



## 4-H Membership Across County Lines

### **Policy**

Youth are expected to affiliate with the 4-H program in their county of residence or receive approval for membership outside their county of residence.

### **Procedures**

Ohio State University Extension administers the 4-H youth development education program whose mission is to develop youth to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring, and contributing citizens. Each county in Ohio conducts the 4-H youth development program to accomplish this goal.

In order to affirm Ohio State University Extension's position concerning cross county (and/or cross state line) 4-H membership and to establish guidelines in this area to fulfill the above mission, the following philosophy and process statements are provided.

- (1) 4-H membership in two counties simultaneously is not permitted.
- (2) Cross state line membership will be considered the same as for cross county membership.
- (3) In situations where the county of residence does not have a 4-H program (due to financial or other reasons), youth may not join 4-H in another county; previously approved cross county or cross state membership will be revoked.
- (4) In situations where membership in a county other than the county of residence is desired, the Educators in both counties must be in agreement regarding the application. The agreement will be based upon their professional judgment in accord with the mission of the organization and is not to supersede #3.
- (5) Consideration for membership may not be motivated by perceived competitive or sale advantage in another county, any change due to controversial issues, or other similar motivations.
- (6) Parents, guardians, and/or youth should become familiar with all policies, procedures, and guidelines for the county that they wish to be members. Some Ohio counties may limit participation in the county Junior Fair to those that reside in the county.
- (7) Any consideration for membership in a county other than the county of residence, within the limits of this policy and not addressed by the above statements should be brought to the attention of the County Extension Director by the County Extension 4-H Educator. This team will work with the Assistant Director, 4-H Youth Development or Associate State 4-H Leader to identify a course of action in these special situations.