

Kentucky 4-H Policy on Participation across County Lines

As a general rule, a young person becomes a 4-H member within the county where he/she is a resident or attends school.

Participation close to home usually allows a young person and his/her family to become more fully engaged in 4-H and more actively involved in the community. As the term “cooperative” implies, Extension relies on families, volunteers, local government, and community partners to make 4-H a reality within each of the 120 counties.

When an agent becomes aware that a young person wants to participate in a project in another county, there are generally three options considered—1) the family and agent may work toward establishing the project in the county, 2) two counties may decide to work together sharing resources in order to create the opportunity or 3) membership may be transferred to another county. (When counties share resources, membership is not transferred.)

If attempts to establish the project in the county or to share resources with another county do not progress, then transfer of membership for a specific project may be considered...

- ...if a program or project in which the 4-H'er is interested is **not** available in the county of residence or in the county where the 4-H'er goes to school.
- ...if a family situation exists that makes it very unlikely that a young person can be involved locally.

These options provide flexibility for 4-H agents to cooperate with one another to conduct the highest quality 4-H experiences for Kentucky youth but it also allows the counties to decline. This policy protects the right of counties to place limits on how many youth they choose to allow to cross county lines. It is the 4-H agent's and 4-H Council's right in a given county to say they do NOT wish to participate in cross county lines projects and programs, and that right is to be respected by the petitioning families, agents and county 4-H councils in the involved counties.

When competition is involved, where a young person is a 4-H member may become an issue. Kentucky 4-H supports fair and ethical competition. **To compete as part of any other county's 4-H program, a transfer of membership must be clearly established through a request by the member, approval by the agents and councils involved and appropriate documentation.**

Guidelines Governing Transfer of 4-H Membership in a Specific Project to Another County

1. Agreements are to be processed at the **beginning** of the project experience for the year. This allows youth an adequate opportunity to participate in educational experiences in the county accepting them.
2. Crossing should NOT be done (a) with the intent of gaining competitive or financial edge, (b) because another county has a better program, or (c) because the member or family members are unable to get along with others.
3. Youth crossing into another county must meet all related deadlines (registration, ownership, and otherwise) for the county by which they wish to be accepted.
4. Members who cross county lines to participate in a project not offered in their county of residence/where they attend school will maintain 4-H membership and participation for **all other** 4-H projects, events, and activities in their county of residence or the county where they go to school.
5. When membership is transferred for a specific project, youth compete through the county which has accepted them. Members cannot compete in the same project in more than one county.
6. **Since this situation is often subject to scrutiny by others, transferred members are to carry a copy of the approved request (Form A) to each competitive event to verify county membership.**
7. Once an agreement is finalized, it will remain in place until August 31, the end of the program year. To continue as a transfer, members must request consideration annually.

To request 4-H participation in another county:

1. Complete a “Request for Participation across County Lines” Form (Form A).
2. Turn in the completed Form A to the agent in the county where you reside or where you wish to participate.
3. You will be notified by one of the agents involved after a decision is made.



Form A Request for 4-H Participation across County Lines

Submit your request to the County Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development at the following address:
 Regina Browning, Shelby County Extension Office, 1117 Frankfort Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065

Name of youth: _____ County of residence: _____

County in which youth requests to participate: _____

4-H project in which he/she requests to participate: _____

Reason for request: _____

- Our intention is to enhance the educational experience and not to gain competitive or financial advantage.
- We understand that the 4-H'er 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 where attending school.
- We understand that a 4-H'er cannot compete in the same project/program in two counties.
- If granted, this privilege is only valid for the current 4-H program year (September 1-August 31).
- We understand that this request must be approved by the county 4-H councils and Extension Agents for 4-H YD in both counties. If approval is denied by any one party, the request will be denied.

X _____ X _____
 Signature of 4-H member Date Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

For Office Use Only: This portion of form will be completed by Agents and County 4-H Councils in both counties releasing and accepting the 4-H'er.

4-H Participation across 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 membership transfer (release) of the 4-H'er mentioned above from one county to join another county's 4-H program. A report of this action will be filed (Form B) with both District Directors and the Assistant Director of Extension for 4-H Youth Development no later than July 1. The activities/achievements will only be reported through Mar-Tech in the county where the 4-H'er resides.

Release:

X _____
 Signature of Agent releasing 4-H'er Date

X _____
 Signature of County 4-H Council President Date

Accept:

X _____
 Signature of Agent accepting 4-H'er Date

X _____
 Signature of County 4-H Council President Date