Beginning in 2016, requirements for participation must be met in order for a 4-H youth member to exhibit or participate in contests in HEARTH projects at the Clackamas County Fair.

The HEARTH committee has both expectations and intentions of more participation and educational opportunities from everyone involved in the HEARTH program.

Why are these changes being implemented?

- The 4-H Youth Development Program is meant to be implemented through year-round educational activities. There is great need for more involvement from leaders, parents, and members in order for this to happen. At present, many chances for service and leadership are taken advantage of by very few members. There will be an expectation of participation in workshops, either as a participant or teacher, to increase educational and learning opportunities for everyone.

- Over the years, the participation in HEARTH meetings, fundraising, educational events, workshops, and service to the program has fallen off significantly.

- Leaders and parents should consider attending attendance a few key HEARTH meetings each year to improve communication and help us better determine changes that are needed to enhance the 4-H experience for all. The February meeting is mandatory (see below).

- Finally, for several years the fundraising activities of the HEARTH committee have been successful only because of the dedication of a very few families. Funds raised benefit all members in HEARTH projects, and are solely used to cover the costs of workshops, awards, judges, Fair activities, and scholarships.

All participation will be tracked through the year in order to verify a member’s eligibility to exhibit at County Fair. You MUST make sure you sign in with the person in charge of each event to receive credit for your participation. Volunteer hours at the 2015 County Fair will be accepted as fulfilling some of the requirements for 2016.

Please read the following pages carefully for details about the requirements for adults and members. Any questions can be brought to the October HEARTH meeting on October 19, 2015.

Thank you.