



# St. Joseph County 4-H

# Cloverbuds

**Join 4-H Cloverbuds!**

**A Program for youth ages 5-7.**

**Find a club near you. Contact the club leader, decide what you are interested in, fill out the paper work, turn in your participation fees and complete the online enrollment at [www.mi.4honline.com](http://www.mi.4honline.com).  
It's that easy!**

**Help us "Make the Best Better" in St. Joseph County.**

**For more information, contact the MSU Extension office at (269) 467-5521 or visit our website at [www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/)**

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**Extension**



# Making Cloverbuds an Awesome Experience



## What is needed to have an awesome Cloverbud club?

There are several things that you need to consider. First, think about yourself as a Cloverbud volunteer. Are you really interested in children during this stage of development? Perhaps you are the parent of a Cloverbud. One of the prerequisites to having an awesome club is that you enjoy being with excited, energetic, young children. You will also need to work with parents to encourage their support and help with special activities, as well as the staff at your county Extension office.

It is also important to recognize that 4-H Cloverbud programs are activity centered and leader directed. As the leader, the amount of time, energy, and enthusiasm that you commit to the program is likely to impact its success. Your organizational skills will also play a big role in the success of your club. To get organized, carefully review and think about how, what, where of Cloverbud meetings before you begin enrolling members for the year.

## How many members should a club have?

Successful clubs have a good balance between numbers of members and leaders. A ratio of six (6) Cloverbud members per volunteer seems to work well. Some activities and trips may require one (1) adult for every two (2) Cloverbud members.

## How are Cloverbuds recognized?

Cloverbud members receive recognition for participation only. Any form of recognition, prize, award, or ribbon must be given equally to all Cloverbud members.

## How is Cloverbud age determined?

St. Joseph County 4-H Cloverbuds are 5-7 years old by **January 1** of the project year.

## How do parents get involved?

Parents are an important part of the 4-H program. Most are interested in their child's 4-H activities and experiences and are willing to help when asked. During the program planning process, make a list of tasks that parents could perform. These activities could include hosting a meeting, buying crafts, refreshments, etc.

## What happens during the meeting?

Cloverbud meetings usually last about an hour and may run simultaneously with a traditional 4-H meeting. The meeting is called to order, the 4-H pledge recited, and roll call is taken. (The activity period, when some sort of a lesson is taught and Cloverbuds get to be hands on with resources.) The remaining time can be spent with refreshments and recreation.

## This We Believe

It is not what we know but what we believe that determines what we do. It is through the understanding of 4-H objectives and principles that the 4-H club leader can best contribute to the basic development of the 4-H boy and girl.

1. The 4-H member is more important than the 4-H project.
2. 4-H members should be their own best exhibits.
3. No award is worth sacrificing the reputation of a member or leader.
4. Competition should not be emphasized more than learning or any other fundamental of 4-H Club work.
5. Learning how to do the project is more important than the project itself.
6. Many things are caught rather than taught.
7. To learn by doing is fundamental in any sound educational program and is characteristic of the 4-H program.
8. Generally speaking, there is more than one good way to do most things.
9. Every 4-H member needs to be noticed, to feel important, to win and be praised.
10. Our job is to teach 4-H members how to think, not what to think.
11. Leaders must help the 4-H Club set standards of conduct and provide ways of dealing with those who do not live up to these standards.
12. Our product is youth and our projects are the means.

## Craft Projects

### Objectives:

To have fun creating and interacting with other Cloverbud members. Learn new craft skills, and how to select tools for display.

#### 1. Puzzles

- Exhibit one puzzle – size should be in accordance with the child's age.
- Puzzles should be finished and ready for display.

#### 2. Models

- Exhibit one model – size and type to be in accordance with child's age and experience.
- Beginner's start with simple plastic car kit and advance with age and experience.

#### 3. Construction Toys

- Exhibit one construction – either from a kit or original (something they have created).
- Selection according to the age and experience.

#### 4. Any other Craft

- May include plastic, cloth, papier-mâché, wood, natural metal, wax, etc.
- Selection according to age, experience and amount of adult supervision.



## Gardening Projects

### Objectives:

To have fun creating and interacting with other Cloverbud members. Learn new gardening skills, and select a sample garden project for display.

#### 1. Flowers

- Exhibit one (1) unit.
- Experience Suggestions: Teach them basic care of flowers, watering, cutting, and arranging. Contact a greenhouse or florist and have a simple demonstration or tour.
- For Exhibit: Make a picture poster on what they have learned or seen or a small simple arrangement.

#### 2. Vegetable

- Exhibit one (1) unit.
- Experience Suggestion: Let them plant the seeds in the garden, water and weed. They can watch the growth of the plants they have planted.
- For Exhibit: Tomato (1)  
Cucumber (1)  
Beans (5)  
Etc.

#### 3. Indoor

- Exhibit one (1) unit.
- Experience Suggestions: Get a small house plant and care for it, such as: watering, feeding, and proper sunlight.



## Cultural Arts Projects

### Objectives:

To have fun creating and learning new skills while interacting with other Cloverbud members.

#### 1. Plaster Craft

- Exhibit one article in accordance to age, ability and experience.
- Beginner example - one small piece of bisque using stains.
  - Not more than three (3) colors.
  - No bigger than 4" - ex. Small animals, refrigerator magnets.
- Advanced - using not more than four (4) colors.

#### 2. Playdough

- Exhibit one article in accordance with age ability and experience.
- Beginner - small piece no more than 4" - ornament, magnet, animal, etc.



#### 3. Water color

- Painting no larger than 14" x 22." Water colors only
- Any subject - Express yourself in color and imagination.
- Be sure to identify with name.

#### 4. Drawing

- Drawing supplies that may be used are, chalk, crayons, charcoals, pen and ink, or pencil.
- Size no larger than 14" x 22."

#### 5. Writing

- Exhibit one article in accordance to age, ability and experience.
- Short story, poetry.
- Beginners may use picture story.

#### 6. Any other cultural arts project

- Example - jewelry making, basket making, etc.

## Animal Projects

### Objectives:

To have fun creating and interacting with other Cloverbud members. Learn about 4-H animals and display knowledge learned.

### Animal Science

Cloverbud members may exhibit in a Cloverbud class(es) for horse, rabbit, swine or goat. It is suggested that Cloverbud members present a poster of their project. Cloverbud members are allowed to participate in animal activities/workouts at the leader's discretion. Please see the Cloverbud Animal Demonstration document for details.

