

4-H Community Club Membership Across County Lines

Policy

Youth are expected to affiliate with the 4-H program in their county of residence. However, in some circumstances, it is appropriate for a youth to participate in 4-H in a county other than their county of residence, which can be done with the approval of the 4-H professionals in both the county of residence and the county of request. Once granted, the permission for membership across county lines is expected to be permanent and stable, for the duration of the youth's 4-H membership. However, once granted, the 4-H family can request changes again, using the same process. This privilege is extended only for those youth who maintain membership in good standing.

Procedures

Ohio State University Extension administers the Ohio 4-H Youth Development program whose mission is to develop youth to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring, and contributing citizens. Each county in Ohio conducts the 4-H youth development program to accomplish this goal. In order to affirm Ohio State University Extension's position concerning cross county (and/or cross state line) 4-H membership and to establish guidelines in this area to fulfill the above mission, the following philosophy and process statements are provided.

- 1) 4-H membership in two counties simultaneously is not permitted.
- 2) Cross state line membership will be considered the same as for cross county membership.
- 3) In situations where the county of residence does not have a 4-H program (due to financial or other reasons), youth may not join 4-H in another county; previously approved cross county or cross state membership will be revoked.
- 4) In situations where membership in a county other than the county of residence is desired, the Educators in both counties must be in agreement regarding the application. The agreement will be based upon their professional judgment in accord with the mission of the organization and is not to supersede #3.
- 5) Consideration for membership may not be motivated by perceived competitive or sale advantage in another county, any change due to controversial issues, or other similar motivations.
- 6) Should families own multiple residences in more than one county, the permanent county of residence will be determined by the public school system in which the youth would be enrolled.
- 7) Parents, guardians, and/or youth should become familiar with all policies, procedures, and guidelines for the county in which they wish to be members. Some Ohio counties may limit participation in the county Junior Fair to those that reside in the county.
- 8) Any consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence, within the limits of this policy and not addressed by the above statements should be brought to the attention of the County Extension Director by the County Extension 4-H Educator. This team will work with the Assistant Director, 4-H Youth Development or Associate State 4-H Leader to identify a course of action in these special situations.
- 9) The decision to allow or deny Cross County Line Membership will be made by the county 4-H professionals in the County of Request and the County of Residence, and fully supported by State

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Request for 4-H Membership Across County Lines

This form must be completed by any youth requesting 4-H membership in a county other than their primary residence. The "4-H Community Club Membership Across County Lines" policy document contains additional information (available from your local OSU Extension office). Permission for 4-H membership across county lines should not be assumed. You will receive official notification from the county of request.

Steps:

1. Provide all requested information. Do not leave anything blank on this request form.
2. Take this completed request form to the county OSU Extension office in which 4-H membership is being sought (the county of request).
3. The 4-H professionals in the county of request AND the county of residence will discuss your request and make a determination. Their decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.
Note: There must be a fully-funded 4-H program in both counties in order for your request to be valid.
4. The 4-H professional in the county of request will provide written notification to you regarding the joint decision of the 4-H professionals in each county.

County of Request: _____ County of Residence: _____

Will market animals, other livestock, horse, or dogs be taken as 4-H projects? (circle one) YES NO

If yes, which project(s): _____

Why are you seeking 4-H membership outside of your county of residence?

Date of Request: _____ Preferred Phone Number: _____ (cell / home)

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Age (as of Jan. 1): ____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____

School District: _____ Current Grade in School: _____ ZIP: _____

If you are a current or previous 4-H member:

Years in 4-H: _____ In what county(ies): _____

Projects taken: _____

If accepted for cross-county lines membership, we understand that it is our responsibility as a 4-H family to review and understand all 4-H rules, policies, and guidelines of the county we wish to join and to ask questions when we do not understand.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Office Use Only Not Approved Approved: date notification sent: _____. If conditions/restrictions, list:

4-H professional county of residence: _____ Date: _____

4-H professional county of request: _____ Date: _____

Updated 12/15 K. Blair

