

4-H Ages 2016-2017



4-H programs are offered on an age-appropriate basis to youth, ages 5-18. This is the age requirement for 4-H participation.

Unless otherwise specified, age classifications for 4-H club members are:

- Cloverbud Member: ages 5-7
- Junior Member: ages 8-12
- Senior Member: ages 13-18

Flathead County Extension Office

Ages are as of October 1 of the current 4-H year, which spans from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. Here are some examples for clarification:

- **As long as a child turns age 5 on or before October 1, 2016, he/she can join 4-H as a Cloverbud member.**
- **If a member turns 8 years old on or before October 1, 2016, he/she is a Junior.**
- **Senior 4-H club members must turn age 13 on or before October 1, 2016.**
- **If a teen turns 19yrs of age on or before October 1, 2016, he cannot join or re-enroll in 4-H, but is encouraged to serve as a 4-H volunteer.**
- **Collegiate 4-H Clubs are available at many colleges and universities for those wishing to continue 4-H activities into their early twenties.**

4-H is always looking for new volunteers and 4-H alumni make great 4-H leaders. Once someone ages out of the participation ages, a wide variety of 4-H volunteer opportunities await them.

Age Appropriateness and Competition

All 4-H programs and activities shall be offered on an age-appropriate basis that should consider the mental and physical readiness of youth, availability of suitable curriculum materials, adequate supervision, and the health and safety of participants.

4-H Cloverbuds are limited to participation in non-competitive activities. Ideally, separate, age-appropriate learning activities should be offered to 4-H Cloverbuds that may eventually lead to their participation in full-fledged competitive events when they are at least nine years of age. However, if Cloverbuds are part of a competitive event involving older youth, they shall not be judged and will receive only recognition of participation (such as a green ribbon, small prize or token).

*Montana State University,
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