Fond du Lac County 4-H Policy Discussion w/ Proposed Changes

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We used a Wis. 4-H document “Considering 4-H Club and County Policies” as a guide as we reviewed the Fond du Lac County 4-H achievement and membership policies

Achievement and Membership policies will be in Feb newsletter for all to see

Achievement policy will be repeated in July newsletter

Membership policy will be repeated in September newsletter

Both policies are in the project enrollment guide which is printed and distributed, and on-line.

‘Fond du Lac County 4-H Project Enrollment Booklet’ will be renamed ‘Fond du Lac County 4-H Enrollment Booklet and Policy Guide’

These 2 questions were sent to the fair office.

1. One of the policies states that if a person enrolls in 4-H past the deadlines they may still exhibit at the fair but it is for ribbon only, no premium. In previous years this info was sent to the fair office. In 2014 we had a new support person who handled enrollments so this was not sent to you. How do you use this info so that only ribbons are given? Does the family know this when exhibit tags are picked up?

2. We send you a list of members and their projects. If a person went to the on-line entry form what is to stop them from entering a project they were not enrolled in? Are their entries cross referenced against their project enrollments? If so, are projects they are not enrolled in eliminated from the entry form?

Reply from Matt Immel

Entries shown for ribbon only have a marking to indicate this on the entry tag. Exhibitors typically notified of this when the tags are picked up....but sometimes tags are picked up by other club/family members. Clerks are told what to watch for on the tags and how to record the result even if it is for ribbon only.

Correct, there is nothing we can do to prevent an exhibitor from entering in a project they are not enrolled in when they submit their online entry. We do manually scrub the entries against the report from your office to make sure everything is correct. The exhibitor is notified if they entered in something they were not eligible to.

Items in **yellow** are sections of the enrollment book suggested to be edited. Cross outs are words to drop. Words in **red** are to be added.
CLOVERBUD MEMBERS
Cloverbuds are children 4-H members in grades kindergarten to second. They are actual 4-H members. Youth in grades K-2 may only enroll in the Cloverbud project.

ADULT LEADERS
All adults wishing to enroll or re-enroll as a registered volunteer must enroll annually. New leaders must attend a one-time (unless more than 4 years have passed since last enrolled) two hour training. Trainings are generally offered November, February, and June. Background checks are conducted at initial enrollment and then every four years. Enrolled volunteers are expected to actively participate in a leadership role.

FOND DU LAC COUNTY 4-H POLICY ON MEMBERSHIP
1. Eligibility for 4-H members wishing to join a club in Fond du Lac County as a "regular" member: the youth Youth wishing to join Fond du Lac County 4-H must be enrolled in kindergarten (and be at least five years old by October 1, 2014) through one year after high school graduation. Youth in grades K-2 enroll in the Cloverbud project.
2. Re-enrollment period is until October 31. New member enrollments will be accepted until Jan. 31, 2015. Members not enrolled by the appropriate date will not be eligible to exhibit for a premium at the 2015 Fond du Lac County Fair. They may show for ribbon only. Youth will be able to participate in other club and county events. Memberships must be accepted all year long.
3. Members wishing to change units in an enrolled project must do so online by Jan. 31, 2015. Dropping a project must be done in writing by the first Friday in April. Projects may not be added after the enrollment deadline.
4. Policy on re-enrollment of non-achievement members is left to the local club.
4-5. It is recommended that younger members take one project only, and a maximum of five projects be taken by older members.
5. A member should satisfactorily complete all projects carried in order to be an achieving member. (See Fond du Lac County 4-H Achievement Policy)
6. Members qualify for full graduation honors upon completion of high school, though they have the option to remain in 4-H one year past high school graduation.
7. A member is to enroll in one 4-H club during the enrollment year.

FOND DU LAC COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT POLICY
• Fond du Lac County 4-H strives to provide a positive experience to the youth members who join. "Achievement" within the program plays a fundamental role in order for young people to obtain the most beneficial 4-H experience.
• Youth members must enroll in at least one 4-H project.
• Youth members are expected to complete all 4-H projects enrolled in for the year. Youth members should be aware of the county deadline for dropping projects.
• Re-enrolling members must achieve in all projects the previous 4-H year. Members who do not achieve in the previous year may have their membership role limited the next year i.e. not be able to hold a club office or be allowed to take any more than 2 projects.
• Youth members must publicly exhibit (such as Alto Fair, county fair, etc.) at least one exhibit in every project enrolled in. Legitimate reasons for not exhibiting at a fair event should be corresponded with your club's General Leader (before the event) so that alternate accommodations may occur - examples include club or project meetings.
Youth members must complete and submit to their 4-H club a Record Book. This Record Book should be completed to the best of the member's ability, with proper forms completed for each project enrolled in.

- Cloverbuds (members in grades K - 2) should complete a Cloverbud scrapbook. It will not be judged, but is turned in to the club general leader who will provide feedback. Cloverbuds are not eligible for any county awards.

- Youth members must fulfill attendance requirements as established at the club level. Every effort should be made to be an active member of the club in order to be considered for county and state level events. If active membership is a hardship you are encouraged to communicate with club leaders.

- Upon the first year of achievement the member (including Cloverbuds) will receive a nameplate and disc. In following years, a disc is earned for each year of achievement.

**Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Policies**

Policies established by Wisconsin 4-H are available at [http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/resources/policies/index.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/resources/policies/index.cfm) or by contacting the local University Wisconsin Extension office.

Next Steps

This info will be shared with the Executive Board in December

Draft will go to March leader meeting.

Implement any changes in fall 2015