

# CHEROKEE COUNTY 4-H

## MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY & PARTICIPATION RULES

*Established: June 2007- Amended: June 2011*

- Membership Process:** Prospective/re-enrolling 4-H members must attend a regular 4-H club meeting and complete the online 4-H enrollment/re-activation process for the current 4-H year (September 1- August 31) prior to participating in any County, District or State event. New families must establish a profile via 4-H Connect (<https://www.4honline.com/Login.aspx?id=53>). Once the County 4-H Office certifies the profile, families may then add individual members and leaders. Families with previously established profiles must login to their profile and re-activate memberships for individual members and leaders for the current year. Please contact club managers or the County 4-H Agent for more details.
- Membership Transfer:** Any 4-H Club members wishing to transfer from one club to another must notify their original club manager, as well as the County 4-H Agent (via email or in person) of their intent to transfer prior to competing in any competition (including all stockshows) or risks being disqualified from competition.
- Multi-club Membership:** 4-H Club members may elect to join and have membership in any number of clubs within Cherokee County, however, they may only represent one of those clubs at any given county, district, or state event or competition (including the Cherokee County Jr. Livestock Show). All multi-club memberships must be within a single county. Multi-County membership is prohibited by the State 4-H Office.
- Member Participation:** **Club Level:** Members wishing to participate in a club function must have completed the online membership enrollment/re-activation process prior to participating in any club event. (club trip, fundraiser, class, workshop, etc.) Member participation is also subject to the By-laws established by the club which they have joined.  
**County Level:** Members may enroll/re-activate their membership at any time during the club year; however, members will not attain "active" member status until the online enrollment/re-activation process has been completed. Members with unpaid membership dues will be noted as in-active and thus will not be allowed to participate in any county, district, or state event.
- Membership Dues:** Those individuals registering for enrollment as regular 4-H club members between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> must pay membership dues of \$20.00 per member (Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – Aug 31<sup>st</sup> : \$25.00/member). This can be done via credit card during the online enrollment/re-activation process or via cash or check made payable to their chosen club. Club managers will be responsible for submitting a summary sheet detailing the names of all members who have paid by cash or check, as well as one club check made payable to the **CHEROKEE 4-H COUNCIL** in sufficient amount to cover the total dues of those members. Only regular club members will be required to pay membership dues. Club leaders, managers, and non-regular members (clover kids/ pee wees) will pay no membership dues.
- Age Divisions:** Regular 4-H club members are those designated as Senior, Intermediate, or Junior members. Members between the ages of 14 and 18 on August 31st of the current 4-H year will represent their chosen club as Senior 4-H Members. Those between the ages of 11 and 13 on August 31st of the current 4-H year will represent their chosen club as Intermediate 4-H Members, Those members between the ages of 8 (and in the third grade) and 10 on August 31st of the current 4-H year will represent their chosen club as Junior 4-H Members. Those members under the age of 8 on August 31st of the current 4-H year are recognized as non-regular members and will represent their chosen club as Clover Kids (Pee Wee class).
- Registration Deadlines:** Entry deadlines for all projects, events, contests, activities, camps, etc. will be posted by the Project Leader or the County Extension Office. These deadlines must be strictly adhered to.

8. **Monies & Documentation:** Any and all fees and/or documentation required for participation in a county level event, contest, activity, camp, etc..., will be required by the entry deadline of that particular event. Failure to comply with this policy will result in disqualification of the member for that particular event. All checks for entry/registration fees are to be made payable to: **Cherokee 4-H Council**, unless otherwise stated.
9. **Cherokee County Jr. Livestock Show (CCJLS) Eligibility:**
- A. **Active Membership:** All 4-H members wishing to participate in the CCJLS must have completed their online enrollment/re-activation process on or before the validation date set for their particular project.
  - B. **UIL Compliance:** Active 4-H members must be in compliance with all TEA established U.I.L. standards of academic eligibility.
  - C. **By-Law Compliance:** Active 4-H members must be in compliance with all policies and rules regarding show participation set forth in the by-laws of their chosen 4-H Club.
  - D. **Show Appreciation:** Active 4-H members who have participated and won a division championship or who have sold a project in the current CCJLS **must submit stamped letters of appreciation addressed to each of their award sponsors and/or buyers directly to the Cherokee County Showbarn Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAY IN APRIL. Letters can be brought to the Extension Office at any time prior to this date.** Failure to comply will result in that member being suspended from showing **any project** under the name of **any county 4-H Club** at the next CCJLS. \*4-H Members submitting letters/cards between the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of April and June 1<sup>st</sup> of that year may appeal this ruling. Appeals will be heard by the appeals committee, made up of the County 4-H Agent, Ag Agent, and the member's Club Manager; their decision is final. \*\*No appeal process is provided for those who fail to submit their letters/cards prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.  
  
***\* 4-H members slated to receive a check for the sale of a project who fail to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in April deadline for letters/cards will automatically forfeit 50% of their check (\$100.00 maximum) to the CCJLS Scholarship Fund.***  
  
***\*\* 4-H members slated to receive a check for the sale of a project who fail to meet the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for letters/cards will automatically forfeit 100% of their check to the CCJLS Scholarship Fund and will be ineligible to show in the next CCJLS.***
10. **Individual Club Rights & Policies:** All 4-H club members should be aware that individual 4-H Clubs reserve the right to set additional restrictions and policies in addition to, but not in circumvention of The Cherokee County 4-H Minimum Eligibility & Participation Rules through their individual club by-laws.
11. **Disciplinary Action Policy:** As the 4-H Program is designed to educate, engage, and empower youth, **all** members and adult leaders disciplinary actions in regards to cheating, rule violation, falsification of entry forms, dress code violation\*, or any other actions not considered to be in the best interest of the Cherokee County 4-H program will be brought before the Cherokee 4-H Council. At that time, the council shall, by majority vote, elect on the following disciplinary actions:
- A. **Suspension from participation in all Cherokee County 4-H Competitions** for a period of time, not less than one month and not to exceed eighteen months from the date of the committed offense.
  - B. **Suspension from all Cherokee County 4-H Involvement** for a period of time, no less than six months and not to exceed eighteen months from the date of the committed offense.
  - C. **Indefinite Suspension from all Cherokee County 4-H Involvement.**
- \* Punishment for dress code violation will be administered following the disciplinary action plan as set forth by the dress code revue committee made up of all county extension agents, 4-H PALS president and 4-H Council President.***