

belonging, mastery, independence, generosity



Wyoming 4-H Philosophy



4-H Membership & Achievements

Wyoming 4-H is an organization based on educational programming. As a result of its educational focus, there are expectations for membership and for participants to demonstrate what they have learned and achieved through programming efforts. Membership and achievement in, the 4-H program are each defined differently.

Membership – 4-H Program and Projects

- Enroll in 4-H and desired project(s)
 - Age categories: Clover Buds (5-7), Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), Senior (14-19)
 - A child's age is based on January 1 of the current 4-H year
- Set a goal and work to achieve it

Recognition of membership may simply be a project certificate or a certificate and seal for years of involvement (i.e. horse pin, shooting sports patch, or first, fifth, or ninth year of membership certificate).

NOTE: Membership *completion* is recognized in this manner.

Achievements – 4-H Program and Projects

Measurements of achievement can be broken into three distinct areas:

1. Project-specific achievement
2. Program-specific achievement through accomplishments during a 4-H year
3. Collective growth, development, and maturity of the youth throughout his/her entire 4-H involvement over a period of years

Project-specific achievement is understood to be active involvement in a subject-matter 4-H project. Such involvement affords youth opportunities to learn subject-matter knowledge and skills. Expectations of achievement include:

- Enrollment in a project
- Set personal goals related to the project

- Participate by attending project club meetings and/or project learning opportunities
- Demonstration of subject matter knowledge and/or skills learned (i.e. presentations, fair exhibit, club demonstration, live animal show, fashion revue, camps, clinics, contests, teaching, etc.)
- Verification of subject matter knowledge and skills learned

An efficient and effective method of verification of these expectations for achievement can be done by completing the appropriate sections of the 4-H Portfolio. (Example: Section 1 Project Record or Section 6 My 4-H Story)

Recognition of project-specific achievements might include certificates, plaques, premiums, and opportunities to attend state and national events (i.e. state fair, roundup, state shoot, judging contests, awards trip, etc.).

Program-specific achievement is understood to be active involvement in the 4-H Club Program (see “Clubs”). Such involvement affords many opportunities to youth that includes community service, leadership, citizenship, civic involvement, etc. Expectations of achievement include:

- Enrollment in a club
- Set personal goals and participate in the club’s Annual Plan of Work
- Participation by attendance and involvement
- Verification of achievement toward personal and club goals
- Verification of achievement toward 4-H program goals (i.e. community service, leadership, citizenship, civic involvement, etc.)

An efficient and effective method of verification of these expectations for achievement can be done by completing all sections included in the 4-H Portfolio.

Recognition of program-specific achievements might include leadership team membership, county and state scholarships, certificates, plaques, and opportunities to attend state and national events (i.e. National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, Youth Leadership Conference).

Collective growth, development, and maturity achievement is understood to be the cumulative outcome of the project and program-specific achievements over a member’s time in 4-H.

Recognition of *collective growth achievements* might include acceptance into college, gainful employment, living a higher quality of life, and becoming a productive citizen in Wyoming communities. Accomplishment at this level is the pinnacle of a 4-H member’s involvement.

NOTE: There is an alternative to club membership called Lonestar. This type of membership is not encouraged because it does not provide the optimal setting for all youth development principles and concepts to be maximized for the benefit of the youth. Lonestar membership makes program-specific achievement more challenging due to its individualistic nature.