

Stevens County 4-H Policy

I. State 4-H Policy

4-H is an informal educational program conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, State Land-Grant Universities, and County governments. The State 4-H program is governed by Washington State University Extension in Pullman, Washington, through the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

The State 4-H Administration sets the state 4-H policy. The state 4-H policy is the governing regulation for 4-H, and is listed in EM0758.

The county policy establishes rules deemed by the state to be county options. Both policies are revised periodically.

II. Stevens County 4-H Policy

County 4-H policies are set by the Executive Board of the Stevens County 4-H Leaders' Council, with the Stevens County Extension faculty. Leader input is sought whenever changes or revisions are considered.

III. Eligibility Requirements for 4-H Members

Four (4) school groups, designated by grade in school as of October 1 of the current 4-H year, are recognized in the 4-H program for county, state, and national events.

A. Primary: Grades K, 1, and 2, and reached fifth birthday prior to January 1 of the 4-H year.

1. Primary members may enroll in any 4-H project except—large animal projects including horses, beef, goats, dairy cows, sheep, swine, and llama; projects using firearms; projects using motorized vehicles; and food presentation projects using hot water bath or pressure canning methods.
2. Primary members are not eligible for out-of-county 4-H activities or competitive events.
3. Some 4-H competitive events in Stevens County do allow primaries to participate. In all such events, primary members will receive participation ribbons **only**, and not be rated using the Danish scoring system. In such situations, written and oral comments are strongly encouraged.

B. For all other age groups, refer to the Washington State 4-H Policy EM0758 "Membership" section.

IV. The 4-H Year

- A. The 4-H Year begins October 1 and ends September 30.
- B. National 4-H Week is celebrated during the first week of October.

V. Annual Achievement Pins

A. To be determined and provided by the individual clubs.

VI. Starting a 4-H Club

- A. All new main club leaders are required to complete six hours of new leader training within one year of their enrollment. This training will be offered annually.
- B. Project leaders are strongly encouraged to take new leader training.

- C. To teach responsibility and decision-making, all leaders are encouraged to provide guidance, but allow the 4-H members to make their own decisions regarding club operations and activities.
- D. Dues are not required, please refer to Washington State 4-H Policy EM0758 “Membership” section 9.
- E. One copy of 4-H project materials are available to leaders at no charge through the Stevens County Extension office. Additional member materials are ordered directly from WSU—prices vary. There is no charge for materials for low-income members.

VII. Standing Dates and Deadlines

- A. The 4-H year shall be from October 1 to September 30.
- B. 4-H members will be accepted at any time of the year.
- C. Those who wish to exhibit at the Northeast Washington Fair must be enrolled as a 4-H'er in the correct projects by May 31.

VIII. Supervision and Safety

- A. All 4-H activities must be supervised by adults: 4-H parents/guardians or leaders.
- B. Before each activity, a club should complete a safety risk-management plan. Potential risks and appropriate safety measures should be explained to all members and their parents. The plan should identify emergency phone numbers and participants with first aid, CPR, or other training.
- C. Accident insurance policies covering clubs members/leaders are strongly encouraged. Each club individually contracts with the insurance company.
- D. Volunteer liability is provided for all trained and enrolled Stevens County 4-H Leaders. See: Washington State 4-H Policy EM0758 “Volunteer Staff, Section 8.”

IX. Youth Leadership

- A. Any 4-H member who has reached their thirteenth birthday by January 1 of the current 4-H year may be enrolled in Leadership projects at the discretion of adult leaders.
- B. Teen leaders will receive a mailing of Clover Courier.
- C. Teen leaders are not covered by the WSU liability insurance.
- D. A person may become a volunteer adult 4-H leader if she/he is at least 18 years old and not enrolled as a 4-H member.

X. Projects

- A. 4-H/FFA Relationships
 - 1. Refer to Washington State 4-H Policy EM0758 “Relationships,” Section 3.
- B. Members must be enrolled in the appropriate project area in order to compete at the state level.

XI. Awards

A. County Award Medals

1. Up to four county medals per project area are available each year.
2. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Members are eligible for county award medals.
3. Winners will be determined by application, county publication # 101. Members need to complete the application with the help of their leader.
4. There is no limit to the number of medals each 4-H'er can receive.

B. Outstanding 4-H Boy and Girl

1. Candidates must be either a high school junior or senior.
2. Candidates must be nominated by leaders, parents, or other teens.
3. Winners will be selected by an interview process before a committee in the fall.
 - a. All 4-H'ers nominated will be asked to interview.
 - b. Candidates not attending the interview will not be considered.
 - c. Each candidate's entire 4-H career will be considered.
4. Honorable mention awards will be given at the interview committee's discretion.

XII. Record Books

A. Record books shall be the member's own work.

1. Neatness and legibility are encouraged in the completion of record books.
2. Computer printed pages are acceptable as long as they follow the record book format. Use WSU publications C0932, C0933, C0934, C0935, and C0947.

B. A permanent 4-H record must be included in each years record book.

C. Each project that has available separate records or add sheets, must include those sheets in their record books.

D. Record books must be completed by September 30.

1. Each club will turn in their blue ribbon record books for county judging during the first week of October.
2. Completed books need to be signed by parents, club leaders, and project leaders.
3. Clubs may choose to alter the format of the record book for club use. However, for county awards the standard format must be used. (WSU Publication Numbers C0932, C0933, C0934, C0935, and C0947)

XIII. Public Presentations

A. See County Public Presentation Policy

XIV. Judging

A. Livestock Judging: see county project GBU guidelines.

B. All other judging contests should follow the rules as designated by project materials.

XV. State and Out-Of-County Events

- A. All participants will abide by the state 4-H Code of Conduct for events.
 - 1. Sanctions against violators will be enforced.
- B. Specific guidelines for each event must be followed.
- C. Selection procedures may be established as necessary.
- D. One adult chaperone is needed for every five participants.
 - 1. Members will find their own chaperons.
 - 2. Chaperones will receive primary consideration for Leaders' Council financial support for travel costs and fees to 4-H events as determined by Leaders' Council.

XVI. Project Animals

- A. Refer to Washington State 4-H Policy EM0758 "Animal Management and Ownership" section.
- B. Ownership of those animals not listed in state policy are as follows.
 - 1. Companion Animals – 60 days
 - 2. Pocket Pets – 45 days
- C. Members can appeal to the 4-H Leaders' Council to replace a project animal in the case of death or other extenuating circumstances.
- D. Animal preparation and exhibiting must be the *4-H member's own work*. If a member needs help, they should have an experienced member assist them.

XVII. Safety

- A. Refer to Washington State 4-H Policy EM0758 "Safety" section.