

Below are selected highlights from the changes over the past year to Wisconsin 4-H Policies. To review all Wisconsin 4-H Policies please visit: [Wisconsin 4-H Policies – Wisconsin 4-H](#)

Membership and Participation Policies

Member Grade/Age Policy (Updated Policy)

This revised [Member Grade/Age Policy](#) clarifies that Youth in 5K (five-year-old Kindergarten) **AND** who are 5 years old by September 1 or older are eligible to be 4-H members. This clarification was necessary as there is a perversion in Wisconsin State Statute that allows youth that are 4 years old to enter Kindergarten under certain conditions.

Open Meetings Law (New Policy)

Related to the Attendance Policy, the [Wisconsin 4-H Open Meetings Law Policy](#) states that Wisconsin 4-H Clubs and Groups are not considered governmental bodies as defined in [Wisconsin State Statute 19.82\(1\)](#) and therefore are not subject to the Open Meetings Law.

Attendance Policy (New Policy)

The [Wisconsin 4-H Attendance Policy](#) states 4-H Club and Group meetings, committee meetings, project meetings, community service activities and recreational events can ONLY be attended by 4-H members, 4-H volunteers, parents and/or an adult who is responsible for the member, siblings and invited guests including potential new 4-H members. It also states that as a best practice, attendance should be taken at all 4-H Club and Group meetings, committee meetings, project meetings, community service activities and recreational events.

4-H Volunteer Policies

Chaperone Policy (Updated Policy)

This updated policy states that Wisconsin 4-H Chaperones must be approved 4-H volunteers 21 years of age or older that have completed the [Supporting Youth Mental Health Training](#). However, exceptions to the chaperone age requirement can be approved on a case-by-case basis by the 4-H Program Educator in consultation with a 4-H Regional Program Manager provided that the chaperone is at least 2 years older than the youth in the program or activity.

Financial Management Policies

Membership Dues and Fees Policy (Reminder)

Adopted in 2022, the [Membership Dues and Fees Policy](#) clarifies the difference between membership dues and participation fees while providing guidance on how dues and fees are collected. In addition, this policy also states that “at the club, group, county, and state levels, the ability to pay dues will not be a barrier to 4-H membership. Staff and volunteers must have a system to provide access to 4-H membership.”

Bank Account Policy (Updated Policy)

The updated [Bank Account Policy](#) states that only 4-H members and 4-H volunteers can be listed as official signers on 4-H Club or 4-H Group financial accounts.

Investment Funds Policy (Updated Policy)

The updated [Investment Funds Policy](#) provides greater flexibility to 4-H Clubs and Groups that would like to establish an endowment fund with a non-profit foundation to produce long-term stable support for 4-H programming.

Expense Tip Sheet (Updated Tip Sheet)

If a 4-H club or group is considering a lasting purchase (an asset that has a useful life of more than one year), the 4-H club or group should follow the steps outlined in the [Wisconsin 4-H Expense Tip Sheet](#) prior to purchasing the item.

Cash Awards, Cash Prizes, Scholarships and Memorials Tip Sheet (New Tip Sheet)

The [Cash Awards, Cash Prizes, Scholarships and Memorials Tip Sheet](#) provides guidance for offering cash awards, cash prizes, scholarships to attend 4-H programs, scholarships for higher education and memorial gifts for members or volunteers.

4-H Projects and Activities Policies

Hayride Tip Sheet (New Tip Sheet)

Hayrides are a common 4-H activity that can be an enjoyable and memorable experience for youth. 4-H Clubs and Groups are encouraged to use an agriculture tourism business to participate in hayrides. If an organization/facility is not available or if the cost will restrict participation, 4-H Clubs and Groups may organize a hayride on a private farm/property if the [Wisconsin 4-H Hayride Tip Sheet](#) is followed.

Roadside Clean-up Policy (New Policy)

Regardless of the road (including state highways, county highways, streets, etc.) 4-H Clubs and Groups must follow the [Wisconsin Department of Transportation](#) rules/guidelines, youth volunteers must be at least 11 years of age or in the 6th grade, to participate in roadside clean-ups.

Affirmative Action and Civil Rights Policies

Wisconsin 4-H & Religion Tip Sheet (Updated Policy)

As a recipient of Federal funding, Wisconsin 4-H prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status AND Wisconsin 4-H celebrates individuals and their differences. The [Wisconsin 4-H and Religion Tip Sheet](#) provides guidance on a variety of topics related to religion and 4-H including meeting in religious spaces, guest speakers, donations to religious organizations and more.