Oregon 4-H is the youth development program of the Oregon State University Extension Service. 4-H is open to all youth without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, or geographic location. Marriage or pregnancy does not disqualify youth.

4-H Membership - Youth must satisfy three criteria to become 4-H members:

1) Be enrolled in grades K-12. Youth are considered to be in the grade they are currently enrolled or in the grade they have just completed during the summer.

   a) Youth who start school at a later than normal age or repeat a grade will not be eligible for 4-H membership until they enroll in the appropriate grade. They may continue membership through 12th grade.

   b) Persons who are developmentally disabled are enrolled in a non-graded category. They become eligible for membership when their age peers enter kindergarten and are allowed to remain in the program as long as it is beneficial to them, up to chronological age 21.

   c) Youth in non-graded or split grades are eligible for appropriate membership when they are included in the grade equivalents for K-12.

   d) Youth in home schools are eligible for 4-H membership when they are included in the grade equivalents for Grades K-12.

   e) Youth who drop out of school or graduate from the 12th grade early may continue 4-H membership until their former classmates graduate.

   f) At the time for normal 12th grade graduation, youth may continue membership activities through December 31 of the year they graduate.

2) Be enrolled in an appropriate 4-H program

   a) Youth in grades K-3 are eligible for membership only in the 4-H Cloverbud Program. Experiences are expected to be cooperative and group centered. Youth should not participate in competitive activities.

   b) Youth in 4th – 12th grades are eligible for membership when enrolled in appropriate projects or special programs.

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3.) Have their enrollment data recorded in the OSU Extension Service in Tillamook. A new enrollment is required each school year.

Grade Division - 4-H membership is further defined using four divisions:

4-H Cloverbud: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders
Juniors: 4th, 5th, 6th graders
Intermediates: 7th, 8th, 9th, graders
Seniors: 10th, 11th, 12th graders

Place of Membership - The county (and state) of residence shall be the primary county (and state) of 4-H enrollment. A 4-H member shall not be enrolled in the same project in more than one county (or state) at the same time. Exceptions – With written approval of both counties a member may participate in 4-H programs in another county if there are sound educational reasons. Reasons for requesting membership outside the primary county may include: location of their school being outside primary county; living with both parents or different guardians at different times of the year; opportunities to participate in programs not available in primary county.

Transfer of Membership - 4-H members transferring from one county or state to another should be accepted by that county or state and given full credit for their past 4-H work or achievements. Transfers will be accepted at any time. Documentation of enrollment or ownership of livestock in the originating county or state may be needed for participation in certain activities.

Individual (Independent) Membership (Grades 4-12 only)
A major benefit of 4-H membership is the experience gained in meeting and working with others. In some cases, however, participation in an organized group may not be practical. Examples include youth who are geographically isolated, older youth whose only access is to clubs focusing on the needs of younger members, or senior members who have high demands on their time. In such cases, individual membership may be warranted as long as the youth involved is provided with guidance and direction from a responsible adult.

1. Each member, whenever possible, should be enrolled in at least one project or community club.

   Members may add additional projects to their current club enrollment, with the club leader accepting responsibility for working with the 4-H member and handling verification of the member’s project(s) and program involvement.

2. If enrollment in at least one project or community club is not possible or feasible, the member can be enrolled as an individual with an adult identified to address member questions and concerns, as well as handle verification of the member’s project and program involvement.

In any case, the member’s enrollment in each project carried needs to be documented in the current 4-H management system.

Loss of Membership Privileges
Membership in 4-H and participation in 4-H programs, including activities, contests, and events is a privilege. Youth who wish to continue membership and/or participate will follow the policies and procedures that are outlined for state and county programs. Faculty who conduct county or state 4-H programs will have the authority to suspend or cancel membership and participation privileges if youth fail to abide by the policies and procedures of the 4-H organization as set out in “codes of conduct” or other printed policies.