

## Kentucky 4-H Membership Policy and Cross County Lines Participation Information

### I. Kentucky 4-H Membership Policy

***Any young person ages 8 – 18 may be involved in Kentucky 4-H in the county in which they live or go to school.***

Exceptions to this policy are made through a request of the member and their parent/guardian on a yearly basis through the county 4-H agents and the local County 4-H Councils.

The purpose of crossing county lines should be:

- To increase the educational opportunities and experiences of young people.

The purpose of crossing county lines should NOT be:

- For competitive gain or financial edge.
- Due to the perception or status of a program.

If a young person pursues crossing county lines:

- The 4-Her and their family turn in Form A to the agent in the county where the young person resides or attends school.
- The deadlines for requests are set by the local 4-H agent and local County 4-H Council.
- 4-H agents retain a copy of the request form with the decision and return it to the young person's parents/guardians.
- The decision remains on the local level. If a question of eligibility is brought to our attention the state 4-H office will work with the local 4-H agent(s) to get the documentation needed.

### II. Cooperation

Some situations can be handled by the cooperation of counties rather than the transfer of membership for a project. Counties may cooperate by sharing resources to offer a program or project. Counties may share facilities, equipment, etc. Members from two different counties may meet at the same time and location. Youth may earn educational hours in the cooperating county, but their membership remains in the county of 4-H enrollment. When cooperation occurs, each county maintains its own identity and membership.

### III. Guidelines Governing the Cross County Lines for Project Participation

Agreements are to be processed at the beginning of the project for the program year. Youth crossing county lines must meet all related deadlines (registration, ownership, and otherwise) for the county they wish to transfer their membership.

- Members may not compete in the same project in more than one county.
- A 4-H member that crosses county lines for project participation in another county must carry a copy of the approved request (Form A) to each competitive event to verify membership.
- Once an agreement is finalized, it will remain in place until August 31st, the end of the program year. To continue as a transfer for additional years, the 4-H member must file a new request annually.

*Updated: July 2023*



**FORM A: Request for 4-H Participation to Cross County Lines**

Submit this request to the County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development where the 4-H member lives or attends school.

Name of Youth:	
County of Residence:	
County Want to Cross Into:	
Reason for Request:	

- Our intention is to enhance the educational experience and not to gain a competitive or financial advantage.
- We understand that the 4-Her will only be released to participate in the program/project mentioned above. All other 4-H participation will take place in the county of residence or attending school.
- We understand that a 4-Her cannot compete in the same project/program in two counties or states.
- If granted, this privilege remains in effect for the entire 4-H program year (September 1-August 31). The 4-H member must reapply annually.
- We understand that this request must be approved by the county 4-H councils and Extension agents for 4-H Youth Development in both counties. If approval is denied by any one party, the request will be denied.

<b>Signature of Member</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature of Parent/Guardian</b>	<b>Date</b>

**4-H Participation Cross County Lines Authorization and Agreement**

The signatures below verify that the agents and county 4-H councils have considered this request and have approved the project transfer of the 4-Her mentioned above for participation. A copy shall be retained in both county extension offices and returned to the member.

<b>Validation Dates:</b>	<b>Start:</b>	<b>Expire:</b>
<b>Circle One:</b>	<b>Accept</b>	<b>Decline</b>

**Reasoning:**

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<b>Signature of 4-H Agent</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature of 4-H Council President</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Signature of 4-H Agent</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature of 4-H Council President</b>	<b>Date</b>

