere to the 4-H Youth & Leader Guidelines.

4-H Activities

A leader may encourage club members to participate in club or workshop opportunities. Announcements will be emailed to Club Organizational Leaders, 4-H members, published in *Extension Connections* newsletter, and/or posted on the county website, <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/4hyouth.html>

Judging Contests

Various competitions giving 4-Hers an educational experience to learn more about a specific subject are available through judging contests. County winners may be eligible to compete at the state level in one of the following judging areas: dairy, horse bowl, horse judging, horticulture, livestock bowl, Livestock judging, meats evaluation, poultry and forestry.

International and Exchange Programs

International Programs provide many opportunities for older 4-H members and past members to participate in International 4-H programs. Information on the various programs is available at the Extension Office or on line at: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/members/international.cfm>

Illinois State Fair Opportunities

4-H Performance Showcase

An invitational 4-H variety show is presented on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Counties are encouraged to submit videotapes of performers for an audition. Videotapes are due in the Unit Office by mid-May. Invitations will be issued mid-June by the State 4-H Office to selected performers. Counties may submit three videotapes of acts for consideration. These acts can be (but are not limited to): dance, theatrical performance, vocal performance, or instrumental performance. Examples of entries are: Jazz dance, ballet, creative dance, clogging, baton, acrobatics, gymnastics, monologues, skits, one act plays, puppetry, magic, or musical revues. Acts may be by any individual or a group as long as each person is enrolled in 4-H. (An accompanist for an act need not be a 4-H member). Counties may have more than one act selected to be in the Performance Showcase. This is not a competition; it is a variety show. Individual must be 10 years old, but younger member may participate in club entries (5 or more people in an act).

Club Exhibits

Special club display opportunities at the Illinois State Fair will be announced in the spring. Typically, the display must be manned by three or more club exhibitors at the time of the judge's critique. These members must not be exhibiting in another individual exhibit class and at least one of the members must meet the 10-year-old and above age requirement. Only club members present for judging who participate in the actual critique and the presentations are eligible for ribbons and premiums.

Leadership Activities

Leadership activities are available to Champaign 4-Hers. The following activities include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

● **Champaign County Ambassador Program** is open to 4-H members currently enrolled between the ages of 12 – 18. The program provides youth an opportunity to become active partners in marketing and promoting 4-H.

● **Southern Illinois Leadership Convention** is a multi-day convention is open to all high school students under 19 years of age and is held at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center near Carbondale, IL typically over the Columbus Day holiday focusing on leadership development skills.

● **The Illinois Jr. Leadership Conference** is for Illinois 4-H members who are currently in 7th or 8th grade. Participants go to a variety of workshops focusing on building delegates' skills and knowledge as young leaders in their local 4-H clubs and county 4-H programs. Plus, special entertainment, speakers, a dance, and loads of fun are planned. Usually held February.

● **4-H Great Debate Conference** is a multi-day conference for all high school age 4-Hers from across Illinois who converge in Springfield to debate bills and learn how Illinois state government works. Typically, this conference is held during February.

● **Illini Summer Academy** is a special event for high school teens held in late June. This three-day event has been redesigned to provide Illinois Teens new opportunities to explore the University of Illinois campus while focusing on developing specific leadership skills. This convention is planned by a state committee of teens and is open to all youth in Illinois, ages 14-18.

● **State 4-H Youth Leadership Team** offers older 4-H members and recent 4-H alumni an opportunity to play an active part in Illinois 4-H programming as part of the State 4-H Youth Leadership Team. 4-H members and alumni, ages 16-21, are selected to assist with state 4-H events, offer teen programming suggestions and become involved in their own way on the state level.

● **Citizenship Washington Focus** provides an educational view of our government operations. This trip is held once every two years. (2008, 2010, etc.) Age requirement is 15 years. Event will be offered in 2010.

● **Camping opportunities** vary from year to year. Camp activities range from swimming to arts and crafts to Indian lore and nature studies. Our 4 H members attend camp at 4-H Memorial Camp, Monticello.

Awards

4-H club members, leaders, and volunteer opportunities can be found in the “**4-H Opportunities Beyond the Club Level**” section of the *4-H Leader Resource Manual*. Check with the club leader for all the details.

Also, there are many opportunities for 4-Hers to be recognized for their accomplishments through the **Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence Program**, supported by the Illinois 4-H Foundation. This includes recognition of four types of accomplishments. Each type is unique in the way it offers motivation and recognized achievement. Specifically, the model recognizes 4-Hers for excellence in relation to:

- Participation in Educational Experiences
- Individual Progress Towards Goals
- Achievement of Standards
- Results of Peer Competition

Participation

All 4-H members will be recognized at the beginning of the 4-H year with a membership card. All members receive a **Certificate of Participation** at the end of the 4-H club year. The Illinois 4-H Alumni pin will be presented to members completing their last year of eligibility according to age policies.

Progress

A **Certificate of Progress** will be awarded to members accomplishing goals in a project area. An award seal will be received each year the member accomplishes project goals. This will go on the **Certificate of Progress** the member received as a first year member.

Achievement

Members are asked to submit all of their records for their entire 4-H career. We suggest members place them in a 3-ring binder so records can be easily added each year. Include photos, news clippings, etc., that support the member’s 4-H career.

These records are submitted to the club leader in August. 4-H volunteers review these records and select those that are outstanding. Members’ records submitted by those 4-Hers who joined after April 1 will be reviewed, not judged, and will receive appropriate recognition. An Achievement Medal, certificate, or other award is given to those achieving the following standards according to the member’s age:

● **8 – 11 year olds** – Select a project and: (a) determine goals and decide how to achieve these goals; (b) complete the project and make a report to the leader about what the member has done; (c) Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings; (d) share project experiences by giving a talk or demonstration and making an exhibit.

● **12 – 14 year olds** – Do the four things listed for 8 – 11 year olds, PLUS: (a) serve on a local club committee or hold a local club office; (b) take part in a community service activity or in a learning

activity in the community related to member's project; (c) Assist leaders with a special club activity, tour, or program.

●**15 – 18 year olds** – Do the seven things listed above PLUS: (a) Participate in one or more 4-H learning experience(s) at the county, regional, or state level; (b) Provide leadership for a project, an activity, or for a 4-H group; (c) Assist in conducting programs at the county level or beyond.

Key Club Award

This State Award may be submitted by 4-H members who are 16 to 18 years of age by September 1 of the current 4-H year. The purpose is to award member exhibiting outstanding leadership, community service, and mentoring during their involvement. Contact the club leader for details.

Competition

County Curriculum Award

This award is given to recognize outstanding work in a curriculum area. Check with the club leader or the county website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/4hyouth.html> for a special **County Curriculum Award Application**. A member may apply for more than one county curriculum award. However, he/she may receive only one medal per year. If chosen for awards in other areas, certificates will be given. Applications are typically available after 4-H Project Expo in July.

County Award Medal

This award is given by the Illinois 4-H foundation to recognize outstanding work in a project curriculum area. See the Illinois Clover for all curriculum areas and project within a specific curriculum. A county Award Medal may be applied for by completing the **Illinois 4-H Award Application**. A 4-Her may apply for more than one county medal. However, he/she may receive the medal only once in a given curriculum; after that a Blue Award is given to the member.

I Dare You

The Danforth Foundation sponsors this special leadership award. The applicant must be at least 16 years old and submit a story (not to exceed 1000) words) with emphasis on community involvement, school involvement, and 4-H leadership experiences.

Dorthea Hunt Excellence Award

Applicant must be nominated by club leader on basis of leadership shown in club and county 4-H activities. A cash award will be given to the recipient. The winner is encouraged to use this gift to attend one of the many Regional, State, or National Leadership Opportunities offered by 4-H.

Other Projects/Contests

Distinguished Clover Award

A special medal awarded to 4-Hers at the various Summer Shows who are selected on the basis of outstanding project work in a specific project area. Volunteer from various 4-H Committees will make the selections after judging has been completed.

Project Excellence Award

A special ribbon is presented to 8 and 9 year old members who are too young to exhibit at the Illinois State Fair, but whose project warrants special recognition. The judge will consider this exceptional work for the age and experience of the 4-Her.

IFEC Electrical Award

A special plaque awarded to 4-Her with the most outstanding electricity project.

Clifford Roberts Memorial

A cash award for the top project demonstrator(s) at the Public Presentations Contest.

Barnhart Memorial Award

A plaque awarded in memory of Ben Barnhart for best flock of sheep at the County Livestock Show.

Esworthy Memorial

A memorial traveling trophy awarded for Junior Showmanship in swine. (The Royal Ag 4-H club sponsors this memorial.) Jennifer and Jacquelin Esworthy were active 4-Hers who raised and showed swine.

Champaign County Livestock Stewardship Award

A plaque presented to youth enrolled in livestock projects who have excelled in exhibiting, responsibility, citizenship, animal showmanship, and their commitment to 4-H. Applications and instructions for this award will be mailed to those 4-Hers enrolled in a livestock project and who are age eligible.

Champaign County Round Robin Master Showman Award

An award presented to the overall livestock showman in the large animal livestock category (beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep and goats). The Royal Ag 4-H Club sponsors this award.

Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships may be awarded to high school senior(s) based on leadership experiences. Funds are provided by the Champaign County Extension Education Foundation. Contact the County Office in March for applications. Scholarship selection is made by the Champaign County Extension Education Foundation and is to be used for the youth's further education.

Other scholarship opportunity notices will be made available to the Club Leader and/or the individual qualifying 4-H member as they are received by the County Office.

Achievement Celebration

This event is held in October to recognize the achievements of the 4-H members for their previous year's club work. Many of the awards discussed in this section will be presented at this time. Parents, leaders, friends and 4-Hers are encouraged to attend. Watch for details on the County Website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/4hyouth.html> or in the fall edition of the *Extension Connections Newsletter*.

Volunteers

Many people volunteer their time and talents to direct County 4-H Programs. These volunteers add new ideas and contribute many hours to the 4-H program. Various 4-H committees are made up of interested leaders, parents, 4-Hers and community members. They make recommendations to help form the 4-H program and its goals.

The committees assist in planning, implementing, and evaluating all areas of the 4-H program. Committees assisting with the 4-H program are: Livestock, Horse and Pony, and Expansion and Review. Volunteers also serve in vital roles such as: General Exhibit Superintendents for the 4-H Project Expo, Horse and Pony Show and Livestock Show. All of these volunteers take a special interest in the area they serve.

Volunteers are the life blood of 4-H. To find out more information about becoming a 4-H Volunteer, contact Kathy Mullins, 4-H Youth Development Coordinator at 217.333.7672 or email, mullins@illinois.edu Time commitments and expertise varies with volunteer assignments.

Important Websites for Information

Champaign County Unit

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/champaign/index.html>

State 4-H Website

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/>

Tentative Calendar for Club Year 2009-2010

October

1Leader’s Meeting, Auditorium, 6:45 p.m.
1-4 National Volunteer Forum, Lincoln, Nebraska
4 – 10.....National 4-H Week
54-H Ambassador Meeting, Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.
6Girl Talk, Urbana Free Library, 7 p.m.
74-H Legacy Club Kick-Off, Auditorium, 5 – 7 p.m.
8 – 11..... Space Camp, Huntsville, Alabama
10 – 12..... Southern Illinois Leadership Conferences
12 Girl Talk: Special Media Workshop, Urbana Free Library, 3 – 6 p.m.
14 4-H Cultural Club: Passport to China, Auditorium, 6 – 8 p.m.
17Valued Volunteer Training, Extension Office, 9 to Noon
18 4-H Achievement Celebration, Farm Credit Services Bldg, Mahomet, 2 p.m.
24 Project Workshops: Mission Possible II, Parkland

November

3Girl Talk, Urbana Free Library, 7 p.m.
54-H Ambassador Meeting, Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.
7 4-H Find Out Party, Auditorium, 9 – 10:30 a.m.
7 4-H Record Book Workshop, Auditorium, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
14 Warm A Kid Sew A Thon, Auditorium, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
16 4-H Club Officers Training Camp, Auditorium, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
244-H Livestock Committee Meeting, Conference Room, 7 p.m.

December

1Girl Talk, Urbana Free Library, 7 p.m.
2Leader’s Meeting, Auditorium, 7 p.m.
10 LCP Awards Due to County Office
24 – January 3Champaign County Extension Office Closed for Winter Holiday

January

7 4-H Ambassador Telenet, 7 p.m.
9 Techy Home Ecy Workshops, Auditorium, 9 a.m.
15 First day to register for 4-H Memorial Camp
15 YOUniversity (details TBA)
15 Deadline to file aps for the 4-H Exchange Programs
28 4-H Leader's Meeting, Auditorium, 7 p.m.

February

4 4-H Ambassador Meeting, Conference Room. 6:30 p.m.
12 – 13..... The Great 4-H Debate, Springfield
13 Market Steer/Heifer Tattoo, UI Large Animal Clinic, Urbana, 8 to 10 a.m.
19 – 20..... 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference, Carlinville, IL
20 **Snow date** for Market Beef Animals, same time and place
25-28 Beef Expo, Springfield Fairgrounds

March

2 4-H Leader's Meeting, Auditorium, 7 p.m.
4 4-H Ambassador Telenet, 7 p.m.
12 – 13..... 4-H Livestock Retreat, 4-H Memorial Camp
20 – 25..... National 4-H Conference

April

1..... Last day to enroll in most 4-H projects and be eligible for Summer Shows and Premiums!

1 4-H Ambassador Meeting, Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.
18 – 24..... Volunteer Appreciation Week
19 Public Presentation Contest, Extension Office, 6 p.m.
27 Leader's Meeting, Auditorium, 7 p.m.
28 Foods Demonstration, Extension Office, 6 p.m.

May

June

TBA..... Champaign County 4-H Horse and Pony Show
28 – 30..... Illini Summer Academies, Campus
30 Clothing and Textiles Judging, Auditorium, 1 p.m.

July

TBA..... 4-H Project Expo, Market Place Mall
TBA..... 4-H Dog Show
29 Champaign County 4-H Livestock Show
27 – Aug 1 State Fair Jr. Horse Show, Springfield

August

13 – 22..... Illinois State Fair, Springfield
TBA..... Illinois State Fair 4-H Dog Show, Springfield
TBA..... 4-H Record Book Turn in

Notes: