

# Ashland County 4-H New Family Guide



## What is Ashland County 4-H?

On behalf of the Ashland County Extension Office, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family! 4-H has been a long-standing tradition in Ashland County for more than 100 years.

4-H is a non-formal, educational youth development program that helps kids "learn by doing" through hands-on activities. 4-H members learn valuable lessons in leadership, communication, teamwork, and more while increasing their knowledge in math, science, technology and a variety of other topics.

Youth ages 5 (and in kindergarten) through 8 are eligible to join 4-H as Cloverbuds. They can participate in hands-on, fun, educational opportunities that are non-competitive.

Youth ages 9 (or 8 AND in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) through 18 can join 4-H as project members. They can select projects in any area including, but not limited to, science, cooking, art, gardening, natural resources, sewing, shooting sports, livestock and self-determined.

We're excited to have you join our organization of more than 700 youth from all over Ashland County!

This new family guide has lots of information to help you begin your Ashland County 4-H journey and the 4-H staff is here to support you along the way.

Jackie Wasilewski  
Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development



# What is Expected of a 4-H Member?

1. **Join a 4-H club.** Your first task is to select a 4-H club to join. Included in this packet, you will find a list of clubs that meet in locations all over Ashland County. Select a club that is the best fit for you! You can take any project through any club, with the exception of shooting sports projects. There is a specific Shooting Sports club to join.
2. **Enroll in 4-H Online.** Once you've selected your club, it is time to enroll in 4-H. You will need to create a profile (or re-enroll with last year's profile if this is not your first year). The instructions to enroll in 4-H Online are included in this packet. The 4-H enrollment deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Attend your club meetings.** Attending club meetings is pertinent to your success in 4-H. It's the best way for you to get involved, make friends, keep track of important deadlines, and have fun! Most meetings have the following components: business, education, services, activities and social. To be a member in good standing, you must attend at least half of your club's meetings per year.
4. **Pick your 4-H project.** Did you know there are more than 200 4-H projects to choose from? There are plenty of options for you to find a project in an area that interests you! If you still haven't found a project you will enjoy, you can create your own by taking a self-determined project. There is no limit to the number of projects you can take, but we suggest starting with one to two projects your first year. Projects can be explored at [projectcentral.ohio4h.org](http://projectcentral.ohio4h.org), or you can visit the Ashland County Extension Office's library.
5. **Complete your 4-H project.** Each 4-H project has its own set of requirements. You can find the complete list of project guidelines at [ashland.osu.edu](http://ashland.osu.edu) under "4-H Project Information." Enjoying your project and having a great experience is important to us. If you need help, contact the 4-H staff and we will be happy to assist you. We are happy to connect you with "project specialists" if you need some guidance in many aspects of 4-H, please reach out to our office. These experts are experts in a variety of areas, such as livestock, sewing, and others. Your club advisors and teen leaders are here to support you as well!
6. **Participate in project judging.** To complete your 4-H year, you must complete your project book and participate in interview judging. Project judging is held each year in July for Family & Consumer Sciences and Still Projects and in August for Livestock Projects. (Newsletter gives more specific information)
7. **Showcase your project at the Ashland County Fair.** 4-H clubs have an opportunity to set up a booth at the Ashland County Fair to showcase their projects. If you are taking a livestock, horse or dog project, you will also have the opportunity to show your animal at the fair. Participation at the fair is optional, but highly encouraged. It's a great way for our community to come together and celebrate the great year we've had. Members who complete their projects get a free pass into the fair.



## Why Should I Join 4-H?

*4-H is a safe place to learn, explore a variety of subject areas, make friends, develop leadership skills, have fun, and so much more! Ohio 4-H is living its mission to empower young people with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.*

### 4-H'ers are...

**4X**

more likely to give back to their communities

**2X**

more likely to make healthier choices

**2X**

more likely to participate in STEM activities

## 4-H Testimonials

Here are some things our current members and alumni have to say about Ashland County 4-H:

*"I was quiet and shy growing up and being involved in 4-H made the difference!! You learn by giving 4-H project demonstrations, going to project judging's, speaking contests and being officers of your 4-H club! A huge part is doing community service project and giving back to the community!"*

- Kelly B.

*"My experience as a 4H member is a large part of how the adult I am today was molded. I learned teamwork, responsibility, and many different skills."*

- Stacey W.

## Meet our Educator

Hi! I am Jackie, your 4-H Extension Educator in Ashland County. I was born and raised in the Wayne County 4-H program, and I am proof that the 4-H program works! It has transformed me into the leader I am today, it is also the reason I grew up to give back to this program as an adult. I took projects that included: horses, market lambs, dairy and market goats, and food & nutrition projects! Consider joining the program at any level as a Cloverbud, a member, or a volunteer – it is an experience you certainly won't forget!

~Jackie



# What is the Time Commitment Involved with 4-H Membership?



The expectation of 4-H members is that they make an intentional effort to attend all club meetings. If you have a conflict, communicate with your club advisor to find out what information and programs you missed.

4-H meetings typically last between one to two hours. Frequency of meetings varies between clubs, but an average is about one time per month from January into the fall. Your club may also choose to conduct a fundraiser or be a part of a community service opportunity.

Members will select at least one 4-H project

to complete for the year. The time commitment involved with each project is a little bit different. Some projects, such as horses or livestock require daily attention for feeding and watering. Other projects, such as cooking or woodworking, have an outline of activities that can be completed at your leisure. 4-H members can read project book descriptions and project guidelines on our website at [henry.osu.edu](http://henry.osu.edu) under "4-HH Project Information" for a better idea of how involved a particular project will be. You are also encouraged to call the Extension Office with questions.

In addition to club involvement, members are invited and encouraged to participate in 4-H on a county level. Some of the activities include: 4-H Camp, Trips & Scholarships, Junior Fair Board, and Food & Fashion Board!

There are also many opportunities on a state and national level for members to explore as they grow through their 4-H career. Participation in these events is not a required part of 4-H membership.

## Who are the 4-H Volunteers?

4-H would not happen without all our amazing volunteers! In Ashland County, there are over 200 volunteers who serve our program in a variety of ways. All volunteers undergo a thorough screening process, which includes an application, reference check, fingerprint background check, interview, and annual training. Many of our volunteers are 4-H alumni, parents, or grandparents.

## Are Parents Expected to Volunteer?

Parents are not expected to become 4-H volunteers, but we would be happy to have you! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jackie at [wasilewski.3@osu.edu](mailto:wasilewski.3@osu.edu) for more information.

The best way parents can support their child in 4-H is to become involved in their experiences and walk alongside them with their projects. We encourage you to attend meetings with your child so you can stay informed about the latest happenings, get to know their club advisors and members, and learn more about upcoming events.

Parents can also support the club by signing up to bring a snack or help with a community service project. We often see the greatest success when 4-H'ers choose to make their involvement a family activity.



## What is Project Judging?

Project judging is an opportunity for 4-H members to present what they learned in their 4-H project. Judging for FCS & Still projects are in July and for livestock projects in August. (Specific dates and times announced on 4-H Calendar and newsletter)

For those taking livestock or horse projects, members will come and complete their Skillathon, and project judging at the Ashland County Fairgrounds. Members will bring their completed project books and are invited to bring a display of something they learned if they so choose. They will sit down with a judge for an interview about their project. Members will work their way through several skill stations to demonstrate their knowledge in areas of feeds, breeds, body parts, diseases and more.

Non-livestock projects have separate judging days. Members will bring their completed project and a supplemental display (complete details can be found at [Ashland.osu.edu](http://Ashland.osu.edu) under "4-H Project Information"). They will participate in an interview, sharing about their project and what they learned. Interviews last about 7-10 minutes.



## How Much Does It Cost to be in 4-H?

It is completely free to enroll in 4-H; however, most clubs choose to charge dues. This cost is usually between \$10-20 per member, and often helps offset the cost of snacks, program supplies, or other materials.

Other costs that you can expect to incur in 4-H are those related to 4-H projects. Most project books are \$12.00, but there are a few that are \$14-\$20.

Depending on which project you've elected to take, there will be some costs associated with the projects as well. For example, you would be responsible for the cost of fabric, thread, and pattern for a sewing project and if you select a livestock project, you will be expected to feed and care for your animal.

If you choose to participate in any of the optional county-wide opportunities, such as 4-H Camp, there is a fee associated with these activities. However, thanks to the Ashland County 4-H Committee and other sponsors we have a select number of Camp Scholarships available.

## What is The Ohio State University Extension?

The Ohio State University is the land-grant university in Ohio. The Extension Offices are branches of OSU that reach each county and can share the latest research and information from the University. In Ashland County, we offer 4-H Youth Development programs through our Extension Office. Ohio State provides leadership and partial funding for 4-H in Ashland County in partnership with the Ashland County Commissioners.



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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[ashland.osu.edu](http://ashland.osu.edu)

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## Is the Ashland County Fair the “same thing” as 4-H?

The Ashland County Fair and 4-H are not the same thing, but we are proud community partners, and our programs indeed have some overlap. 4-H participation begins at enrollment and ends when your 4-H project is judged. Participation at the Ashland County Fair is highly encouraged but is not a requirement. But keep in mind, you cannot enter a class in the Junior Fair without enrolling in and completing your 4-H project.

Many of your 4-H'ers look forward to the fair every year! Members with livestock or horse projects get to show their animals, all members can showcase their projects in the 4-H Booth Building, and everyone has the opportunity to help to work the Milkshake Booth!

If you have any questions regarding fair participation, you can contact with the Junior Fair Superintendent, Jackie Wasilewski at 419-281-8242.



## 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  
& my world.”

## 4-H Motto

“To Make the Best Better”

## How Do I Stay Informed?

Join us on Social Media!

Facebook Page: Ohio State-Ashland

Newsletter: <https://u.osu.edu/ashlandcounty4h/>

Website: Ashland.osu.edu

**OSU Extension – Ashland County**

110 Cottage St

Ashland, OH 44805

**Call us at: 419-281-8242**

## Ashland County 4-H Staff



**Jackie Wasilewski**  
4-H Educator  
wasilewski.3@osu.edu  
419-281-8242

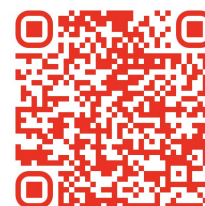
**Amy Nalley**  
4-H Program Assistant  
nalley.21@osu.edu

**Laurie Aulger**  
4-H Office Associate  
Aulger.3@osu.edu

## 4H Now App



**Android**



**iPhone**

