OSU Extension 4-H Washington & Multnomah County Clubs

Frequently Asked Questions—Kids in 4-H

What age can you start 4-H?
Anyone in grades K-12 can be involved in 4-H. Youth in grades K-3 participate in the Cloverbuds program. Grades 4-12 participate in the 4-H activities you may be more familiar with at the Washington County Fair.

What types of programs are available?
There is a wide variety of programs available through 4-H including: horticulture, leadership, arts and music, home economics, technology, robotics, natural sciences, small animals, dog, horse and pony, livestock, marine science, camps, aeronautics, poultry, and more. Please check out our website for additional information: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/metro4h/ See the section “Join 4-H” section.

What is the Cloverbuds Program?
The Cloverbuds program is designed for grades K-3. This program gives youth an overall picture of what 4-H is. It is a non-competitive, experiential program. Youth in this age group do not participate in certain activities for safety reasons: dogs, horses, ponies, sheep, swine, beef, dairy cattle, goats, llamas, ATV’s, tractors, and shooting sports.

How are kids placed in a 4-H club or program?
We do not place youth in 4-H clubs/programs, we believe the parent is the best judge of what program or club is best for their children. We provide parents with the contact information of 4-H volunteer club leaders, so that parents can contact them directly and choose who and what 4-H activity is best for their child.

Is there a time commitment for parents?
4-H is a family oriented experience. Parents are encouraged to attend 4-H meetings with their kids. Depending on the club, parents may be requested to help out. Parents are welcome to participate at all levels or become a 4-H volunteer.

How much is the project service fee?
The project service fee is $25 per youth member with a maximum of $50 per family when enrolling in the fall. Members pay only one fee and are able to participate in as many projects as they want. There is no charge to be a 4-H volunteer.

Are there any deadlines for participation?
Kids and volunteers can join a 4-H anytime of the year, but many clubs start meeting after October 1st of each year. 4-H kids may participate in the Washington County Fair or Horse Fair as an optional celebration in the summer. There are deadlines to participate in the Fair. These deadlines are in place both for safety and to ensure that members have had adequate time for instruction prior to fair, but kids and adults are welcome to join 4-H at any time of year to start learning.

When and where do clubs meet? Frequency, locations, and times are different with every club. Clubs are run by volunteers who have donated their time to help youth.
OSU Extension 4-H Washington & Multnomah County

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the process for becoming a 4-H Adult Volunteer?

The following is a summary of the steps. Please contact the 4-H office at 503-821-1119 or email darsy.schaal@oregonstate.edu if you have any questions. There is no fee to become a 4-H volunteer.

Volunteer Service Application:
Please fill out a Volunteer Service Application. References will be checked from the information provided on your application. You must provide three (3) references with names, address, and phone numbers who are not family members/relatives and/or do not live with you.

Criminal Background Check:
This is conducted by the Oregon State University Human Resources Department, in cooperation with the Oregon State Police and FBI. Our OSU Extension staff does not see any of this information. OSU will call the Washington County office with confirmation of the background check. There is no charge for the background check.

New Volunteer Interview and Orientation:
All new volunteers participate in an orientation session by OSU Extension County 4-H faculty. To RSVP for an interview, call the 4-H Office at 503-821-1119. During the orientation, we will cover the history and vision of 4-H, positive youth development, opportunities for continuing education, and program potential for youth.

Receive a Congratulations Letter in the Mail:
After the 4-H office has received all of your paper work (including all 3 references with positive feedback and your criminal background check results), and you have completed the orientation, you are ready to start your own club! A 4-H club packet will be sent to you so that you can begin! OSU Extension 4-H staff is here to help you in every step of the process.

How do I choose which topic to involve my 4-H club?
Often volunteers will choose areas based on personal interest or the interest of club members. A wide variety of teaching materials and assistance is available to all 4-H volunteers for leading 4-H programs. If volunteers choose to create their own program materials or curriculum, they are welcome to do so.

Other Questions?
Please always feel free to call, e-mail, or drop by. OSU Extension 4-H has a diverse array of resources to help ensure kids have the most positive learning experiences possible. Please check out our website, it has a wealth of knowledge: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/metro4h/

Thank you for your interest in 4-H!!