



Preparing for the New 4-H Year



The 4-H year officially begins in October each year. Even though the program year begins in October, 4-H enrollment begins in September. Counties in Wisconsin usually have an enrollment “deadline.” This deadline can be the cutoff for determining who can represent 4-H at certain events.

No matter the date of your local deadline, re-enrolling in 4-H through the 4-H Online portal as soon as possible ensures that you receive all 4-H communications and other important program news.

Adding, Dropping, or Keeping Projects

Enrollment is the perfect time to add or remove projects in your 4-H Online profiles. 4-H members usually continue with the same projects from the year before, and it’s pretty normal to add one or two new ones as well! First year members are recommended to only select one or two projects for their first year. The second year of membership is a great time to pick between three to five total projects.



Work with your youth to see what projects they liked, didn’t like, or want to learn more about. There is nothing wrong if your member decides to keep the same projects from the year before!

Reminder: 4-H members in grades K-2 can only be signed up for the Cloverbud project!

Member Goals

On the opposite page, 4-H members are being challenged to write their personal 4-H goals for the new year. Setting goals can help with project selection, and it should help members plan out a path to success in the new 4-H year. See what goals your youth has chosen for the new 4-H year and identify ways to help them achieve those goals.

Family Member Goals

Have those in your family set goals as well! Goals might include attending more club meetings, helping at 4-H activities, or participating in certain county events. Try to find ways to keep 4-H as a togetherness activity!

Club Goals

Each year, 4-H clubs complete a Charter Renewal form. This form is usually completed by adult leaders and youth officers, but the charter might be talked about at a club meeting. Clubs are tasked with identifying club goals each year. Have your family brainstorm some S.M.A.R.T. goals for the club to strive for in the new year, such as planning an outreach event with a local community group or adding more welcoming activities for new families.



Setting Goals

Every year, many people create New Year’s Resolutions. These resolutions are **goals** for the new year. Fall is the beginning of the new 4-H year, which makes it the perfect time to set goals for about what you want to do!

S.M.A.R.T. Goals

Goals are more likely to be successful when you give yourself something specific to aim for. Any of your resolutions for the new 4-H year should be S.M.A.R.T.

Specific: Goals should be well defined and clear.

Measurable: This will help you know when you’ve been successful.

Achievable: Be realistic! Think of things that will challenge you but are still doable.

Relevant: Your goals should be important to you. Set goals that you want to complete!

Timely: Give yourself a specific time frame to complete your goals.

What are **your** goals?

Use this table to write goals that you want to accomplish in the new 4-H year. An example has been done for you. Notice that the example is S.M.A.R.T. See if you can find what parts of the goal are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely.

Project		Action (how)	Result (what)	Time (when)
Community Service	I want to	<i>organize and lead</i>	<i>one park clean-up service day for my club</i>	<i>in the spring.</i>
	I want to			
	I want to			
	I want to			
	I want to			
	I want to			

Source: “Goal Writing Worksheet,” Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, August 2013. Adapted by Ben Hoppe, Brown County 4-H Program Educator, UW-Madison Division of Extension.

Tip: Use verbs in the action column. Often, 4-H goals are focused on things you want to **learn, results you want to **earn**, or things you want to **do**.**