

NEW 4-H Family Orientation Guide

Defiance County
4-H Youth Development Program

Where Do I Go For Information?

4-H Youth Development Staff:

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Office Address:
OSU Extension Office, Defiance County
06879 Evansport Road, Suite B
Defiance, Ohio 43512

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: 419-782-4771

Defiance County Fair:
PO Box 184 530 S. Main Street
Hicksville, Ohio 43526
Phone/Fax: 419-542-7575



Web Page Addresses:

Defiance County Extension	http://defiance.osu.edu
Ohio 4-H	http://www.ohio4h.org
Defiance County Fair	https://www.defiancecountyfair.com
Ohio State Fair	http://www.ohiostatefair.com

CFAES

Join Defiance County 4-H

About 4-H: *Preparing Youth for Success*

- 4-H is a non-formal educational, youth development program offered to individuals age 5 and in kindergarten to age 19.
- Ohio 4-H youth development reaches more than 240,000 youth each year – helping kids "learn by doing" through hands-on activities.
- 4-H creates fun while learning in a variety of ways. Kids can participate in 4-H through community clubs, camps, in-school and after-school activities, and summer programs.
- Members increase their self-confidence and personal life skills while learning about specific subjects - anything from animals or computers to public speaking, cooking, art, gardening and environmental sciences, just to name a few project topics.

How to Join Defiance County 4-H:

1. Contact the Defiance County Extension Office to receive a new member packet via mail or download the packet.
   - **Call** 419-782-4771 to request a packet
   - **Email** Hannah Burroughs at burroughs.119@osu.edu
   - **Download Packet** at: https://u.osu.edu/defiance4h/join-4-h/

2. Once you have received your informational packet, **contact the 4-H club advisor**. If you need help choosing a 4-H Club, contact the Extension Office. When choosing a 4-H club, ask the advisor about when/where the club meets to make sure it works for your family's schedule

3. **Costs:** Defiance County 4-H has a $7.00 4-H membership fee. 4-H Clubs may have additional dues.

4. **How to Enroll:** 4-H families will enroll in Defiance County 4-H via Ohio 4-H online platform.
   - Refer to the Step-by-step guide for making on-line enrollment. https://u.osu.edu/defiance4h/join-4-h/
   - Final enrollment deadline: March 30th

5. **4-H Projects:** Think about what project area the youth is interested in participating in (example: rabbit, sewing, or horses, cooking). Review the Ohio **4-H Family Guide** for a listing of projects. Still need help in trying to decide what project to take: **Project Central** is an easy way for 4-H members and project helpers to preview Ohio 4-H project books and resources. Take a closer look at a book, find out what others have to say, and share your experiences.

   Project Central: http://projectcentral.ohio4h.org/
   4-H Project Guide: https://ohio4h.org/familyguide

4-H Eligibility:

- Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he/she turns 19.
- Joining Ohio 4 H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.
- Accommodations can be made for youth with disabilities through our Winning 4-H Plan. Visit ohio4h.org/about/join-4-H to make an accommodation request.

Ohio State University Extension
Defiance County
06879 Evansport Rd. Ste B
Defiance, OH 43512

Office Hours:
8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday
(419) 782-4771

Website: http://defiance.osu.edu
Newsletter: https://u.osu.edu/defiance4h/

4-H Staff:
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4-H Youth Development ~Defiance County
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Hannah Burroughs, 4-H Office Associate
burroughs.119@osu.edu

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2026 Defiance County 4-H Club Contacts

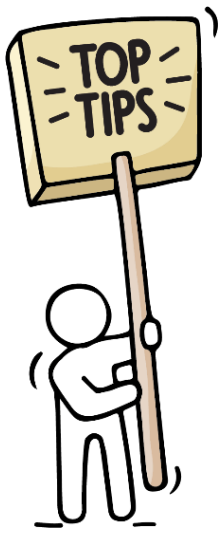
4-H Club Name	Advisor	Phone Number	Email Address	Meeting Information
Apache Spirits	Kathy Holtsberry	419-769-3822	jkholtsberry5@gmail.com	St. John Lutheran Sherwood- Sundays
Best In Northwest	Yvonne Blosser	419-785-5157	fawn@bright.net	Farmer Firehall- Last Thursday of the month
Black Swamp	Tara Shininger Karah Shininger	419-438-7292 419-658-8811	tarashininger@gmail.com karahleigh51@gmail.com	06537 Glenburg Road Defiance, OH 43512
B-Square	Deanna Zimmerman	419-769-1541	1969deesmith@gmail.com	11479 Hire Road Defiance, OH 43512
Buckeye Producers	Erin Jacob	419-786-9199	erinjacob08@gmail.com	OSU Extension Office- Sundays
County Customs	Kaitlyn Hearne	419-769-4077	rethmelk12@gmail.com	Evansport United Methodist Church- Sundays
Country Pride	Angie Caryer	419-786-0117	caryer1@msn.com	Members Houses
Defiance Co. Clever Clovers	Lisa Friend	419-542-6526	jlage90@metalink.net	06824 St. Rt. 49 Hicksville, OH 43526
Farmer Agriculturists	Melinda Culler	419-551-4127	lmculler@gmail.com	Farmer Legion Building- Sundays
Friendly Faces	Katy Gaskill Holly Brobston	419-769-0430 410-438-2242	katykline08@gmail.com hhh08@msn.com	OSU Extension Office- Sundays
Green Acres	Karen Weber Collette Knight	419-439-3595 419-956-2412	nkweber04@yahoo.com orion_in_the_sky@hotmail.com	Jewell Community Center- Sundays
Hicksville Herdsmen	Michele Zeedyk Shari Hedge	419-542-0168 419-786-0516	mike@zeedykfarms.com sharihedge@hotmail.com	Vancrest Nursing Home
Little Buckeyes	Theresa Walters	419-769-1323	tkgarmyn@yahoo.com	11257 Casebeer- Miller Rd. Hicksville, OH 43526
Mark Blue Ribbon	Jackie Zeedyk	419-542-8208	jzeedyk1@hotmail.com	Hicksville- Sunday Afternoons
Maumee Explorers	Becky Singer	419-769-5769	singerosufan@bright.net	15488 Rolland Road Sherwood, OH 43556
Merry Workers	Gloria Shininger	419-899-4123	gshininger@hotmail.com	12172 US 127 Sherwood, Ohio 43556
Premium Production	Danielle Limber	419-439-1621	ddlimber@yahoo.com	Ayersville Community Church- Sundays
Trailblazers	Krista Burroughs	419-769-2669	kristakaye11@gmail.com	OSU Extension Office- Thursdays
Whippoorwills	Jeff Rohlf Kaylee Williams	419-784-6107 419-439-3505	jlrohlf@defnet.com kayrohlf05@gmail.com	St. John Lutheran Defiance- 3rd Sunday of Month

CFAES OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Quick Tips for Successful 4-H Enrollment

The county deadline for enrollment is March 30 – however, your club leaders may have established an earlier date for club purposes. Please use the steps below to complete your enrollment.

- Visit this direct link to enroll: oh.4honline.com
- Returning members/families already have a profile – Contact the Extension office for your family email address.
- If you or another of your family members are already in the program or have been in recent years – please **DO NOT CREATE A NEW PROFILE**
- The registration process allows you to update personal information annually such as; age, grade, contact information and years in projects etc.
- Years in 4-H and years in projects are for your own records but please be sure to check accuracy
- **CLOVERBUD** members – add project 715 My 4-H Cloverbud Year
- If you are an 18-year-old member – enroll as youth not as an adult
- Once your enrollment has been approved, you will not be able to make any changes to your account – all changes will need to be made by contacting Hannah Burroughs at burroughs.119@osu.edu
- Any questions or need help? View the step-by-step enrollment guide on our website - https://u.osu.edu/defiance4h/join-4-h/
- Still need help? Call Hannah at Extension Office
  Direct Number: 419-770-6138
  Office Number: 419-782-4771
  Email: burroughs.119@osu.edu



Using 4-HOnline

Ohio 4-H uses the 4-H Online system to manage all aspects of the 4-H program, including membership, events, projects, activities and communications. All youth and adults who participate in Ohio 4-H have a 4-H online profile.

Creating your 4-H online enrollment is easy and only takes a few minutes. 4-H online profiles are family-based, which means every family has a "master" profile for each family involved in Ohio 4-H. A family profile may contain both youth and adults:

Youth family members (ages 5-18 as of January 1)

- Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 **and** enrolled in kindergarten.
- Eligibility for Club Member participation begins when a child is age 8 **and** in third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level.

Adult family members (ages 18 and older)

- Adults who have been screened and certified as Ohio 4-H Volunteers can re-enroll
- Adults who want to become certified Ohio 4-H Volunteers complete a volunteer application, then create a 4-H online profile as part of their first time enrollment.

Not every Family profile will contain all the above listed types of members. Some profiles may contain only youth members, while others will have only adults. Some profiles will have both. Once a family profile is created, it will exist for as long as members of that profile are involved in the 4-H program. New members may be added to the family profile at any time and members who are no longer involved in 4-H may be archived.

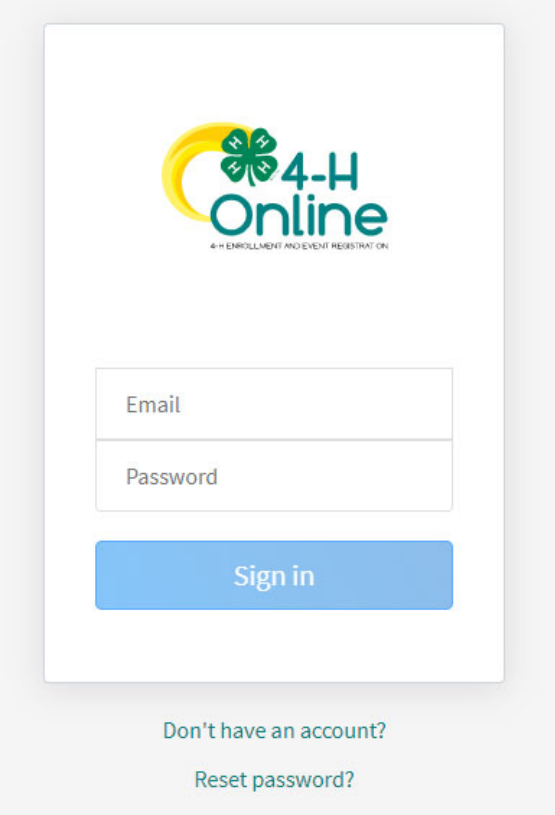
If someone in your family was involved in Ohio 4-H from 2015-Sept 2020, you already have a family profile in 4-H online.

To Access your EXISTING family profile
OR
to create a NEW family profile, visit:
oh.4honline.com

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New 4-H Family Enrollment Guide

This guide will help you enroll for the first time in Ohio 4-H.

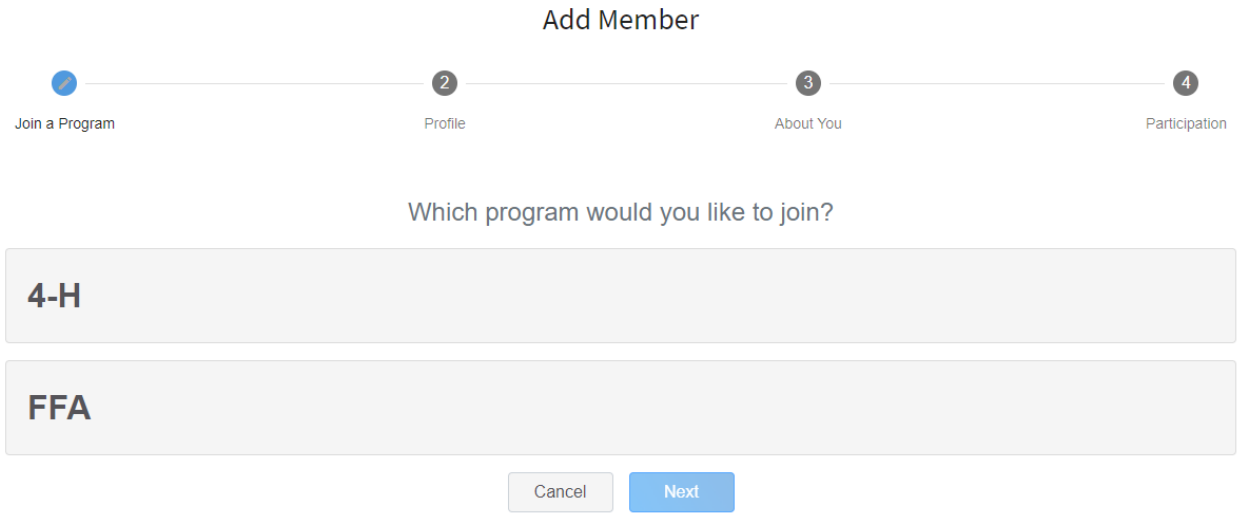


Step 1: Visit: oh.4honline.com

- Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the recommended browsers. Please do not use Internet Explorer.
- Select the option “Don’t have an account?”
- Select Ohio as your state and then “Ohio 4-H Youth Development”
- Select your county from the drop-down menu. – **Defiance (county you are enrolling in)**
- Enter an email address, phone number and create a password
  - Note: The email address that you use will be used by all members of your family to log into 4-HOnline in the future.
  - **DO NOT USE SCHOOL EMAILS**
- Enter your address, city, state and postal code.

Step 2: Build Your Member Profile

- Begin building the first member’s profile by choosing “add new member” and selecting “4-H” as the program you would like to join.

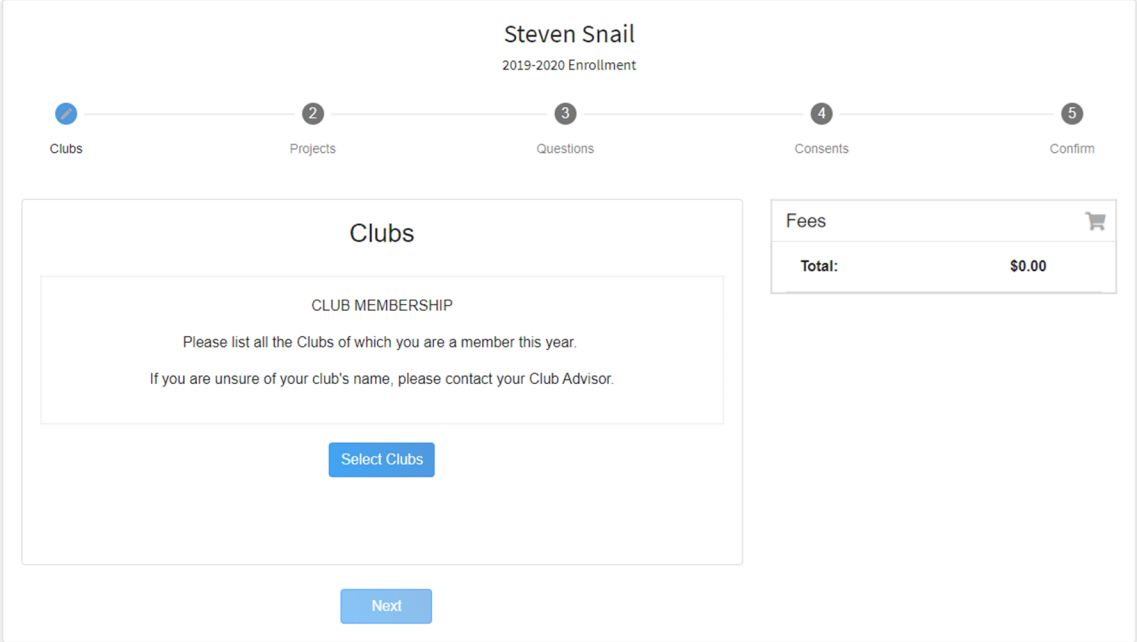


Select “Next” and continue through the rest of the questions, entering all of the required member information including name and birthdate. Select the option “I want to join 4-H as a new or returning member.” Then select *“Finish”*.

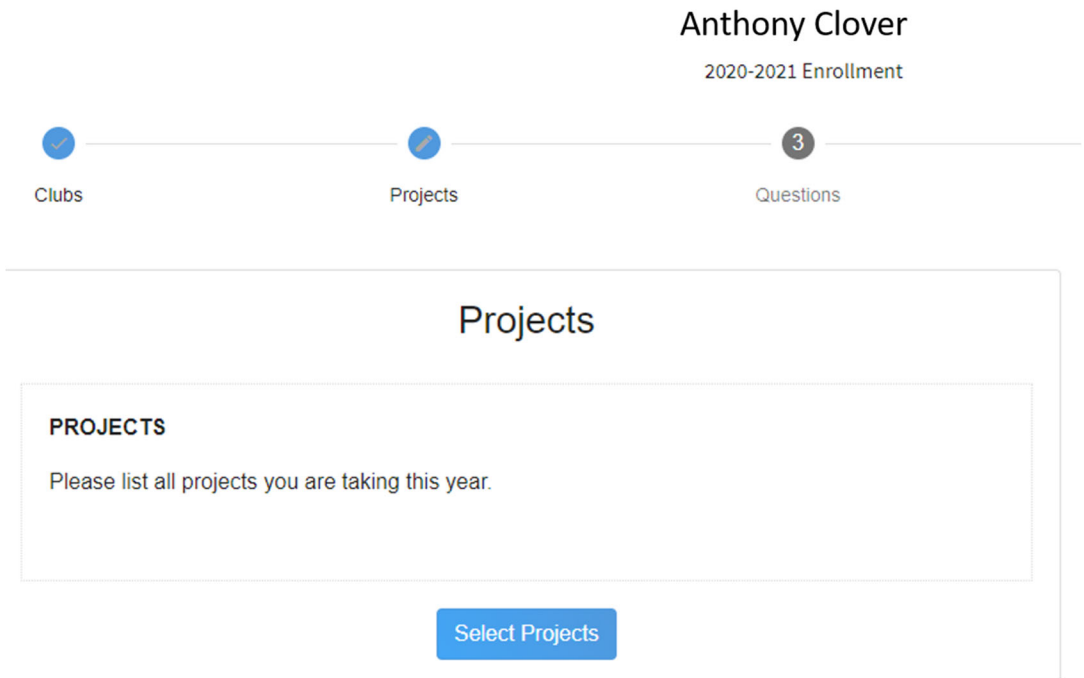
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Step 3: Select Your Club(s)

- Select your 4-H Club(s) for this year by choosing the *"Select Club"* button.
- Verify that the county is correct at the top of the pop-up window and select the club(s) by selecting *"Add"* next to the club name.



Step 4: Select Your Project(s) Select your 4-H projects(s) for this year by choosing the *"Select Projects"* button. Then select the projects from the list by clicking the "*Add"* button next to the project name.

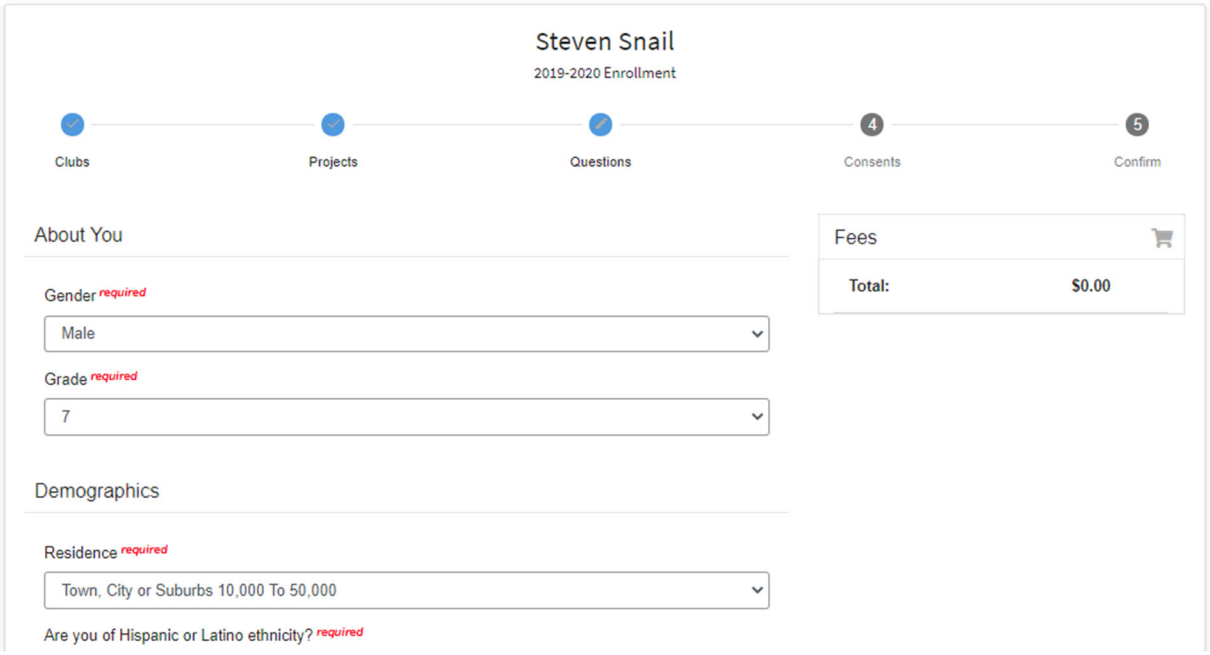


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- Select all of the projects for this year before submitting your enrollment. If you need to make changes to your projects after submitting your enrollment, you will have to contact the Extension office to request a change.
- If you are enrolling in projects for more than one club, you will want to verify that you have selected the correct club at the top of the project pop-up window.
- If you select a **horse project, a shooting sports project, or a dog project**, you will be automatically prompted to electronically sign the appropriate project consents for those projects. Type your names in the boxes to affirm your agreement.
- **Cloverbud members should select project number 715, My 4-H Cloverbud Year**.

Step 5: Continue Enrollment Questions

- Select the "*Show Questions*" button and complete the additional "About You" questions. Complete all of the required fields as indicated and click *Next*.



Step 6: Review and Sign Consent Forms

- Affirm that you agree to the Code of Conduct, the General Permission statement, and the Photo Release. Both the member and a parent/guardian names should be typed into the boxes and click on the agreement buttons.

Step 7: Review Enrollment

- Review your enrollment and select submit.
  - **Remember, do not hit submit until you are sure that you have selected all of your projects for this year.**

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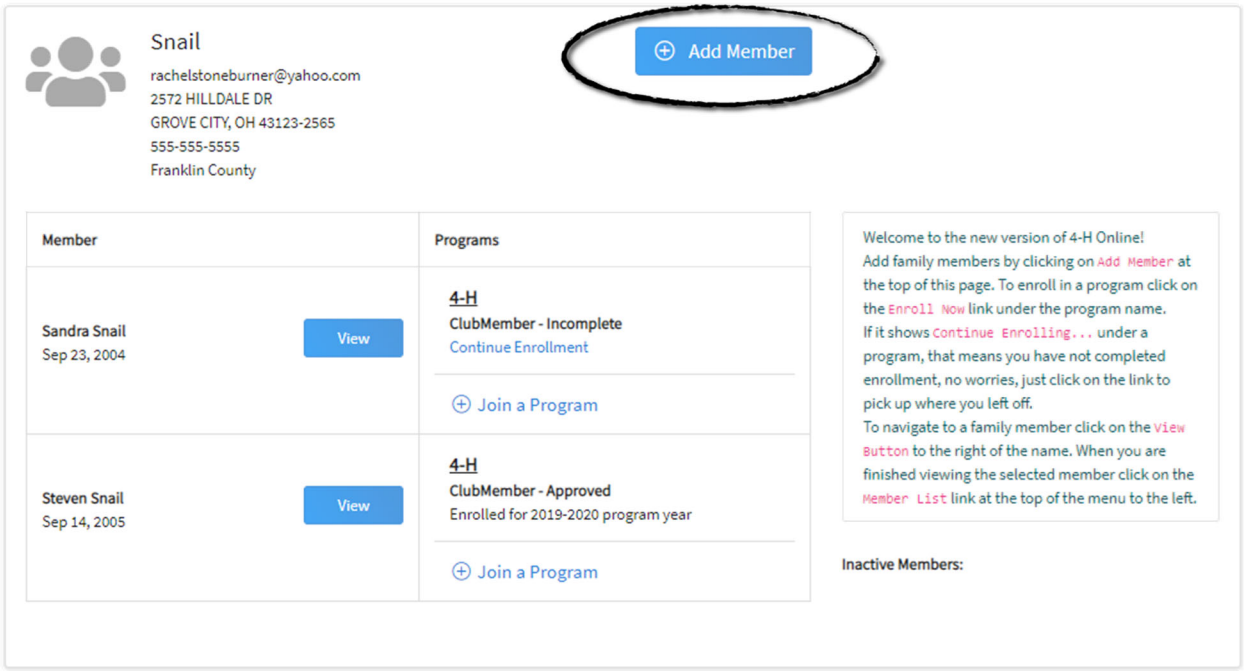
You have now successfully submitted your enrollment.

Need to make changes?

- If you need to make changes before your enrollment is reviewed and accepted by county staff, you will need to contact your Extension Office to request a change.

Need to Enroll another new member?

- Select the blue “Add member” button at the top of your family profile and create a new member.



Any questions or if you are experiencing problems using 4HOnline:

- Email Hannah Burroughs at burroughs.119@osu.edu - fastest option in evenings
- During normal office hours: 8 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, call Hannah @ OSU Extension, Defiance County: Office Phone: 419-782-4771

The 4-H Emblem

The official 4-H Emblem is a clover with four leaves and an "H" on each leaf. The clover's stem must point to the right as you look at the image. The 4-H Emblem is not a plain four-leaf clover. The 4-H Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.

Head

- Thinking... Mental development, deeper knowledge, reasoning and decision making.

Heart

- Feeling... Emotional development, developing interest, appreciation, wholesome attitudes and values.

Hands

- Doing... Skills development, ability to do, skill in doing and habit of doing.

Health

- Physical and personal development.



The 4-H Colors

White symbolizes purity and high ideals
Green is nature's most abundant color and is emblematic of springtime, life, youth and growth.

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge:
My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service, and
My Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world.

The 4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.
I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan and to reason.
I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.
I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.
I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.
I believe in my country, my state, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

Membership in Defiance County 4-H

Winning 4-H Plan Request Form

An Accommodation Plan for 4-H Members with Disabilities Taking 4-H Projects

This form must be completed by the member's parent/guardian and submitted to their county 4-H professional. A 4-H professional will contact the parent/guardian to arrange a meeting to discuss the request in more detail.

4-H Member's Name (first & last) _____

Age (as of 1/1/current year) _____ Birth Date _____ Years in 4-H _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Parent/Guardian Name (first & last) _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Name of 4-H Club _____

Name of 4-H Club Advisor(s) _____

4-H Project(s) Member Is Taking This Year:

_____ _____

_____ _____

Describe 4-H Member's Present Level of Needs and Current Diagnosis:

Accommodations Being Requested to Help Meet 4-H Member's Needs (include any special procedures the advisor would need to know):

I agree to adhere to the accommodations specified in this W4HP. I (parent/guardian) give permission to share information provided on this form with Extension staff, 4-H volunteers; and Jr. Fair personnel, volunteers and judges. I understand that this information will only be shared and used as necessary to provide assistance to help my child with his/her 4-H project(s) and that additional information may be requested.

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

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Traditional 4-H Club Membership

Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. CLOVRBUDS: Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. TRADITIONAL 4-H: Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a **child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level.**

Club Organization

1. A 4-H Club must have a minimum of five youth. Youth must be regular members (not Cloverbuds) from two or more families.
2. At least one adult (19 years of age or older) must apply and be accepted as a volunteer advisor.
3. New Clubs: A request for approval of a new 4-H Club must be completed and presented to the Defiance County 4-H Advisory Council by the February Council meeting for the new 4-H year beginning in March.
4. Clubs are expected to conduct eight meetings in a calendar year.

Defiance County Junior Fair Eligibility Guidelines

1. All Defiance County Junior Fair exhibitors must successfully meet all requirements of their youth organization before being eligible to exhibit for competition. Specific guidelines are as follows:
2. Defiance County 4-H – Exhibitors must be between the ages of eight and nineteen years. An exhibitor is eligible when he/she reaches the age of at least eight years **and** enrolled in the third grade as of January 1st of the same year. Eligibility ends when an exhibitor reaches the age of nineteen years as of December 31st of the same year in which an entry is made.
3. Defiance County FFA – Entries are open to regularly enrolled junior high and high school agricultural students **and** enrolled in their school FFA chapter of the same year in which an entry is made.
4. Defiance County FCCLA – Entries are open to regularly enrolled high school family consumer science students **and** enrolled in their school FCCLA chapter of the same year in which an entry is made. FCCLA members are expected to exhibit in the county of the FCCLA Chapter.

4-H Cloverbud Program Membership

1. Ohio youth five and in kindergarten to eight years of age AND in second grade (as of January 1 of the current year), may enroll in 4-H educational programs.
2. The philosophy of Ohio's Cloverbud program is activity based. Thus, no projects offered to 8-18 year olds such as animals, foods, clothing, engineering, misc., etc. will be a part of this 4-H program.
3. 4-H Cloverbud members are not eligible for out-of-county activities, competitive events, residential camps, and/or projects designed for 8-18 year olds and are not to hold offices, but can lead pledges, etc..
4. County Junior Fair is open to Cloverbud participation only. *There is NO formal scoring of individual members or competition of any kind between individual Cloverbud members or between Cloverbuds and 8 to 18 year old members. If participation awards or special prizes are given, they will be awarded equally to all 4-H Cloverbud members.
5. Non-competitive public presentations (e.g., speeches, demonstrations, illustrated talks, poster displays, etc.) are encouraged for Cloverbud members at their club and county levels. There will be no participation by Cloverbud members in public presentations at the district or state levels. Guidelines:
    a.) The Cloverbud Program is an option that may be offered within clubs or as a separate club. It is not required.
    b.) 4-H Cloverbud Advisors only work with Cloverbuds in a club setting and not the older 4-H youth during meeting time.
    c.) 4-H advisors working with the program MUST attend training prior to initiating activities on the club level.

4-H Membership Fee

The Defiance County 4-H Advisory Council has approved a **$7 membership fee** effective for the 4-H year. This fee is being implemented in lieu of asking 4-H families to participate in additional fundraisers. This fee does not include a County Fair pass.

Enrollment

Ohio 4-H rules and Defiance County rules state that each county must have an official enrollment deadline for 4-H members to be fully eligible for all 4-H awards and competition. ***Enrollment forms without project information will not be accepted.***

- ➔ Enrollment Deadline March 30st
- ➔ Add Project Deadline (may not add projects after this date) May 1st

Defiance County Extension also recognizes youth can learn and grow through the 4-H experience at any time of the year and at any stage of their life**. Youth who enroll after March 30th are NOT eligible for competition.** Youth who enroll after March 30th are not eligible for Clothing, Food-Nutrition, Miscellaneous or Livestock Judgings; nor may they participate at the Ohio State Fair or in a Defiance County Junior Fair competition. The reason for the aforementioned enrollment deadline of March 30th is simply so there is an established starting date for 4-H in Defiance County and show that youth who join late do not gain unfair advantage over the 4-H members who join on time.

Members joining after March 30th will however have the opportunity to attend clinics, go to 4-H camp, participate in community service projects and even to complete a project. For example a girl who wasn't aware of the deadline wants to complete a genealogy project or a boy received a rabbit for his birthday and now wants to join a 4-H club, may do so. They will not compete in any judgings but may exhibit a poster about their project along with the other club members and receive a participation ribbon at the Defiance County Junior Fair. They may also complete a one-on-on judging with the 4-H agent to gain insight and experience into the judging process.

4-H and FFA Dual Membership Policy:

Ohio 4-H members are often also FFA members, sometimes within the same county and sometimes in an adjacent county. These members especially need to keep in mind the 4-H policy about 4-H projects being separate from school projects. To keep work in both organizations clearly separate, ***4-H members are advised to take different species in the two organizations*** or, at the very least, to take market animals in one and breeding animals in the other. See chart for allowable and not allowable examples. FFA members must exhibit FFA projects in the county of FFA Chapter.

	4-H Member	FFA Member
Allowable	Market Steer	Market Hog
Allowable	Market Steer	Beef Breeding
Not Allowable	Market Sheep	Market Sheep

Membership Across County Lines

Youth residing in another county interested in joining Defiance County 4-H must request membership in Defiance county. You may request this form from the Extension Office. It must be completed before a youth can be enrolled. Once approved, this approval is good for as long as the member is in 4-H, he/she only needs to do the request once.

Membership Across County Lines Policy

1. 4-H membership in two counties simultaneously is not permitted.
2. Cross state line membership will be considered the same as for cross county membership
3. In situations where the county of residence does not have a 4-H program (due to financial or other reasons), youth may not join 4-H in another county; previously approved cross county or cross state membership will be revoked.
4. In situations where membership in a county other than the county of residence is desired, the Educators in both counties must be in agreement regarding the application. The agreement will be based upon their professional judgment in accord with the mission of the organization and is not to supersede #3.
5. Consideration for membership may not be motivated by perceived competitive or sale advantage in another county, any change due to controversial issues, or other similar motivations.
6. Parents, guardians, and/or youth should become familiar with all policies, procedures, and guidelines for the county that they wish to be members. Some Ohio counties may limit participation in the county Junior Fair to those that reside in the county.
7. Any consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence, within the limits of this policy and not addressed by the above statements should be brought to the attention of the County Extension Director by the County Extension 4-H Educator. This team will work with the Assistant Director, 4-H Youth Development or Associate State 4-H Leader to identify a course of action in these special situations.

4-H Projects

What is a 4-H Project?

- A ***TOOL***… to motivate self-directed learning in a chosen interest area.
- A ***GUIDE***… to plan hands-on, organized, leadership & citizenship activities & experiences.
- A ***RESOURCE…*** to explore an interest area while developing life skills & knowledge.
- The ***FRAMEWORK***… for measuring progress & accomplishments in individual/group work.

Who May Take 4-H Projects?

- Youth, age 8 AND in the 3rd grade through age 18 as of January 1 of the current year MAY enroll in any of nearly 200 4-H projects.
- 4-H Cloverbuds, 5 years old, AND in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, MAY NOT enroll in 4-H projects or participate in any competitive 4-H event. 4-H Cloverbuds enroll in the 710 4-H Cloverbud Program and participate in activities appropriate for their age using the 4-H Cloverbud Curriculums I and II and/or other curriculums identified by the 4-H Extension Educators for club use.
- Members must select at least ONE 4-H project from the list of approved Ohio 4-H Projects (Family Guide to 4-H) and the "county only" projects listed in the Defiance County 4-H Handbook. Certain special interest projects may be proposed and carried with the approval of the 4-H educator. 4-H Council STRONGLY recommends 1st and 2nd year members take no more than 2 projects.

How to Select a 4-H Project?

You and your parents should answer these questions to help you select projects that will lead to personal satisfaction and project completion success.

- What things do you like to do for fun?
- What would you like to learn to do?
- How much time do you have to spend?
- Who can help you with your project?
- How many projects can you complete in a year?
- What hobbies do you have?
- What knowledge/skills do you have?
- Are there any special requirements?
- How much time does your helper(s) have?

Special Requirements for Projects

- ***Space*** – special considerations for animal and plant projects
- ***Equipment –*** special, type, currently have, will need to purchase, etc.
- ***Time Frame*** - multiple year project, activities spread over several months, short term just a few weeks or days, etc.
- ***Materials/Supplies*** - few, many, expensive, inexpensive, etc.
- ***Other People Involved*** - Presentations, group activities, mentors, partners.

I Selected A 4-H Project What's Next?

- ***Purchase Your Project Book*** – Project books for 4-H projects listed in the Ohio Family Guide to 4-H and the Defiance County 4-H Handbook can be obtained at the Defiance County Extension Office. Leader's Guides to certain projects are also available, as listed in the Ohio Family Guide to 4-H.
- ***Meet with Your Support Person*** – Enhance project success with the support and help of a caring adult. A parent, grandparent, older sibling or a club advisor can serve this role. Planning, guiding, and encouraging you towards project completion, but allowing you to do the project work.
- ***Plan Your Project Experience*** – Outline what, when, and how you plan to do project activities and experiences. Include interest areas; learning experiences; leadership, citizenship and career activities. List supplies and materials you need to complete the project. Mark a calendar with important dates. Refer to the timeframe for completing projects listed in this guide to help plan.
- ***Organize Your Project Book & Records*** - Put your project book in a 3-ring notebook or binder for protection, ease of adding information, and place to put project experiences including photographs, receipts, results of experiments, plans, vaccination & registration papers, feed tags or rations and much more.
- ***Review Project Requirements For Completion, Project Judging/Skillathons & Fair*** – Read and follow the requirements listed in this guide especially if you plan to participate in Project Judging/Skillathons, Junior Fair events & activities &/or be eligible for State Fair participation.

How Do I Prepare For Project Judging

Dress Code - Appropriate Dress for Interview Judging

- Clean dress shorts, slacks, skirts or dress jeans
- Sleeve or sleeveless top with no logo.
- No caps or hats.
- Shoes required.

Tips for Judging

- Be well groomed. That includes clean hands, hair and fingernails.
- Don't chew gum. Use good posture. Sit and/or stand straight and tall.
- Be polite and use your best manners.
- Be prepared to talk about your project. Know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned and what you might do differently the next time.
- When answering the judge's questions, speak clearly and loudly enough for the judge to hear your answers.
- During your interview, look directly at the judge. Give him/her your full attention. Don't be distracted by other people/noises.
- Thank the judge when the interview is finished. Remember, the real purpose of judging is sharing and learning.
- Be pleasant and confident. Smile and be enthusiastic!
- Be proud of your accomplishments!! You worked hard to deserve them.

Posters Displays

- Poster size should reflect the amount of information it contains. Posters may be a minimum of 14 X 22 and a maximum of 28 X 22 in size. Some projects(ex: self-determined projects) may require a tri- fold display similar to a science fair display. Check your project guidelines.
- Utilize all of the poster space. Posters need not be rectangular in shape.
- Tell just one story on the poster. Keep it simple.
- Make your lettering large enough to be read from a distance of 4 to 8 feet. Letters should be at least ½ inch high.
- Make it as colorful and attractive as possible, so that fair-goers will stop and look at it.
- Keep it neat, but do your own work. The people who come to the fair want to see what you have done, not what your parents or older brother/sister did.

Educational Display Guidelines

- Educational displays should convey what you have learned through your project. Listed below are some ideas for educational displays.
- Scrapbook containing photos, items collected during project, samples of items created.
- Model or collection of objects related to project

Project Evaluation

Known as project Judging, project evaluation is an educational experience that all 4-H members are encouraged to participate in. Judges are selected on the basis of their expertise in specific areas and their ability to relate to youth. We hire them for their evaluating skills and opinions on the given day they evaluate projects. These judges evaluate a 4-H'er on the basis of the completed project (exhibit/display/poster), completed project book presented, and the knowledge of the member.

- All Miscellaneous, Food & Nutrition and Clothing projects are evaluated in July for project completion. Members receive a letter grade of A, B or C. Judges are responsible for selection of County Winner and State Fair Delegate. ***A member must receive an A grade to be eligible for County Winner status.***

- 4-H members taking Horse, Dogs and livestock projects must complete a Skill-A-Thon evaluation prior to the Defiance County Fair. If a member does not wish to exhibit, his/her grade will be determined by the Skill-A-Thon grade. In cases where project animals are sick or die, the 4-H member is considered "complete" if they have participated in a Skill-A-Thon. Members must bring their completed project book with up-to-date records (as indicated under project) to the Skill-A-Thon.

- Alternate Project Evaluation: If a member is unable to attend the scheduled judging for their project(s) the following should be done:
  - See the 4-H Calendar for Pre-Judging information. Pre-Registration is required.
  - Members with a still project judged at a Pre-Judging are not eligible for State Fair Competition.
  - IT IS THE MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT THE CONFLICT TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE.

4-H Activities & Opportunities

4-H has much to offer its members in addition to the many club activities. Activities and programming opportunities are open to any 4-H member who is eligible according to guidelines within each.

- **Teen Leadership Club**: The Defiance County Teen Leadership Club welcomes 4-H members in grades 6 – 12 to participate. The group meets monthly and organizes educational and social events, fund raising activities, and community service projects.
- **Secretary's & Treasurer's Contests**: All 4-H Club secretaries and treasurers are required to turn in completed secretary and treasurer books to the Extension office by the deadline. Books are scored on completion, accuracy and neatness. Awards are presented during the Officers and Advisors Conference in the spring.
- **Honor Club**: 4-H Clubs that have excelled throughout the year may receive Honor Club status and be recognized at the Annual 4-H Volunteer Banquet in November. An Honor Club application may be found on our website and will also appear in the 4-H newsletter. Applications are due to the Extension office by the deadline of current year.
- **Officers' Training**: In order to help newly elected 4-H club officers understand their duties, officer training is provided each spring. It is important for all officers to take advantage of this learning opportunity. Officers will learn from others who have led that particular office, have an opportunity to ask questions and take part in activities with their club's officer team. Date and location will be listed in the annual 4-H calendar of events.
- **4-H Star Member:** This award recognizes 4-H members for excelling in all four clover areas – Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. 4-H members may earn points in each area for their participation at the club level and beyond.
- **Project Clinics**: Project clinics are designed to assist members in their specific project area. Whether a new member or a veteran, all 4-H members can gain from these opportunities. Watch the 4-H newsletter for details.
- **Silver Tray Award**: Silver Tray Awards are presented to 4-H members, age 16 and older, who have excelled in the home economics project areas. Selection is based utilizing the completed All-In-One Achievement Record which is due to the Extension office in January. The awards will be presented during the 4-H awards ceremony at the Defiance County Fair.
- **Junior Fair Royalty Court:** The King, Queen and Court represent excellence in the junior fair program. Junior Fair members must be a current freshman, sophomore, junior or senior and must application process.. Selected individuals will then go through an interview with a panel of judges.
- **County Fair:** The county fair serves as a showcase for 4-H projects and activities. Clubs are invited to decorate a booth and display members' projects. Projects on exhibit will receive fair premiums. In the event that a club does not decorate a booth, members are invited to display their projects in the miscellaneous booth. Specific booth decorating guidelines are printed in the 4-H newsletter. Project exhibit guidelines and requirements are listed in this handbook. 4-H members exhibiting livestock will receive 49% of their project grade based on the animals placing at the fair. 4-H members must abide by the Junior Fair Rules published in the fair tabloid. Fair tabloids are available at the Extension office each year. **Junior Fair rules may change from year to year, do not rely on an old copy of Junior Fair Rules!** Any animal project not being exhibited at the county fair must contact the Extension office for alternate judging requirements for their project.
- **Junior Fair Board**: 4-H members are invited to apply for membership in the Defiance County Junior Fair Board. The purpose of the organization is to assist in the planning and operation of the Defiance County Junior Fair. Junior Fair Board includes youth from 4-H and other youth organizations (FFA, FHA, and Scouts) aged 14 and older as of January 1 of the current year. Meetings are held on the first Saturday in February, April, June, July, August, September, and December. Prospective members must submit an application.
- **Junior Fair Auxiliary**: The purpose of the Junior Fair Auxiliary is to provide additional assistance to the Junior Fair program by assisting the Junior and Senior Fairboards. Membership is open to youth currently in 6th grade through post high school or age 21. Prospective members must submit an application.
- **County 4-H College Scholarships**: 4-H members completing their senior year in high-school and planning to attend college are invited to compete for 4-H College Scholarships. Selection is based upon a committee's review of completed All-In-One Achievement Forms and 4-H Story which are due in January. All applications must be typed. There will be 4 scholarships of $250 each awarded each year.

Defiance County 4-H & Fair

4-H does not solely signify "FAIR" (or Junior Fair) nor does "FAIR" solely signify 4-H. The Defiance County Fair serves as a showcase for Defiance County youth participating in 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Farm Bureau Youth. Fair provides the opportunity for youth to exhibit the results of their project efforts and to compete for awards and prizes under the Junior Fair Division of the fair. Participation at the county fair is **NOT** required for completion of a 4-H project although it is strongly encouraged for the member as a means of recognition. Exhibiting at the fair **IS** required in order to receive a premium for projects exhibited.

The Defiance County Junior Fair Board, which is comprised of 4-H, FFA, Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Farm Bureau Youth organization representatives, is the group that helps the Defiance County Agricultural Society in preparing for and putting on the Junior Fair Division activities at the Defiance County Fair. Board member responsibilities include helping at the project judging, making pen assignments, assisting at animal weigh-ins, announcing and recording of Junior Fair Shows, and answering questions of Junior Fair youth and their parents. Members evaluate the past fair and make any necessary Junior Fair program changes with the approval of the Defiance County Senior Fair Board.



What Does My Child Need to Do in 4-H?

For Club Meetings

- Attend 50% or more 4-H club meetings/activities.
- At a minimum, members should have attended 4 meetings between March 1 – August 15 and have completed a demonstration.
- Participate in community service, fundraising, leadership and recreational activities.
- Come with a positive attitude, eager to "Learn by Doing" the 4-H Way through project work, demonstrations, & hands-on activities.
- Serve as a club officer, on a committee, or as a Teen Leader.
- Strive to excel in the four H's…Head, Heart, Hands and Health by supporting club goals and activities.

For Projects

- Select one or more 4-H projects to complete from the 4-H Family Guide (**www.ohio4h.org**) &/or 4-H Family Handbook.
- Meet all project requirements and guidelines. Refer to the Defiance County 4-H Family Handbook.
- Attend required programs for project participation… Central Tagging / Weigh-Ins/I.D. Days, Livestock Quality Assurance, Horse Safety Programs, Skillathon/Project Judging, etc.

For Skillathon/Project Judging All Projects

- Attend Skillathon/Project Judging to complete project at the county level and be eligible for County and State Fair participation.
- Bring up-to-date and/or complete project/record book.
- Be prepared for a one-on-one interview with an adult to answer questions about your 4-H and project experience.
- Be patient while waiting for your turn to be judged or to go through the skillathon process. Review your project book, bring a book to read or plan to be there with a friend to spend some time talking about your 4-H experiences while waiting your turn.
- ***Animal Projects:*** Be prepared to participate in four to five hands-on skill stations. Use your project book, Resource Handbooks, Skillathon Study CD, and attend Project Clinics and Workshops to prepare.
- ***Miscellaneous Projects:*** Bring item made, created, produced, grown or designed and/or educational display.

For Fair

- Make entry for Fair on the required forms, by the deadline.
- Bring 4-H projects by required exhibition times to the Fair.
- Care for animal projects throughout fair week. Keep stalls and animals clean, fed, watered and presentable to the public.
- Show good sportsmanship before, during and after the Fair.

What Will 4-H Cost?

☑ **County 4-H Activity Fee -** The cost is $7.00/member to join Defiance County 4-H to enjoy full 4-H opportunities and awards including Junior Fair Participation. Fee is used to cover costs associated with 4-H mailings, delivery of program, awards and opportunities including camp, skillathon/project judging, clinics, workshops, trips & much more.

☑ **Club Fees** – Some clubs may charge a per member and/or family fee based on their clubs activities. The amount is based on what the club covers with the fee. Club fees may be used towards refreshments, project book cost, club t-shirt, supplemental insurance, etc. Please ask your club advisor about their club fee structure.

☑ **Project Books** – Most project books cost $6.00. Some projects require an additional Resource Handbook ($8.00 to $12.00) that is purchased once by the family and used for all the projects within an area by all members in the family. Check with your 4-H advisor for Project Book costs or look at the 4-H Family Guide.

☑ **Project Items** – Every project has some cost beyond the 4-H book. For some projects, this may be supplies and materials that you already have at home. For other projects, your child will be required to invest in an animal & supplies for its care, specialized equipment and/or other items. Please keep this in mind when selecting projects with your child.

☑ **Fair** – If members plan to participate in fair they will have some additional costs associated with their 4-H experience.