

A Parent's Guide to 4-H

What Does My Child's 4-H Club Expect From Me?

1. Attend club meetings, activities and events with your child. Notify the club advisor if your child can't attend a meeting/activity.
2. Help with the club fundraising events and pay your child's county activity fee and/or club dues.
3. Attend special events planned by the 4-H club.
4. Encourage and guide your child's project work. Don't do their work.
5. Read the 4-H newsletter, mailings, project fact sheets, and other information with your child. Use the Erie County 4-H webpage for information: erie.osu.edu
6. Encourage your child to participate in project judging, clinics/workshops, 4-H camp(s), public speaking opportunities, Junior Fair events, and much more.
7. Encourage your child to keep up-to-date records & complete project.
8. Model a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, respect and cooperation.
9. Assist with 4-H club activities in your areas of interest and expertise. Teach a project skill, help with a community service project, plan a field trip, assist with fundraising, etc.
10. Help the club. Host a meeting, provide refreshments, sponsor an award.
11. Support the club by cooperating with club advisors and exhibiting a positive attitude towards your child's personal and club 4-H goals.

What Should I Expect From My 4-H Club and Advisors?

1. Notice of 4-H club meetings and/or a printed schedule of club meetings for the year.
2. Information provided at one of the first meetings:
 - 4-H Family Guide
 - 4-H Club Program, Calendar of Activities
 - Enrollment Forms
3. Information provided at all meetings:
 - Review of the 4-H Calendar, 4-H Newsletter or Recent Mailings from the Extension Office
 - Reminders of Upcoming Deadlines, Requirements, etc.
 - What's Coming Up in the Club and How My Child and I Can Get Involved?
4. Help in selecting, ordering & receiving Project Books for my child.
5. Hands-on learning experiences for my child... project work, demonstrations, practice skillathons and/or project judging, livestock quality assurance and/or horse safety programs, field trips/tours, etc.
6. Opportunity for my child to give back to the community through service projects... flower gardens at the fairgrounds, adopt a family, picking up trash, etc.
7. Opportunity for my child to build leadership skills through serving as a club officer, on a committee, leading the American or 4-H pledges, participating in a business meeting, etc.



8. Opportunity for my child to have FUN with friends (new and old) through recreational, social, educational and/or competitive activities.
9. A welcoming place for my child and I to learn and grow through the 4-H Program and work together to “Make the Best Better”.

What Will 4-H Cost?

- ☑ **County 4-H Activity Fee** - \$10.00/member (including Cloverbuds). Some clubs include this cost in their club dues.
- ☑ **Club Fees/Dues** – Most clubs charge a per member fee based on their club’s activities. Club fees may be used towards refreshments, project book cost, fair pass, supplemental insurance, club t-shirt, etc. Ask your club advisor about their club fees/dues.
- ☑ **Project Books** – Most project books cost \$6.00. Some projects require an additional Resource Handbook (\$8.00 to \$18.00) that is purchased once by the family and used by all family members. Check with your 4-H advisor for current project book costs.
- ☑ **Project Items** – Every project has some costs beyond the 4-H project book. For some projects, this may be supplies and materials that you already have at home. For other projects, your child will be required to invest in an animal & supplies for its care, specialized equipment and/or other items. Please keep this in mind when selecting projects with your child.
- ☑ **Fair** – If members, plan to participate in fair, they will have some additional costs associated with their 4-H experience. A weekly fair pass is \$5.00 per member. Some clubs include this cost in their club dues.

Who Can Answer Questions?

- ☎ **Club Advisors:** Start with your local club advisor(s) first. Make sure you have a phone number and/or e-mail address to communicate with them.
- ☎ **Project Key Leaders:** Call or email a project key leader (listed on your project fact sheet).
- ☎ **Extension Staff:** Call (419) 627-7631 or e-mail at any time.

4-H Youth Development Educators

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Where Do I Go For Information?

- 📁 **OSU Extension Office**, 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870
Phone: (419) 627-7631 Website: erie.osu.edu
Hours – Monday –Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
 - Purchase and/or Pick Up 4-H Projects
 - Register For 4-H Camps
 - Reserve and Pick Up Resources – Skillathon Kits, Cloverbud Kits, etc.
 - Access all forms, requirements, information on the web.
- 📁 **Erie County Fair Office**, 3110 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870
Phone – (419) 625-1000 Website: eriefair.com
 - Make Open Class Fair Entry
 - Reserve a camping spot for the fair
 - Purchase and Pick Up Fair Passes