

Appendix P

Policies for the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Program

(these policies are written for us by professional youth educators of Ohio State University Extension) (Approved by Administrative Cabinet 10/95, 8/96; updated 1/04)

1. Ohio Youth, age 5 and in Kindergarten until 8 and in third grade, may enroll in the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud program.
2. The educational system for the 4-H Cloverbud program is activity based. “Activity based” means a variety of short term “tasting” experiences for youth that creates an eclectic, cooperative, and fun approach to learning through an immediate, positive feedback response to the youth’s involvement in the activity. Activities created beyond those approved for curriculum use statewide must follow Ohio’s 4-H Cloverbud Program Parameters or be submitted for approval to the State 4-H Office.
3. The 4-H Cloverbud membership is offered in every county in Ohio. Enrolled Cloverbud youth, because of age appropriateness, will not be eligible for any activities or projects designed for 8 & 3rd grade to 19 year old 4-H members. It is not the intent or the objective of the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud program to duplicate the Ohio 4-H program for older youth, nor to create a mini 4-H concept. While many Cloverbuds will go on for other 4-H experiences, the 4-H Cloverbud program is designed with specific educational objectives for children of that age and grade level.
4. Counties will utilize age-appropriate, cooperation-based methods to give feedback and recognition, while minimizing failure in the activities of the 4-H Cloverbud curriculum. The focus of this feedback is to promote the youth’s confidence in meeting new challenges. Research on this grade level indicates the best way to build confidence is to have many opportunities in activities that emphasize success, however small. Competition with self and others is inappropriate for the 4-H Cloverbud grade level, and therefore 4-H Cloverbud members are not eligible for any competitive events.
5. County junior fairs provide a wonderful opportunity to provide reinforcement to the success building for 4-H Cloverbuds. County junior fairs are open to participation by 4-H Cloverbuds, but for exhibit only. While individual and group 4-H Cloverbud fair exhibits are encouraged, there will be no:
 - 1) Formal scoring of 4-H Cloverbud members, or
 - 2) Competition of any kind between individual Cloverbud members, or between Cloverbud members and members in the 4-H program for older youth (8 and in the 3rd grade to 19 years old). Any fair participation recognition system, special prizes, or awards must be given equally to all Cloverbud 4-H members.
6. Volunteers working with the 4-H Cloverbud program will be oriented and trained in:
 - A) The policies of the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Program.

- B) Information concerning learning and developmental characteristics of 4-H Cloverbud age children.
 - C) Cooperative work with parents in providing the best learning environment and support for the Cloverbud youth.
 - D) Use of Ohio 4-H Cloverbud curriculum.
 - E) The Ohio 4-H Standards of Behavior for volunteers, with particular attention to a sensitivity of working with Cloverbud children.
7. Cloverbuds may participate through any authorized 4-H delivery system (community, project clubs, school enrichment groups, or special emphasis groups), depending on the needs and resources of the individual county 4-H program. Counties are to utilize the state approved curriculum or the 4-H Cloverbud Program Parameters.
 8. If the 4-H Cloverbud program does not match an existing club's direction or resources, it will be the individual option of 4-H volunteer(s) whether they will work with this program. The 4-H professional in the county should make every attempt to place Cloverbuds in existing single 4-H Cloverbud or multiple-age clubs and groups, initiate new multiple-age groups, or start new 4-H Cloverbud groups within the county or neighborhood.

Policies for Implementing Cloverbud 4-H Guidelines in Camp Settings

(Approved by Administrative Cabinet 4/96; updated 1/04)

POLICIES:

1. Ohio 4-H Cloverbud members may participate only in resident and/or day camps that are planned and conducted for them and meet their developmental characteristics and needs. In addition, 4-H Cloverbud members may be included in single parent and family camps.
2. There will be no less than one volunteer and professional staff member per five campers, and 80% of these (required) staff will be 18 years of age or older as of the first day of camp.
3. All 4-H Cloverbud campers will be constantly within sight or hearing supervision of a staff person, so there will need to be a minimum of two staff with each group (even if the group is small in number).
4. The staff (this includes the resident staff) will be trained in the developmental characteristics and needs of the 4-H Cloverbud campers and in their supervisory responsibilities needed to meet these needs.
5. Ohio 4-H Cloverbud camps will be three nights or less in duration.
6. 4-H Cloverbud campers will not sleep in top bunks unless they have a safety rail.

*For more information on working successfully with 4-H Cloverbud members in camps, see the 4-H Camp section of the 4-H Agent's Handbook (page 6.13).