



4-H Youth Development

Kansas 4-H Individual Study Agreement

Kansas 4-H believes that participation in an organized 4-H club is the preferred method of involvement for members, but acknowledges that there are sometimes extenuating circumstances that may make an independent 4-H membership a viable way to still engage in 4-H Youth Development learning. Any youth who wishes to be an Independent 4-H member must complete an Individualized Study Agreement which will be reviewed and approved by _____. The study agreement shall be filed with the Extension Office before enrollment is to be approved.

Name _____

Age as of January 1, 20__ _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Reason for applying for Independent 4-H membership status:

Adult Mentor's Name: _____ **Mentor's Phone:** _____

(Adult mentors must complete a Volunteer APPLICATION, screening, and have board approval then have it on file in the Extension Office.)

As an Independent 4-H member, I agree to:

1. Work with my adult mentor, who will guide and support me in my project work. Having completed the official Kansas 4-H volunteer screening process, my mentor is recognized by Kansas 4-H as a volunteer in good standing, and has agreed to assume the responsibilities outlined for 4-H mentorship.
2. Complete one or more community service learning activities during the year.
3. Publicly demonstrate my learning by giving a presentation or demonstrate before a group.
4. Share with my mentor six or more times throughout the year my progress toward my goals and celebrate achievements.
5. Develop my skills in leadership, citizenship, communications, personal life management and knowledge through project work.
6. Complete the individual study agreement as outlined below and report my accomplishments with my mentor and local office by September ___, 20__.
7. Abide by all county, state and national 4-H policies and recognize the authority of Extension staff to establish and enforce rules and policies.
8. Ensure that I do my part to contribute to the larger 4-H program by actively participating in county and state fundraising efforts; volunteering to lead or assist with 4-H committees, programs and activities; reading and responding to extension office correspondence; and remaining informed and current on 4-H opportunities, procedures and guidelines.

Agreed to by 4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

Approved by Adult Mentor: _____ Date: _____

Supported by Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

PROJECT GOALS: Please outline your 4-H goals and your plan for achieving them during this 4-H year. Goals should be stated for each project in which you have enrolled; must complete at least three goals.

Project #1: _____

Project Goals: (Things I want to accomplish this year.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Project #2: _____

Project Goals: (Things I want to accomplish this year.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Project #3: _____

Project Goals: (Things I want to accomplish this year.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Project #4: _____

Project Goals: (Things I want to accomplish this year.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Project #5: _____

Project Goals: (Things I want to accomplish this year.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

CITIZENSHIP and COMMUNITY SERVICE GOALS: Please list ways you plan to provide service for or with other individuals and groups in the community, county and beyond related to your 4-H work. Must complete a minimum of one.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

LEADERSHIP GOALS: Please list ways you plan to improve your leadership skills related to 4-H work. Must complete a minimum of one.

- 1.
- 2.

3.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION GOALS: Please list ways you plan to improve your public presentation skills. This may include presentations a 4-H club day, service organizations and exhibiting at the county fair. Must complete at least one.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I will assist with at least one of the following events:

YEAR END REPORT: Submit a final report of 4-H project activities to the local Extension Office by September 15, 20__ . Reflect on your learning by completing a Kansas 4-H Personal Page, 4-H Story and Permanent Record for the current year.

Date report submitted: _____

YEAR END COMPLETION STATEMENT:

I certify that I completed the minimum goals and community activities in this plan.

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

I certify that _____ (4-H Member) has successfully completed the minimum goals and community activities in this plan.

Adult Mentor Signature _____ Date: _____

Modified from Riley County KSRE Independent Member Form.

Information for Adult Mentors of Independent 4-H Members

Thanks for expressing an interest in becoming an adult mentor of an Independent 4-H Member. The following information should answer many of your questions about this role. If you have further questions, please contact the extension staff member listed at the end of the adult mentor position description which is included in this information.

Kansas 4-H recognizes that small group learning in 4-H clubs is the optimal learning environment for youth, however, clubs may not be available to all youth because of meeting times, travel expectations, etc. Therefore, youth may join the 4-H program as an Independent 4-H Member.

In order to guide the Independent 4-H experience with the same concern for quality youth development that we have for club experiences, an Adult Mentor Position Description and Independent 4-H Member Plan is included in this information.

As in quality club settings, adult volunteers play a critical role in providing leadership for creating positive youth development experiences for all youth. This role of Adult Mentor is critical to the success of those youth choosing to enroll as Independent 4-H Members.

About Mentoring

Mentoring is a committed relationship between an adult and a youth focused on developing the character and capabilities of the young person through intentional, positive youth development experiences. By definition, a mentor means a wise and trusted friend and guide. Mentoring is a wonderful way for caring adults to make a positive difference in a young person's life.

Parents or guardians of Independent 4-H members are responsible for finding an adult mentor. Adult mentors assist the youth in goal setting, planning, completing and reflecting on their experience and in fulfilling the Independent 4-H Member Plan. Adult mentors may be teachers, skilled community members (mechanic, seamstress, carpenter, etc.), senior citizens, relative or any adult with an interest in youth.

Roles a Mentor May Play: * Friend * Listener * Cheerleader * Coach
* Tutor * Confidant * Teacher

Characteristics of Successful Mentors

* Caring nature	* Knowledgeable, experienced	* Respectful	* Guides, rather than leads
* Good communicator	* Meets others more than half way	* Outgoing	* Sense of humor
* Continuously learning	* Offers frequent encouragement	* Broad range of interests	
* Good listener	* Supportive manner	* Encourages independence and skill transfer	
* Patient	* Creative	* Honest	* Well organized, yet flexible

What Mentors Do

* Set high expectations of project work	* Help the 4-H member think through options
* Offer challenging ideas	* Encourage positive behavior
* Offer friendship	* Help member become aware of his/her own skills
* Inspire by example	* Teach by example; Listen to problems and give advice
* Provide growth experiences	* Offer encouragement and support
* Be unselfish	* Teach mastery of skills
* Identify possible learning opportunities and resources	

Adult Mentor Position Description

Title: Independent 4-H Member Adult Mentor

Time Required: October through September 30 of current 4-H year

Purpose:

- * Mentor, coach and guide Independent 4-H member in the completion of Independent 4-H Member Plan.
- * Promote positive youth development experiences.
- * Inform and encourage member and parents/guardians to actively participate in appropriate 4-H opportunities.

Responsibilities:

- * Attain approval of parent/guardian to serve as mentor.
- * Complete Kansas 4-H Volunteer Application, Screening and Approval process.
- * Commit to young people and their growth in all areas; being sensitive to their individual abilities and needs.
- * Advise 4-H member regarding their contributions and participation in 4-H events/activities.
- * Welcome parent/guardian ideas, activity and project assistance, cooperation, support and attendance at 4-H activities
- * Communicate what the 4-H member can expect from you, as a mentor.
- * Support the 4-H youth in taking an active role in the mentoring process; being available to coach as needed.
- * Meet with the 4-H member at least six times a year, face-to-face.
- * Answer/research questions from the member related to 4-H Youth Development.
- * Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of K-State Research and Extension, the Kansas 4-H Youth Development program and the local 4-H Youth Development program.
- * Participate in volunteer development opportunities to stay current with information, learn new skills and maintain the 4-H standard of providing quality experiences for youth.

Qualifications:

- * Enjoy working with young people.
- * The ability to guide, coach and motivate while nurturing positive youth development, decision making, responsibilities, and leadership in youth.
- * A sincere interest in mentoring and sharing knowledge and skills with youth in an educational setting.
- * The ability to effectively support the 4-H member in taking responsibility for their Independent study status.
- * Be geographically accessible to the youth.
- * The ability to work and communicate effectively in both verbal and written form.
- * A willingness to become familiar with, support and work within the philosophy and guidelines of K-State Research & Extension, the Kansas 4-H Youth Development program and the local Extension Unit 4-H.

Resources Available:

The local Extension Unit 4-H youth development program agrees to:

- * Provide training opportunities – county, district, regional or state.
- * Provide appropriate curriculum, newsletters and other Kansas supported resource materials.
- * Provide the local 4-H Program Orientation for volunteers.
- * Listen to ideas to help improve the 4-H program.
- * Provide appropriate recognition and awards to leaders.

Contact:

List Extension Agent with 4-H Responsibility:

County/District Name:

Phone:

E-mail: