

# **Implementing 4-H Cloverbud Guidelines in Camp Settings**

*(approved by Administrative Cabinet 4/96)*

## 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 the 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 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.

## Suggestions for Success:

1. Conduct orientation for parents/guardians to help them prepare Cloverbuds for the camping experience. Orientation should include: What is planned for the program, equipment and clothing needs, supervision plans and training, communication policies, and how to determine if a child is ready for the resident camping experience.
2. Characteristics of children who are ready for camp:
  - they have had successful over night experiences away from parents (stays away from relatives are even better).
  - they are able to take care of their own personal hygiene needs if reminded (in most camps, this includes taking a shower rather than a tub bath).
  - they are able to follow directions.

3. Adequate rest is a key concern for 4-H Cloverbud campers. Research has substantiated that most kindergartners need a minimum of 11 hours of sleep per night and most second graders need a minimum of 10 hours of sleep per night. Many Cloverbud members also need an additional 30 – 90 minutes of rest in the afternoon. Rest time needs to be built into the program.
4. The 4-H Cloverbud camp program should be tailored to the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social needs of these campers. Groups should rotate through crafts, nature, swimming, recreation, etc. accompanied by staff. Because they are in the pre-operational or concrete operational cognitive stage, Cloverbud 4-H campers can't just be sent off to activities or be left on their own to select activity events.

Because of the differences needed to program for this age group, it is recommended that 4-H Cloverbud camps NOT be held at the same site and facilities at the same time a program for older 4-H members is being conducted. However, if the sites, facilities, and staffing patterns can support separate, simultaneous programs, the programs could be held at the same time and place.

Programs should be action oriented versus lecture/discussion and planned to fit the shorter attention span of these campers. The resident camp staff needs to be utilized, but it can not be assumed that they understand how Cloverbuds are different from older campers. Resident staff must understand how Cloverbud 4-H campers are different from older campers and 4-H camp directors may need to recruit more counselor/instructors than would be needed for older campers. People who have worked successfully with older campers will not necessarily be good leaders in this program without additional training which can be based on the materials in the Supporting Youth In Grades K-2 handbook.

Many of the materials in the 4-H Cloverbud curriculum are appropriate for use in 4-H Cloverbud camp settings. However, camp activities should not be limited only to the 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum as long as the philosophies and objectives of Ohio's 4-H Cloverbud program are maintained as identified in Ohio's 4-H Cloverbud program parameters.