



CANADA
4-H Ontario

CLOVERBUD PROGRAM

Information Package

updated October 2022

4-H Ontario Cloverbud Program Overview:



Purpose:

The purpose of the 4-H Ontario Cloverbud Program is to introduce youth ages 6 to 8 years old, as of December 31st of the previous calendar year, to all facets of 4-H Ontario projects through fun, age-appropriate experiential learning opportunities.

Guidelines:

The Cloverbud Program is a year-long program consisting of up to thirty-one units of material (curriculum). Three years' worth of program material will be available to 4-H volunteers to provide a unique experience to returning participants each year. The first year of curriculum was released in March 2013, second year curriculum in Fall 2013 and the third year curriculum in Fall 2014. Cloverbud program materials are posted on the 4-H Ontario website for access by all 4-H volunteers.

The Cloverbud Program is available for youth 6 to 8 year olds only (as of December 31st of the previous calendar year). A Cloverbud participant is not eligible to participate in traditional project-based 4-H clubs. The Cloverbud Program must be run with a minimum of two (2) screened and trained 4-H volunteers and a minimum of six (6) Cloverbud participants.

Cloverbud participants are required to submit a membership fee to engage within the program. The fee is the same as traditional 4-H member registration fees.

A minimum of six (6) distinct Cloverbud Program units must be offered to Cloverbud participants. Participants must attend a minimum of four (4) meetings, or eight (8) hours of instructional time, to receive completion for the Cloverbud Program in a given year. Cloverbud participants will receive a Cloverbud specific award for their engagement in the program.

For information on policies relating to the Cloverbud Program, please refer to the 4-H Ontario policy manual available online at www.4-hontario.ca.

Benefits of being a Cloverbud Participant

The benefits of being a Cloverbud participant are numerous; some of the benefits are listed below:

- Access to year-long Cloverbud programming, depending on the schedule of the volunteer;
- Access to three years of unique Cloverbud Program units;
- Receives a personalized 4-H Ontario participant card
- Receives the 4-H Ontario Leadership in Action magazine
- Has access to the secured resources pages on the 4-H Ontario website
- Participation in Association awards nights
- Receives a Cloverbud Program participant completion award
- An experience of a lifetime!
- Many more!

Ideas on how to structure Cloverbud Program Meetings

Here are four different examples of how volunteers could choose to structure their Cloverbud Program. These are by no means the only options available to volunteers however they are provided as an example for reference. Note that all options are to cover all 24 program units in the year, however that is up to the discretion of the volunteer. Volunteers are to complete a minimum of 6 units per year but can choose to complete as many units as they wish.

- **Option 1:** Have two meetings per month covering one unit (2 hours of instructional time) for the full calendar year.
- **Option 2:** Run the Cloverbud Program from January to June and September to December hosting three meetings per month with one unit per meeting.
- **Option 3:** Have one meeting per month covering two units (4 hours of instructional time) for the full calendar year.

Cloverbud Program Unit Outlines:

The following is the anticipated unit titles for the Cloverbud Program. Please note that some titles may change as the curriculum is being written.

Year One Units:

1. Alternative Sports – Something Different
2. Beef – By-products
3. Beef – Housing
4. Building Character
5. Celebrations Around The World
6. Chocolate
7. Clowning Around!
8. Dairy Cows – Milk Processing
9. Dairy Cows – Nutrition
10. Fall Festival Harvest of Fun!
11. Farm Machinery ID
12. Farm Safety
13. Financial Fitness
14. Goat
15. Home Hobbies
16. Horse – Anatomy
17. Innovation & Entrepreneurship
18. Lakes & Oceans
19. Let's Get Growing
20. Let's Make Music
21. Milk
22. Nature Fun
23. Personal Fitness
24. Pigs 101
25. Putting Your Best Foot Forward
26. Rabbit
27. Safe At Home
28. Snacks
29. Technology & the World Around Us
30. Tie Dyeing
31. Veggies & Fruit

Year Two Units:

1. Alternative Livestock
2. Alternative Sports – Dance
3. Beef – Industry Sectors
4. Beef – Nutrition
5. Building Character (Part Two)
6. Butterflies & Bugs
7. Composting
8. Crafting with Newsprint
9. Cultural Celebrations – continents
10. Dairy – Milking a Cow (technologies)
11. Dairy Cows – Anatomy
12. Field Crops
13. Goat Basics
14. Grains
15. Horse – Draft Horses
16. Horse – Housing
17. Leadership
18. Maple Syrup
19. Milk
20. Ontario's Tasty Fruits & Vegetables
21. Our Heritage
22. Outdoor Adventure
23. Play with Clay
24. Real Dirt on Farming
25. Scrapbooking
26. Senses
27. Wearable Art

Year Three Units

1. Alternative Sports – Focus on Fun
2. Beef – Anatomy
3. Breakfast Bonanza
4. Careers
5. Cultural Celebrations – continents
6. Dairy
7. Dairy Cows – By-products
8. Dairy Cows – Housing
9. Field Crops
10. Grow Your Own (Let's Get Growing)
11. Horse – Nutrition
12. Horse- Light Horses
13. Let's Entertain
14. Livestock Identification
15. Mad Science
16. Meat
17. My Community (Heroes)
18. Our Feathered Friends
19. Poultry
20. Safety – Helmet Safety
21. Sewing & Knitting
22. Sheep
23. Small Animal/Canine
24. Veggies & Fruit
25. Water & Bubbles
26. Winter Wonderland
27. Woodworking

4-H Ontario Cloverbud Program

Q&A for Parents



Q. What is Cloverbuds?

A. Cloverbuds is a year-long program run under the umbrella of 4-H Ontario. The program is for youth ages 6 to 8 years old as of December 31st of the previous calendar year. It is a hands-on, activity based program covering a variety of topics including agriculture, food, crafts, life skills, environment and science. There are 24+ units of material provided for the program each year for volunteers to choose from. The purpose of the Cloverbud Program is to introduce youth to all facets of 4-H Ontario projects through fun, age-appropriate experiential learning opportunities.

Q. Can any child join the Cloverbud Program?

A. Yes! The program is open to any youth between the ages of 6 to 8 years old as of December 31st of the previous calendar year.

Q. Is my child considered a 4-H member?

A. Once the membership fee has been paid, your child is a Cloverbud participant within the 4-H Ontario program.

Q. What does the membership fee cover?

A. Once the membership fee has been paid Cloverbud participants will receive a virtual participant card, access to year-long Cloverbud programming (as long as it is being offered by the volunteers), access to the 4-H Ontario website, a celebration award for participation in the Cloverbud Program and much more!

Q. Does 4-H Ontario insurance cover the Cloverbud Program?

A. Yes. The Cloverbud Program is considered a program under the umbrella of 4-H Ontario.

Q. Can my child belong to both the Cloverbud Program and take 4-H projects?

A. No. The Cloverbud Program is only open to youth ages 6 to 8 years old while 4-H projects are only available to youth ages 9 to 21 years old.

Q. Will my child be required to have a project animal?

A. No. Cloverbud participants will not have a project animal nor will they be showing or competing with a project animal.

Q. What training do Cloverbud volunteers receive?

A. Volunteers for the Cloverbud program have the same screening and training requirements as any other 4-H volunteer.

Q. How many Cloverbud units does my child have to complete in order to receive completion for the year?

A. A Cloverbud participant must complete a minimum of four (4) units within a calendar year to meet the requirements for completion.

Q. If my child turns 9 years old after Jan.1st can they switch into a 4-H project during that year?

A. No. Age is based on how old the participant was as of December 31st of the previous calendar year so they would complete their year as a Cloverbud participant.

Q. Who can I talk to if I would like more information about the Cloverbud Program?

A. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Cloverbud Program, please call the 4-H Ontario office and speak to the Coordinator Programming & Resources.

4-H Ontario Cloverbud Program

Q&A for Volunteers & Associations



Q. Is it mandatory that our 4-H Association run a Cloverbud program?

A. No. It is up to each individual 4-H Association to choose if they wish to run a Cloverbud Program in their area based on the interest of volunteers.

Q. Can youth outside of the 6 to 8 year old age range participate in Cloverbud programming?

A. No. Cloverbuds is only for youth ages 6 to 8 years old as of December 31st of the previous calendar year.

Q. What about Club Youth Leaders, can they receive a club project for helping with the Cloverbud Program?

A. Yes, as long as all requirements for the Club Youth Leader project (as listed in the Club Youth Leader Handbook) have been completed.

Q. Does a paid Cloverbud membership fee entitle youth ages 6 to 8 to participate in traditional 4-H projects?

A. No. Paid Cloverbud participants are only able to engage in Cloverbud programming. They must wait until they are nine (9) years old before becoming eligible to participate in 4-H projects.

Q. Is there a different membership fee structure for Cloverbud Participants?

A. No. Membership fees are the same for both Cloverbud participants and 4-H members.

Q. Do Cloverbud Participants have to have a Record Book?

A. It is not mandatory that Cloverbud participants have a record book but 4-H Ontario strongly encourages the use of one as a memory of what Cloverbud participants have learned during their year(s) in the program.

Q. Is there a minimum number of units a participant has to complete in order to receive a completion for the Cloverbud program?

A. Yes. A Cloverbud participant must complete a minimum of 4 units within a calendar year to meet the requirements for completion.

Q. Will my Cloverbud participants be required to have a show animal to compete with at local shows?

A. No. Participants in the Cloverbud program will not have project animals.

Q. Can I use material from regular 4-H projects in place of Cloverbud material?

A. No. Volunteers running a Cloverbud Program must use the material that is specifically provided for the Cloverbud Program as the basis for their meetings. The programming for Cloverbuds is unique to this program and is geared specifically towards the 6 to 8 year old range. This also ensures that when Cloverbud participants transition into 4-H members they have a unique experience.

Q. Can someone join the Cloverbud Program mid-year?

A. Yes, provided they are still able to meet the minimum requirement of attending four (4) Cloverbud meetings before December 31st of the year they are joining.

Q. As a volunteer, how often do I have to have a Cloverbud meeting?

A. Volunteers can set up whatever structure works for them as long as a minimum of 6 units (12 hours of instructional time) are completed within the calendar year.

Q. Is there different New Volunteer Orientation training for Cloverbud volunteers?

A. No. Volunteers for the Cloverbud Program have the same screening and training requirements as any other 4-H volunteer.

Q. Is there a minimum number of volunteers required per number of participants in the program?

A. All 4-H Ontario volunteer policies are in effect for Cloverbud Program volunteers. For details on volunteer policies please visit the 4-H Ontario website and review the 4-H Ontario Policy Manual.

Q. As a volunteer, do I have to use Cloverbud Year One Units only or can I mix and match the units from all three years of programming?

A. Units designated as Year One programming units are the only units that are to be used in Year One. The program is designed so that a youth starting in Cloverbuds when they are 6 years old will receive three unique years of programming and will never take a unit twice.

Q. As a volunteer, do I have to do all 24 units that are designated for each year?

A. No. Volunteers must complete a minimum of 6 units within the calendar year but are not obligated to run any more units unless they wish to do so.

Q. Should Cloverbud Participants be included in Association awards nights?

A. Yes. 4-H Ontario strongly encourages Associations to include Cloverbud participants in awards nights and recognize them as being a part of the 4-H Ontario Program.

Q. How do membership forms work for the Cloverbud program?

A. The same online membership forms are used for both the Cloverbud Program and 4-H projects. Membership forms and membership fees are to be turned into the Association Membership Coordinator who in turn will process the form as they would with any other 4-H project membership form.

Q. Do Cloverbud Members have to complete a Participant Agreement form?

A. Yes. All 4-H Ontario Health and Safety Policies are in effect for Cloverbud Participants.

Q. Who can I talk to if I would like more information about the Cloverbud Program?

A. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Cloverbud Program, please call the 4-H Ontario office and speak to the Coordinator Programming & Resources.