

4-H General Rules and Eligibility (Adapted from 2021 Oklahoma 4-H Rules & Guidelines)

- I. **4-H Age Division: determined by the youth’s public school grade as of September 1 each year.**
- II. **A child’s “grade division” will not change until (re)enrollment on August 1.**
- III. Youth may enroll in 4-H on August 1 if they are 8 AND in the 3rd grade on September 1. If they turn 8 after September 1 and are in 3rd grade, they will not be eligible to enroll as a 4-H member until the next 4-H year, but they may participate as a Cloverbud. When a child turns 9, they may join as a 4-H member regardless of grade level. **4-H membership ends on July 31 following the completion of the 12th grade, equivalence of 12th grade, GED or having reached the age of 19 on or before September 1, whichever comes first.**
- IV. **4-H membership is not dependent upon race, color, national origin, gender, religion, marital status, place of residence, or membership in any other organization.**
- V. **Any individual who meets these requirements, properly completes 4-H enrollment online, and is listed as ACTIVE, is considered a bona fide 4-H member.**
- VI. To be eligible to **participate in any county based project area**, 4-H members must have a complete **and ACTIVE membership to participate. If no event specific membership requirement is posted, they must have a complete and ACTIVE membership 15 days prior to the posted event deadline to participate. Specific event participation eligibility guidelines take precedence.**
- VII. Any **person** who has been barred from participation in a specific activity or event as a member of **any other organization** will not be eligible to represent their county as a 4-H member in that activity or event on a district or state-wide basis. **(See Oklahoma 4-H Rules & Guidelines: Loss of Membership)**

Considerations

- **A “First Year” 4-H member is anyone ineligible to be a Cloverbud and is of eligible 4-H age with no ACTIVE 4-H membership history, excluding Cloverbud enrollment.**
- **When a person becomes eligible to be a “First Year” 4-H member on August 1, they must have a complete and ACTIVE membership to participate. If no event specific membership requirement is posted, they must have a complete and ACTIVE membership 15 days prior to the posted event deadline to participate.**
- **Graduated high school seniors may complete their 4-H career by exhibiting in any project area of the fall fair.**
- **“Participate” includes definitions for: show, compete, exhibit, and attend.**

NOTE: Specific participation eligibility guidelines published by the event’s governing board take precedence. It is the individual’s responsibility to adhere to specific show and event eligibility requirements.

Chart 1: Canadian County 4-H Grade Division Eligibility

Age Division	Cloverbud	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Grade Equivalent	K, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd	3 rd (and 8 years old), 4 th , 5 th	6 th , 7 th , 8 th	9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th
		3 rd (and 8 years old), 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th		8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th
		Junior		Senior

4-H County Officers

- **Candidates must be an ACTIVE 4-H member for more than 2 consecutive years.**
- **Candidates must be eligible for and join the Canadian County Teen Leaders 4-H Club***
- **Candidates must complete an Officer Application**
- **Candidates must complete an annual Record Book (either County or State)**

* Teen Leader Eligibility: Must be 13 to join. May join at any time throughout the year.

4-H County Officer Selection

- **Record Book: Scoresheet total from County or State Record Book Evaluation**
- **Interview: Scoresheet total from External Interview Panel**
- **Essential Skills: Scoresheet total from Canadian Co. Extension Office**
- **Officer Application: Scoresheet total from External Reviewer**

Chart 2: Officer Selection Point Values (Maximum 500 plus popular vote tally)

Record Book (r)	Interview (i)	Essential Skills (e)	Officer Application (o)	Popular Vote (p)
100 (20%)	100 (20%)	250 (50%)	50 (10%)	Sum Point value

- **Popular Vote: Points values from peer vote based on cumulative officer team selection. All Current Teen Leader 4-H members are sent an officer team ballot to select their ideal candidate lineup (not based on candidate application)**

Chart 3: Point Values Assigned to each vote result

President	Vice President	Secretary Treasurer	Reporter	Recreation Song Leader	Ambassador Representative
5	4	3	2	1	0

Final Selection: Total point values are assigned to each candidate based on the offices they selected for which to run. Officer position is awarded to the candidate with the highest point value for each office.

Chart 4: Sample Officer Selection Final Sort

President	Vice President	Secretary Treasurer	Reporter	Recreation Song Leader	Ambassador Representative
Person 1 - 438	Person 1 - 438	Person 5 - 472	Person 5 - 472	Person 3 - 469	Person 8 - 415
Person 2 - 393	Person 3 - 469	Person 1 - 438	Person 6 - 412	Person 4 - 449	Person 6 - 412
Person 6 - 412	Person 2 - 393	Person 3 - 469	Person 4 - 449	Person 1 - 438	Person 2 - 393
Person 9 - 387	Person 4 - 449	Person 2 - 393	Person 7 - 452	Person 9 - 387	
	Person 8 - 415	Person 6 - 412	Person 3 - 469	Person 10 - 375	
	Person 9 - 387	Person 7 - 452	Person 1 - 438		
		Person 8 - 415			

Sample Person 1: 80(r) + 86(i) + 205(e) + 45(o) = 416 (p) = (5+4+4+3+3+2+2+0+0+0+0) = 22 (12 popular votes)

Total score = 416+22 = 438

County Fair Eligibility

- **Fall Fairs are intended as the culmination or end of the previous 4-H year's project work. Exhibits represent work completed by the member sometime during their previous 12 months of enrollment.**
- **If no event specific membership requirement is posted, a 4-H member's enrollment status must have been ACTIVE the previous year and be ACTIVE 15 days prior to the entry deadline to exhibit in the fall fair.** The 4-H member should enter the class that matches **their** 4-H age (age as of August 1 of the calendar year.) **Division**. All exhibitors must be at least 8 years old and in 3rd grade by August 1.
- **If no event specific membership requirement is posted, "First Year" 4-H members must have an ACTIVE membership 15 days prior to the entry deadline to exhibit in the fall fair. "First Year" 4-H members are ineligible to compete in the Susan Meitl Memorial Award for Outstanding Fair Junior or Senior Competition.**
- **Graduated Seniors must have been an ACTIVE 4-H member the previous year to continue to exhibit their projects through the fall fairs (seniors are responsible for referencing fair guidelines to confirm eligibility). Graduating Seniors are eligible to compete in the Susan Meitl Memorial Award for Outstanding Fair Senior Exhibitor Competition.**
- All exhibits must have been made during the last year, and cannot be entered more than one time, except for the classes that are collections in which they are added to successive years.
- For pertinent information relative to projects being exhibited, refer to specific sections, classes, and respective project literature. **Refer to the Livestock Provision for more information.**
- 4-H members who enter crops and horticulture must be able to prove that they produced such crops entered in his/her name during the current year.
- Only First place exhibits will be kept for the State Fair.

Livestock Provision

- **An animal nomination form does not constitute an ACTIVE 4-H membership.**
- **An entry in any class does not constitute an ACTIVE 4-H membership.**
- **Any individual who properly completes 4-H enrollment online, has paid in full, and is listed as ACTIVE, is considered a bona fide 4-H member.**
- **When a person becomes eligible to be a "First Year" 4-H member on August 1, they must have a complete and ACTIVE membership to participate. If no event specific membership requirement is posted, they must have a complete and ACTIVE membership 15 days prior to the posted event deadline to participate.**
- **To show livestock (beef, horse, sheep, swine, goats, poultry, rabbits, etc.) in the fall at the STATE FAIRS, members must have had an ACTIVE enrollment status during the previous program year by the date published by the show's governing board.**
- **"Participate" includes definitions for: show, compete, exhibit, and attend.**
- **NOTE: Specific participation eligibility guidelines published by the show's governing board take precedence.**

**** Be aware of each individual show's eligibility rules. Each governing board determines eligibility.**

4-H Awards Terminology Eligibility

Official 4-H Age

Age on January 1 of the current year

Junior 4-H Member

~~Must be at least 8 years old and 3rd grade and no older than 13 years old on January 1 of the current calendar year. Member must be enrolled online.~~

Senior 4-H Member

~~4-H member fourteen years old and no older than nineteen years old as of January 1st of the current 4-H year. Member must be enrolled online.~~

4-H Awards Eligible Member: determined by the youth's public school grade as of September 1 the previous year. (See Chart 1)

Junior Hall of Fame

- ~~Age: 8 and 3rd grade to 13 years old as of January 1 of the year award is received.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Junior Member.**

Senior Hall of Fame

- ~~Age: Thirteen to nineteen years old as of January 1 of the year award is received.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Senior Member.**

Achievement Award

- ~~Age: At least fourteen years old prior to January 1 of the current 4-H year.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Senior Member**

Leadership Tray Award

- ~~Age: At least fourteen years old prior to January 1 of the current 4-H year.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Senior Member**

Citizenship Award

- ~~Age: At least fourteen years old prior to January 1 of the current 4-H year.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Senior Member**

Oklahoma 4-H Key Club

- ~~Age: At least fifteen years old prior to January 1 of the year of application.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Advanced Member**

Danforth Award "I Dare You"

- ~~Age: At least fifteen years old prior to January 1 of the current 4-H year AND completed their freshman year of high school.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Advanced Member**

Junior Leadership Award

- ~~Age: At least eight years old and no older than thirteen years old as of January 1 of the current 4-H year.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Junior Member**

Oklahoma Home and Community Education

- ~~Age: Awards will be given to junior and senior 4-H'ers by the county O.H.C.E. organization.~~ **4-H Awards Eligible Junior & Senior Member**

October 2021 | 4-H Eligibility, Event Eligibility, Year End Awards, Fair Eligibility

Susan Meitl Memorial Award for Outstanding Fair Exhibitor

Encourages fair entry participation to present outstanding project work from the previous 4-H year at the county fair.

1. Complete **and submit** the **entry** form by **5PM Saturday Evening of the Fair. Winners will be announced during the Family Awards Ceremony at the Fall Fair.**

2. Age

- **4-H Awards Eligible Junior & Senior Members.**
- **“First Year” 4-H members are ineligible for this award.**
- **Graduated Seniors are eligible for this award.**

3. The first place award can be received more than once in each age category but not in successive years.