

4-H PRIMARY MEMBERS “Cloverbud Program”

Guidelines and Information Sheet

4-H offers membership to Primary Members. Primary members must be five years old or in Kindergarten as of January 1 of the program year (July 1 – June 30.) For members who are Home Schooled, criteria will be based on age alone. All of these members take a special project called “Cloverbuds.” (Those members, who will turn nine years old before January 1 of the program year, are considered regular members.)

The purpose of offering this younger membership category is to give children the opportunity to learn more about the 4H program and to prepare them for further project selection. They must turn in an enrollment form and sign up for Beginning 4-H” 8-A.

If a club chooses to enroll these Primary Members, they must have a project leader who is willing to attend training for the Cloverbud project. Or, like all other projects, the Primary Members may take the project through another club that has a trained leader. In addition, Jr/Teen leaders from the club are also encouraged to attend Cloverbud training, and work with the younger members.

The following is the policy statement for clubs:

ALL PRIMARY MEMBERS:

1. Primary Members (K-3) must be enrolled in the Cloverbud project, and at the discretion of the project leader may join the following sanctioned animal projects: Dogs, Cats, Rats, Mice, Cavies, Entomology, Embryology, Marine Science, Rabbits, Poultry, Pygmy Goats, and Therapeutic Animal Projects. (Please note that the curriculum will have to be adjusted in these projects to be appropriate for this younger age level.) Pygmy Goats and Dogs do not offer Countywide activities, and do not have classes at the Kern County Fair.
2. Primary Members may enroll in non-animal projects (with the exception of Shooting Sports, Automotive, Farm Machinery, and ATV) at the discretion of the project leader. (Please note that the curriculum will have to be adjusted in these projects to be appropriate for this younger age level.)
3. Primary membership ends at graduation from the 3rd grade.
4. The “Kern County Primary Member Personal Development Report” must be turned into the club leader in order to earn Primary credit for the 4-H year. A certificate of completion will be awarded. In addition, Primary Members are eligible to receive special year pins and stripes for the time they are Primary Members. **These will not apply to regular 4-H awards and incentives (stars, etc.)**
5. Primary Members may participate in 4H events at the county level, where special Primary categories are offered.
6. Primary Members may enter the County Fair as 4H members in any classes specifically provided for them. Where no classes are provided, they may enter as independent junior exhibitors, and that will not affect future 4-H participation. (Please note that in some cases, classes may not be offered for independent exhibitors or for those in this age category. This is a fair decision, not a 4H decision.) Members exhibiting as an independent may not wear their 4-H uniform.

7. Primary Members may not participate as a 4H member in a 4H activity or event beyond county jurisdiction for which they are ineligible by county rules (example: Cow Palace, Great Western.)
8. Primary Members may wear the same 4-H uniform as regular 4-H members.
9. **There is no competition at the Primary Members level** until graduation from the third grade. They may participate as a "Cloverbud" by displaying their project work during County events with special Cloverbud categories.
10. This age group does not have to attend the Community Club meetings in order to participate or show as a Cloverbud.
11. They do have to attend required Cloverbud project meetings.
12. Primary Members should be recognized for their participation at the unit level, especially at the time of "graduating" to the next age level. Certificates, ribbons, and/or pins may be used as tokens of this achievement.
13. Star rank reports and awards are not appropriate for primary members.
14. Primary Members do not accumulate credits on the Personal Development Report Form that supports the star rank system.

*Revised Kern County 4-H Policy Committee, February 10, 2004
Approved, February 24, 2004 by the 4-H Leaders' Council*

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