

Kansas 4-H Cloverbuds

Meadowlark Extension District #7 Cloverbud Leader Training

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Meadowlark
District

Why 4-H Cloverbuds???

- ◆ The overall purpose of the 4-H Cloverbuds program is to foster the development of life skills that are essential for the cognitive, social, emotional and physical maturation of five and six-year olds by providing a unique educational opportunity. Participation, safety, personal development, learning and fun are the highest priorities in providing the 4-H Cloverbuds program.

Source: National 4-H Headquarters

Who is a Cloverbud???

- ◆ Specifically designed for 5 – 6 year olds
- ◆ Meadowlark allows 5 – 8 year old youth (Varies from State Policy)
- ◆ Must have reached age 5 by January 1st
- ◆ At 4-H age 7 enrollment, youth and parents can decide to continue with Cloverbud program or transition to full 4-H membership.
- ◆ No 4-Header may be in Cloverbuds and regular 4-H

Goals for 4-H Cloverbuds

- ◆ Self-understanding
(initiating independence and self-direction)
- ◆ Social skills (getting along with others)
- ◆ Decision-making skills
(making positive choices)
- ◆ Learning skills (Learning to learn)
- ◆ Mastering physical skills
(Enjoying constructive & creative play)



Principles for 4-H Cloverbuds

- ◆ Fun!!!
- ◆ Activity Focused
- ◆ Noncompetitive
- ◆ Group-Centered Learning
- ◆ Leader Directed
- ◆ Positive
- ◆ Success Oriented

4-H Cloverbud Programming

- ◆ Safe environment required
 - Safe, positive & developmentally appropriate
- ◆ Cooperative, rather than competitive
 - Practicing developmental skills, learning
- ◆ Receive recognition based on participation,
 - All youth receive the same recognition
- ◆ May be organized at the local club, county/district, or school affiliated levels
 - Need guidance and supervision of trained leader

4-H Cloverbud Participation

- ◆ Complete a Cloverbud Enrollment in 4HOnline
- ◆ Activity-focused rather than project-focused
- ◆ Cloverbuds may not compete as a competitive exhibitor in traditional 4-H events
 - Not eligible to receive premium or awards
 - Can receive equal recognition, but more about feedback

Cloverbud Clubs/Meetings

- ◆ Suggested there be a minimum of 5 youth to have a Cloverbud group
- ◆ Often affiliated with traditional 4-H Clubs
 - Need to have separate time and/or meeting space
 - May take part in pledges, song, recreation, snacks & watch program
- ◆ Meetings not run like “traditional” meetings
 - Variety of activities that are educational teaching a single concept or skill – one hour maximum
 - 3 – 4 activities lasting no more than 20 minutes each

Cloverbud Clubs/Meetings continued

- ◆ Cloverbuds do not have officers
- ◆ No business meeting
- ◆ No annual records kept or submitted
- ◆ Cloverbuds do not have a bank account or handle money – may work with traditional club on fundraising
- ◆ Local clubs provide financial support if needed

Public Event/Fair Showcase

- ◆ Cloverbuds encouraged to showcase a product, poster or notebook of activities in a noncompetitive “show & tell” environment
- ◆ Fairs should have separate Cloverbud divisions
- ◆ One entry allowed for exhibition at fairs
- ◆ No animals of any kind exhibited
(This varies from Kansas Policy)
- ◆ Equal recognition at Achievement celebrations

4-H Cloverbud Leadership

- ◆ Minimum of two (2) adult leaders required to start a Cloverbud group
- ◆ Ratio of two (2) adults to twelve (12) youth
- ◆ Adults must be Kansas 4-H Volunteer screened and attend a Cloverbud Leader Orientation
- ◆ Teens can be helpers to a trained adult
- ◆ Involve Cloverbud parents or other volunteers!

Instructing 4-H Cloverbuds

- ◆ Visual recognition versus written instruction
- ◆ Read short sentences and smaller words
- ◆ Writing name and small written task
- ◆ Limited motor skills, but can use scissors, crayons and small tools
- ◆ Sensitive to criticism – the world is black & white
- ◆ Eager to learn = “how, what, when, where why”
- ◆ Engaged by “what if” questions
- ◆ Enjoy dramatic play and short term projects

Planning Cloverbud Sessions

- ◆ Attending orientation is a good first step!!!
- ◆ Review Cloverbud Curriculum & plan
- ◆ Recruit adults and teens to assist you
- ◆ Communicate responsibilities & expectations
- ◆ Keep a healthy mix of fun and learning
- ◆ Secure meeting time, facilities and materials
- ◆ Ask for assistance if needed!!!

Cloverbud Teaching Tools

- ◆ Kansas 4-H Cloverbuds Guide
- ◆ Ohio State University Cloverbud Curriculum
(ask for this at the club level)
- ◆ Kansas 4-H website: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/4-h-programs/cloverbuds/index.html>
- ◆ <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hcloverbuds/activity-plans/>
- ◆ <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/hamilton/Cloverbud%20Combined%20Activity%20Books.pdf>

Questions???

