

# Meadowlark Extension District #7

## 4-H Enrollment Policy

### **The Philosophy & Background**

**ENROLLMENT:** Kansas 4-H Youth Development has a policy for open enrollment. Eligible youth may enroll in Kansas 4-H Youth Development programs at any time of the year. Extension units may establish reasonable deadlines for participation or exhibition in project in which deadlines are needed to ensure that youth benefit from a quality learning experience and/or for their safety. Units may establish re-enrollment deadlines for continuing members for management purposes, but cannot prohibit membership.

*(Kansas 4-H Policy Section D2 – 2013)*

**AGE:** 4-H Youth Development programs are open to all youth who are residents of Kansas and between the ages of 7 and 18. Youth who turn 7 before January 1 of the current 4-H year may enroll. Youth who turn 19 before January 1 of the current 4-H year are ineligible to enroll. 4-H members who are selected as winners in late summer or fall, and who turn 19 before January 1, cannot compete in state or national contests, awards, or recognition programs. See specific rules for age requirements for 4-H competitive events. *(Kansas 4-H Policy Section D2.1 – 2013)*

**DEADLINES:** The Department of 4-H Youth Development and local Extension units may establish reasonable enrollment/registration/ certification/ownership deadlines or other requirements for participation in certain activities. *(Kansas 4-H Policy Section D2.2 – 2013)*

### **Re-Enrollment Deadline**

Any returning Meadowlark District 4-H member who re-enrolls in the Meadowlark District 4-H Youth Development program, must complete the re-enrollment process by November 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year. If re-enrollment is not completed by this deadline, youth will become ineligible for the current year to 1) receive exhibit award premium or participate in premium auctions 2) hold a leadership position at the county/district level (*Ambassadors, 4-H Council officer, etc*) 3) represent the District on a team or for an award, at a state competitive 4-H event (*4-H judging teams, shooting sports matches, State KAP judging, etc*) and 4) receive any local 4-H scholarship or support dollars for registration/travel.

### **Project Selection Add/Drop Date**

Enrolled 4-H members will have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to make additions or deletions to their project enrollment for the current 4-H year. It is generally expected that youth will be enrolled in a 4-H project before participation in that project will be allowed (*enrolled in market swine before purchasing and tagging swine*).

### **Fair Participation**

Youth between the ages of seven (7) and eighteen (18) can join 4-H anytime of the year, but have restrictions on participation in county fair activities. Youth must turn 7 before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to be eligible to participate in the current year fair, as a 4-H member. New members should be enrolled by May 1<sup>st</sup> to participate in county fair. This rule supercedes any club, county, or fair rules.

### **Age Restrictions in Projects**

Certain projects have age restrictions for participation in areas or phases. Members should check age restrictions before enrollment in projects. Shooting Sports as an example has age requirements based upon disciplines and is not open to 7 year old members.

*Recommended November 13th, 2007 by the District 4-H PDC - Approved November 15th, 2007 by the Meadowlark District Governing Body. Revision #1 October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 by Meadowlark District Governing Body. Revision #2 suggested by District 4-H PDC - November 10, 2015 & approved by Meadowlark District Governing Body November 17, 2015.*