



Memorandum

Subject: Comal County 4-H Information for the 4-H Year

Thank you for your interest in Comal County 4-H!

In this packet you will find a BRIEF explanation that will answer some of your questions about the 4-H program and our 4-H clubs here in Comal County. Additional information is available on our county website: <http://comal.agrilife.org>; Comal County 4-H Newsletter: <https://comal.agrilife.org/newsletters/4h-newsletter/>; and the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>

The 4-H year begins on September 1. Any person, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity may enroll as a 4-H member. Texas 4-H is for kids of almost any age – grades K-2 can be in Clover Kids if offered in your area. From 3rd-12th grades (8 years old as of August 31st), you can be in 4-H. Maximum age is 18 as of August 31st.

Attached you will find a list of Comal County 4-H Clubs and Club Managers. You are encouraged to contact those clubs which interest you, or meet in your part of the county, and are welcome to visit any 4-H club during their monthly meeting and talk with members, parents, leaders, and club managers. They will give you information about their club. Every 4-H club is different and each of them places emphasis on different 4-H projects. It is a good idea to contact the club manager before you make a visit to their club meeting, in case they have altered their meeting date, location and/or time. It is only necessary to join one 4-H club. Some 4-H families have chosen to join more than one because of their interests. You are always welcome to attend meetings, programs, or events and activities for any 4-H club in the county.

4-H enrollment is completed online beginning September 1st at <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>. There are detailed step-by-step instructions on how to enroll (http://texas4h.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/4honline_family_guide_welcome.pdf) (for new or returning members). When enrolling in 4-H during the months of September and October, each youth is asked to pay a \$25 state participation fee. From November 1st to August 31st, the 4-H participation fee is \$30. A youth may join 4-H at any time during the year, however, **those showing livestock MUST be members by November 1st**. You are also responsible for any cost incurred as part of the 4-H project(s) in which you choose to participate.

When your enrollment application is submitted online, we will receive an email notification. Your name will be added to our email list to receive information detailing county-wide current and upcoming 4-H events and activities. Visit our Comal County 4-H Newsletter at <https://comal.agrilife.org/newsletters/4h-newsletter/> for up-to-the-minute details of events!

If you have any questions, please contact Comal County Extension at comal-tx@ag.tamu.edu. We look forward to having you join our Comal County 4-H family!

WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. 4-H is about having fun, learning, exploring, and discovering. In 4-H, young people make new friends, develop life skills, become leaders, and help shape their communities.



More than 550,000 Texas youth are enrolled members of 4-H community clubs in Texas. Another 850,000 Texas youth get involved in 4-H through special educational opportunities at school, in after-school programs, or at neighborhood or youth centers. These youth live in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural communities.

4-H gives them a chance to pursue their own interests – from photography to computers, from building robots to raising sheep. They go to places – camps, contests, state, and national conferences. They learn to be leaders and active citizens, giving back to their community.

In 4-H clubs youth serve as officers and learn to conduct meetings, handle club funds, and facilitate group decision-making. In a growing number of communities, 4-H youth serve as youth representatives in municipal or county government, or as members of Teen Courts. They give back to their communities. 4-H members get involved in volunteer projects to protect the environment, mentor younger children, and help people who are less fortunate.

Texas 4-H membership is open to youth between the ages of 9 (or 8 and in the third grade) and 18 on August 31. A youth's eligibility for membership will expire on August 31 of the 4-H year in which the 19th birthday occurs. Any person, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or genetic information may enroll as a 4-H member. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in meetings are encouraged to contact the Extension office at (830) 620-3440 for assistance.

4-H offers over 40 different project areas in which youth can get involved. The most popular 4-H projects in Comal County include: Beef, Citizenship, Clothing and Textiles, Foods and Nutrition, Goats, Horse, Leadership, Photography, Poultry, Public Speaking, Rabbit, Range Science, Recreation, Sheep, Shooting Sports, Swine, Veterinary Science and Wildlife. We are frequently creating new projects with our leaders. More information about 4-H projects is available online at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>. Click on the Projects tab.

Comal County has approximately 540 4-H members and 250 adult volunteer leaders who work with 4-H youth in their project areas. Adult leadership is the strength of this organization and we “learn by doing.” Adult leaders give their time and knowledge to the youth of Comal County. It is this dedication to youth that ensures the success of our 4-H members.

4-H CLUB MOTTO AND PLEDGE

In support of the 4-H club motto, “To Make the Best Better,”

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.

4-H COLORS

GREEN – Nature’s most common color is emblematic of springtime, life, and youth.

WHITE – Symbolizes purity and high ideals.

4-H NAME AND EMBLEM

The official 4-H Emblem is a clover with four leaves and an “H” on each leaf, meaning the four-square development of **HEAD, HEART, HANDS** and **HEALTH**. The clover’s stem must point to the right as you look at the image and it must include the 18 USC 707 code. The 4-H Emblem is *not* a plain four-leaf clover. The 4-H Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety. The 4-H Name and Emblem belongs to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA, and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission to use it ahead of time.

4-H ENROLLMENT AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

A youth becomes a 4-H member when he/ she either completes an individual online registration via 4-H Online (<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>) or is included in a group enrollment form. A youth participates in 4-H by belonging to a chartered 4-H club or county program or any recognized unit of membership in the county where he/she resides. Membership cannot be held simultaneously in more than one county or state, but membership may change with residence, as long as the member competes in a given project in only one county or state.

Each member is enrolled and completes at least one 4-H project annually.

Texas 4-H has an annual “zero-based” enrollment. All 4-H members must re-enroll in 4-H each year. All adult volunteers must complete a 4-H volunteer application each year, also.

TEXAS 4-H AGE CATEGORIES	
	2023-2024 4-H Year
Junior	8 and in the 3 rd grade, 4 th or 5 th grade, as of August 31, 2023
Intermediate	6 th , 7 th or 8 th grade as of August 31, 2023
Senior	9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th grade as of August 31, 2023

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to the successful implementation of the 4-H program. All registered adult 4-H volunteers working directly with 4-H youth in Texas complete a Youth Protection Standards Program (criminal background check) and receive training. Teens may also serve in volunteer roles through the 4-H Leadership project. There are many, many resources available to support adult volunteers in their roles.

Volunteers can serve in a variety of roles, including the following:

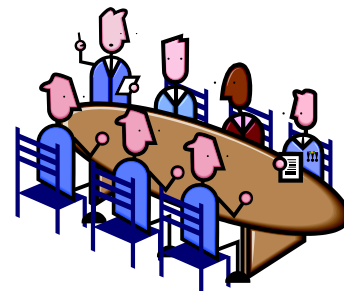
- 4-H Club Managers
- 4-H Project Leaders
- 4-H Master Volunteers
- Teachers
- Event Judges
- Community Resource Persons
- Camp Counselors/Chaperones
- Parent Helpers
- Committee Members
- Mentors
- Activity Organizers
- Fundraiser Organizers
- Advisory Council Members
- Host Families for Exchange Students
- Foundation Members/Fund raisers

All 4-H adult volunteers must complete a 4-H volunteer application each year. **To continually guarantee the safety of the members during 4-H participation, adult volunteers working directly with youth MUST complete a criminal background check.** If the adult has been screened and passed a criminal background check through a school district or other Extension-approved entity, a letter written from the screening entity stating you have been screened and passed must be submitted.

Additional information and resources for 4-H adult volunteers are available online at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/volunteer/>. Adult volunteers are charged \$10 annually to run their background check.

4-H CLUB MEETINGS

4-H clubs meet regularly at a scheduled meeting time and place, under the leadership of club officers and adult leaders. 4-H members learn parliamentary procedure in their meetings, as all 4-H meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order. Officers of the clubs are elected by the membership, in accordance with club by-laws/standing rules. Parents are encouraged to participate in club activities and attend meetings.



4-H clubs meet regularly, based on club activities. This could be monthly, weekly, only during a certain time of year, etc. Each 4-H club has its own set of by-laws/standing rules. There are 4 parts to a 4-H club meeting:

1. **INSPIRATION** – Call to Order, American and Texas Pledges, 4-H Motto, Pledge and Prayer
2. **BUSINESS** – Reports, New Business, Unfinished Business, Planning
3. **PROGRAM** – Guest Speaker, Project Meeting, Activity
4. **RECREATION** – Members have FUN together!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF 4-H IN TEXAS



The first County Extension Agent in Texas was appointed in 1906, eight years prior to the organization of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Two years later, T.M. (Tom) Marks, County Agricultural Agent, organized the first boys' "corn club" in Jack County. Marks found that he was more successful teaching new production technology to the youth than to the adults. Within a matter of years, "pig clubs," "beef cattle clubs," and girls' "tomato clubs" (Mrs. Edna Trigg Milam County, 1912) were also created. The stage was set for the rapid expansion of educational programs directed to rural youth. Within a span of over 100 years, 4-H enrollment in Texas has grown from the original 25 corn club members in Jack County in 1908, to over 1.5 million now.

The Texas 4-H Museum is located in Jacksboro, Texas, Jack County, the birthplace of 4-H in Texas.



MISSION OF THE TEXAS 4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Prepare youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, through a coordinated, long-term, progressive series of educational experiences that enhance life skills and develop social, emotional, physical, and cognitive competencies.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF 4-H

- Acquire knowledge in Agriculture, Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, Science, Engineering, and Technology
- Acquire positive self-concepts.
- Respect and get along with people.
- Learn and practice leadership skills and fulfill leadership roles.
- Adopt good health practices.
- Explore career and job opportunities.
- Productive use of leisure time.
- Plan for personal goals.



WHAT IS A 4-H PROJECT?

Each 4-H member is enrolled and participates in at least one 4-H project each year.

“Learning by doing” is a commonly used expression or slogan in 4-H. The 4-H program has a reputation for using a learning-by-doing approach for teaching youth. The 4-H project is where learning-by-doing takes place. Within the project, members find things to learn, to do, to make, and to explore.

These may be club, county, and state supported projects, or they may be projects that 4-H members determine for themselves, research through various methods, and then conduct a learning strategy in, such as a presentation, speech, workshop, field trip and/or record book. These types of projects are called “self-directed” projects and are not supported with educational materials by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program. Other state or national 4-H programs may have resources to support your project.

Typically, all projects must consist of at least five (5) learning experiences that last from 30 minutes to one hour and include the assistance of an adult or leader.

Projects that are self-directed can include, but are not limited to, such topics as: aerospace, automotive, electrical, exotic animals, small engines, and small animals.

General Requirements for a 4-H Project:

- Select a project area and record it in the 4-H enrollment program.
- Develop a set of project goals.
- Participate in at least five project learning experiences of 20-60 minutes in length.
- Attend workshops that are available in the community or county on a particular project.
- Regularly complete at least one project goal.
- Develop leadership by teaching others.
- Conduct citizenship activities related to the selected project.
- Find new and fun things to do in your project area.

The Project Resources web page has project information sheets, printed resources and/or curriculum, project experiences, community service ideas, and contests for each project supported by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program. Go to <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/> and click on Youth and then the Projects tab.

WHO LEADS A 4-H PROJECT?

4-H projects are organized/conducted/coordinated by 4-H JUNIOR, TEEN, and ADULT LEADERS. Project leader position descriptions for different Texas 4-H projects are available online at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>.



4-H CLUB LIST & DESCRIPTION

Blazing Trails 4-H Club - This club offers activities in horsemanship, horse development and training. You can compete with your horse through breeding and event associations. Or you can be the judge as you learn to compete in horse judging! The horse project is a great way to be able to gain valuable experience and skills through engaging activities like showing and horse judging.

For more information, please contact Jacque Pachinger-Stetter jpachinger.stetter@gmail.com or Stephanie Wommack swommack@nbisd.org.

Bluebonnet 4-H Club is a community club. Our members participate in food and nutrition, photography, fashion and interior design, consumer decision making, healthy lifestyles, robotics, archery, and showing a variety of livestock and more. The club completes a 4-H project during their monthly meetings (community service and leadership opportunities).

For more information, please contact the club at bluebonnet4h@gmail.com.

Bracken 4-H Club is a community club partnering with Bracken Christian School to bring 4-H to all students in the 3rd - 12th grade in the Bulverde community. Members of Bracken 4-H will participate in a wide variety of 4-H projects from Food and Nutrition, Consumer Science, Livestock projects, and more. They will give back to the community through monthly service projects and leadership opportunities.

For more information, please contact Kendle Haegelin kendlehaegelin@gvtc.com.

CCLS 4-H Club - The Comal County Livestock Shows Club is involved in showing Livestock. Our club's members show Cattle, Goats, Sheep, and Swine in Jackpot, County and Major Livestock Shows. We also participate in Dairy Cattle Judging.

For more information, please contact Karen Dudley dudleykaren43@gmail.com or Cheryl Duke at CherylDuke6@yahoo.com.

Claybusters 4-H Club – This is a shotgun (only) club where 4H members will learn gun safety & handling, cleaning and competition shooting in Skeet, Trap, Whizbang and Sporting clays.

For more information, please contact Cherie Sandoval and Brett Haby at comal4hshoot@gmail.com.

Comal County Vet Science 4-H Club - Do you want to learn more about animals, animal welfare, and how to become a veterinary assistant through 4-H club activities? This is a 5-year collegiate level program. Students who finish the program are eligible to take the exam to become a CVA from the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

For more information, please contact Darla Myers vetscience4h@gmail.com.

Comal Youth Shooting Sports - This club also covers firearm safety and teaches responsible handling and use. This is a shotgun only club.

For more information, please contact David Kutac david@spectrumresource.com, Kevin Oates kevinoates@att.net, or Lindsay Kutac kutaclindsay@gmail.com.

Sherwood 4-H Club is proud to serve the Bulverde, Spring Branch and Canyon Lake communities. Our members are committed to personal growth through participation in monthly service projects, exhibiting livestock and competing in events such as Duds to Dazzle, Food Challenge, Consumer Decision Making, Livestock Judging, Leaders4Life, Soil Judging and so much more.

For more information, please contact Kimberly Wunderlich kimberly_bailes@hotmail.com, Melissa Howell mmhowell07@hotmail.com, Elizabeth Schaeferkoeter elizabethhavens@yahoo.com.

Rabbit Project - The rabbit project is a great way to get involved no matter where you live. You will experience the full process of selecting, feeding, breeding, and marketing rabbits. You'll learn about the basics of how to care for a rabbit, including proper nutrition, and you can show your rabbits in some of the livestock shows.

For more information, please contact the office at 830-620-3440.

Robotics Project - The field of robotics is expanding at a rapid pace and Texas 4-H is poised to help lead young people into this exciting field. You will learn how to design, build, and program robots in an exciting and hands-on project.

For more information, please contact The Extension Office at 830-620-3440.



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