

## 2019-2020 4-H Requirements to “Complete”

The 4-H program is designed to help youth learn life skills through a variety of tasks, projects, leadership opportunities, and community service events. It has been a few years since I’ve sent out the “requirements” of 4-H to complete each year.

- 1) Attend at least ½ of the club meetings that you’re eligible to attend. So, for new members who begin in February, they might only be able to attend seven total meetings before the end of the year and would be required to attend four to meet the 50%.
- 2) Participate in at least one community service event.
- 3) Complete at least one project.
  - a. This includes attending the required number of project meetings (determined by the leader but generally around four.)
  - b. Demonstrate a skill you learned from each project.
  - c. Complete a record book or modified record book (shooting sports).
  - d. Present your project, generally at county fair, or another event such as at a shooting match for shooting sports youth.
  - e. Meet any deadlines such as fair entry.
- 4) Comply with all Code-of-Conduct agreements electronically signed when you enrolled.
- 5) All livestock and animal (horse, beef, dairy, dog, poultry, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, and rabbits) record books: You must have one record book per species. You must score at least 70% to “complete” the project and be able to take it again the next 4-H year. If you score below 70%, you will also forfeit any awards/belt buckles/etc. for that species and the 4-Her with the next highest ranking will receive the award/buckle/etc. If the lower than 70% score results in not completing any project (including indoor projects) the 4-Her will be required to take the next year off from 4-H for lack of completing at least one project.
  - a. **Exception: The first year a 4-Her takes any livestock/animal project and they score below 70% on their record books, they are allowed to bring that score up to at least 70% by a designated date/time. This is ONLY available the first time a member takes any livestock/animal project.**

If you enroll in several projects and don’t “complete” one or more, you will have to wait one year before you can take that project again. This is why we encourage fewer projects done well.

If you don’t meet the five requirements above, you’ll need to take a year off from 4-H before re-enrolling.

I will be really tight on dates/times for forms and materials to be in this year because it is one of the greatest skills for our children to learn. If they miss a job announcement, or scholarship deadline, there is no second chance. So, I’m trying to look at this as a way to help our youth learn those skills when the risks are much less.

Thank you for reading through this. I’m hoping that it doesn’t sound punitive, but more a way to provide life skills and clear expectations. Please contact me with any questions.

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