



The 4-H year begins October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year.

- Members live in towns, in the country, and on farms. 4-H is open to youth regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Kansas 4-H Youth Development has a policy for open enrollment. Eligible youth may enroll in Kansas 4-H Youth Development programs at any time of the year.
- Youth wanting to join must be 7 years old and not older than 18 as of December 31 of the New 4-H Year in order to be eligible for 4-H. 4-H members who are selected as winners in late summer or fall, and who turn 19 before January 1, cannot compete in state or national contests, awards, or recognition programs.
- Youth ages 5—6 years old as of December 31 of the New 4-H Year are eligible to participate in the Cloverbuds project which is offered through the 4-H clubs. Cloverbud members are encouraged to attend Cloverbud county-wide project meetings where available.



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



### Re-enrollment for Returning 4-H Member



#### Are you a continuing 4-H member?

Are you planning to show in your local county fair in the 4-H Division?

**Re-enroll by December 1** each year to be eligible to show in the 4-H division at the county fair!

**Wallace County kids** your annual fee will be paid by the 4-H Council if enrolled by December 1st

**Sherman County kids** you can pay by credit card online or pay by check or cash at the Sherman Co. Extension Office.

**Cheyenne County kids** your annual fee will be paid by the 4-H Council if enrolled by December 1st



### Best Practices for 4-H Publicity: What Families and Volunteers Need to Know

Submitted by Sarah E. Mass

As we begin the 2025-2026 4-H year, it's important to understand how publicity permissions are handled and how we, as Extension professionals, can responsibly share the stories and successes of you, our 4-H members.

#### What Is the Publicity Release?

When families enroll in 4-H Online, they are asked to agree (or not agree) to a **publicity release**. This release gives permission for the use of a member's name, image, and likeness by:

- Local Extension Units
- Kansas State University (including the State 4-H Office)
- The Kansas 4-H Foundation

This includes us in photos, videos, social media, websites, press releases, and more. If a family selects **"I Do Not Agree,"** their child's name and image **cannot** be used. Some examples include:

- Kansas State Fair & County Fair entry cards, schedules, or results
- Local or state contests
- Social media posts
- News articles or promotional materials

#### Additional Consent Questions

To provide more clarity, families are asked to give specific permission for:

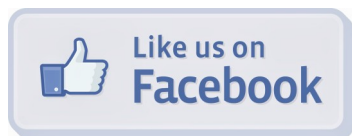
- First and last name
- Extension unit
- 4-H club or town name
- Media (photos, video, audio, etc.)
- Print-only media
- Social media
- County Fair-related publicity

These responses **override** the general publicity release and help guide what can or cannot be shared publicly

#### Best Practices for Sharing Youth Information for Extension Professionals

Even when full permission is granted, it is **best practice** to:

- Use **first names only** in social media posts.
- If no consent is given, refer to youth as:
- "A 4-H member from (Club Name)"
- Or use initials, e.g., "C.C., participant from Cloverville 4-H Club"
- These practices help protect youth privacy while still celebrating their achievements.



<http://www.facebook.com/sunflowerextensiondistrictcheyennecounty4h>  
<http://www.facebook.com/sunflowerwallace>  
<https://www.facebook.com/sunflowerextensiondistrictshermancounty4h/>

**New 4-H policy Guide:** <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/policy-guide/Kansas%204-H%20Policy%20Handbook%202023.pdf>