



# Ward County 4-H Independent Membership Guidelines and Agreement

*Due upon enrollment or re-enrollment of the 2020-2021 4-H Year*

While the 4-H club provides a wonderful small group learning environment for the positive development of young people, it is not the only way to become a 4-H member. Independent membership is another option. Independent 4-H members participate in planned learning outside of a club setting. Their work is self-directed with guidance and support of parents and mentors. Self-study, home study, mentoring or shadowing with an "expert", and whole families learning together are examples of 4-H independent membership.

To ensure that young people choosing independent membership have a 4-H experience of the highest quality they are asked to sign an agreement indicating their commitment to:

I \_\_\_\_\_ desiring Independent Membership in the Ward County 4-H Youth Development Program, agree to:

1. Work with \_\_\_\_\_, my adult mentor who will guide and support me in my project work. My mentor, if not parent, will need to complete the official ND 4-H Volunteer Screening Process, my mentor is recognized by ND 4-H as a volunteer in good standing, and has agreed to assume the responsibilities of 4-H mentorship.
2. Complete one or more community service projects during the year.
3. Youth, age 8 and over, as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, should complete six 4-H functions. Eligible events shall include, but not limited to:
  - Ward County 4-H Council Meetings
  - project learning sessions,
  - community service activities,
  - any county sponsored activities such as:
    - clothing revue / project expo
    - communication arts contest
    - consumer decision making
    - hippology
    - horse / livestock quiz bowl
    - judging contest(s)
    - project exploration day
    - shooting sports
4. Publicly demonstrate my learning by giving a presentation before a group.
5. Meet with my mentor six or more times throughout the year to discuss and show project work and progress.
6. Abide by all county, state, and national 4-H policies.
7. Ensure that my family does our part to contribute to the larger 4-H program by: actively participating in county and state fundraising efforts; keeping informed and up-to-date on opportunities, guidelines and requirements; reading and responding to correspondence; and volunteering to lead or assist with 4-H committees, events, and activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name - Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Member*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name - Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent/Guardian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name - Mentor

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Mentor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date