



4-H Participation Guidelines

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the University of California, UCCE San Benito County, 4-H Youth Development Program is open to all children 5 years old through 19 years of age without regard to age, class, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, spiritual practice, and other human differences who reside in San Benito County.

The county of residence is the primary county for 4-H YDP enrollment. A 4-H member cannot be enrolled in two different counties at the same time. Any exception to this residency requirement must have prior approval from 4-H YDP staff in both counties and/or states affected. If an exception is approved, it can be documented by the "Request For 4-H Membership in a Neighboring County" request.

To participate in 4-H club activities youth must complete the required enrollment form, pay accident/illness insurance and state 4-H program fees, and have the individual enrollment recorded in the county office. The program year dates are July 1 to June 30.

Primary 4-H members must be 5 years old by December 31st of the program year. Youth enrolling or turning 9 on or after January 1 must participate as a primary member until June 30th. Primary members cannot enroll in large animal projects. Approved primary animal projects include but are not limited to rabbits, poultry, cavies and pygmy goats. For other restrictions of primary members, please see [UC Policy](#).

Junior, Intermediate and Senior members must be 9 years old by December 31st of the program year and may continue in the program until December 31st of the year in which they become 19 years of age. Home schooled members are to enroll based on their chronological age as of December 31st.

COMMUNITY CLUB MEETING PARTICIPATION:

Participation in community club meetings is not a requirement for the general membership, but is highly encouraged as this is where important information regarding project meeting dates, community service activities, fundraising and social events will be outlined and discussed. The community club meetings are also where members learn about democracy and leadership and where 4-H makes positive impacts in their communities.

Members holding officer positions are required to attend 80% of community club meetings in order to fulfill their officer duties and obligations. Members aspiring to become club officers will have a greater likelihood of obtaining this goal as well as other leadership goals (All-Star, State Ambassador, etc.) if they participate in 4-H community club meetings.

TRIPS & CONFERENCES

San Benito County 4-H Council offers funding for conferences and trips

1. All members may attend 4-H sponsored events, conferences and trips at their own expense if they meet the eligibility and requirements for the event.



- a. To be eligible for Council funding members requesting funding must: meet event eligibility requirements
 - b. meet deadline requirements
 - c. complete appropriate applications including the San Benito County request for funding application
2. Eligibility for Trips, Conferences and Camp:
 - a. must be enrolled in club and projects by December 31st of the program year
 - b. member must have completed one program year (July 1 – June 30) prior to request for funding
 3. Eligibility for Citizenship Trips (Cal Focus, Washington Focus and Foreign Exchanges):
 - a. must be enrolled in club and projects by December 31st of the program year
 - b. member must have completed two program years (July 1 – June 30) prior to request for funding
 - c. a maximum of \$2500.00 per person is available for citizenship trips during your lifetime as a 4-H member

COUNTY EDUCATIONAL EVENTS:

All enrolled members may participate in Presentation Day and Fashion Revue if eligible by event guidelines.

SCHOLARSHIPS and BANK ON US:

1. Member must have completed three consecutive years in the San Benito County 4-H program.
2. Qualifying years are the last three years of the member's high school career.
3. Meet requirements outlined on applications for scholarships and Bank on Us.

MINIMUM PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS for INCENTIVES & RECOGNITION and FAIR:

Outlined below you will find the MINIMUM requirements to participate in the incentives and recognition program and all fairs. Keep in mind that additional requirements may be required and are outlined below.

- a. Must be enrolled in club and projects by December 31st of the program year.
- b. For each project, complete a minimum of six (6) hours of project instruction or more as required by the project leader.
- c. Complete the Annual Project Report (APR) from date of enrollment.

1. Incentives and Recognition Eligibility

Youth may enroll in 4-H at any time, however to be eligible for Incentive & Recognition awards members must:

- a. Meet the minimum participation requirements identified above to be considered for the following:
 - i. year pin & stripe
 - ii. star level
 - iii. record book competition
 1. record books are not a requirement for participation in club activities, events or conferences



- 2. members enrolling after December 31st are eligible to earn record book credits for their cumulative totals but are not eligible to earn star ranking during the initial partial year
- 3. to receive record book credit for any given project, you must attend a minimum of 80% of all the project meetings
 - iv. project proficiency awards/pins
- b. Additional information about the San Benito County Incentives and Recognition program can be found [here](#).

2. Eligibility to Exhibit at Fairs

All 4-H exhibitors must:

- a. Meet the minimum participation requirements identified above.
- b. Complete additional requirements as determined by the project leader, in accordance with the county 4-H YDP staff.
- c. Meet eligibility requirements by the time fair entry forms are due. This applies to San Benito County 4-H members participating in any and all fairs, not just those identified below.

All 4-H livestock project exhibitors (including market, breeding, meat pens of rabbits or poultry) must:

- a. Meet the ownership requirements as outlined in UC Policy
- b. Member must be currently enrolled in club and project(s) for no less than 60 consecutive days prior to the start date of the fair
- c. Attend 80% of all species project meetings for each species you take to the fair
- d. Must exhibit a still display at the Salinas Valley and San Benito County Fairs as per fair policy.

Fair Name	Fair Date	Approximate Entry Form Due Date	Date Eligibility Requirements Need to be Met	Notes
Salinas Valley Fair	Mid May	April 1	March 30	
California State Fair	Early July	June 1	May 31	Fair eligibility is determined July 1 through June 30 of the previous 4-H program year. However, the member must re-enroll in the current/new 4-H year to be eligible.
Monterey County Fair	Late August	August 1	July 31	Fair eligibility is determined July 1 through June 30 of the previous 4-H program year. However, the member must re-enroll in the current/new 4-H year to be eligible.
Santa Cruz County Fair	Mid September	August 15	August 1	Fair eligibility is determined July 1 through June 30 of the previous 4-H program year. However, the member must re-enroll in the current/new 4-H year to be eligible.
San Benito County Fair	Early October	September 1	August 31	Fair eligibility is determined July 1 through June 30 of the previous 4-H program year. However, the member must re-enroll in the current/new 4-H year to be eligible.