IN 4-H – WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The 4-H Member?
The 4-H Leader?
The 4-H Parent?
The MSU Extension Staff?

The truth is all those listed are responsible. It takes everyone working together to provide a quality 4-H Program.

4-H Members & Leaders must re-enroll each year. Re-enrollments are to be completed by the end of January, don’t wait until the final deadline (last business day of January).

New Member enrollments must be in the MSU Extension office by April 1st or the deadline dates for specific projects. For example, members cannot wait until April to sign up if they want to exhibit a steer that had a February tagging deadline.

4-H Families are responsible for keeping in contact with the 4-H Club Administrative Leader, being present at meetings. If it is necessary to miss a meeting, contact the Administrative Leader for the information you may have missed. The leader is not responsible for repeated calls or chasing around to get information from members. It is often heard “My leader didn’t do one thing or another.” Did you contact the leader??

4-H Clubs must re-register each year by the last business day of October to remain a valid club. This permits the club to use the 4-H name and logo.

MSU Extension Staff are responsible for getting enrollments entered into the county database, sending out information about upcoming events via email and the 4-H newsletter, working with Administrative Leaders, and helping to provide educational programs. 4-H Newsletters are only sent out to families that have re-enrolled. It is often heard “I didn’t get a newsletter.” Are you re-enrolled?? Is your email address correct?? Did you read it??

4-H can be a great Learning Experience for Youth! It is nice to see the youth complete a 4-H Project and do well with it, but a 4-H Project is only a tool. Working on the project with others can teach life skills that will benefit youth their entire lives. It is not Mom, Dad, or the Leader’s 4-H project. The youth should be guided into a project that the youth is capable of doing. The project this year should build on what has been learned before but not require too many additional skills all at once. Youth get discouraged when too much is expected, then the parent or leader will be doing more of the project than the child. Mistakes are okay but when the difficulty level is too high it causes too many mistakes and frustration for the member. Keep the projects simple and increase the difficulty gradually.

Remember Everyone Doesn’t See Everything the Same! We all see and experience things differently. We often see only what we want to see. Everyone can’t always be right. We can’t force our opinions on others. There are other views and opinions. It often takes a lot of work to view things as another person does but it can be worth it. Stop, relax, and think things through before speaking. Words said can’t be taken back and they often cause hurt to another.

We are each responsible for our own actions and words!