



Clover Kids Program

Parent Information

UNL Clover Kid Team

Clover Kid Corner Website (<http://child.unl.edu/cloverkid>)

Clover Kids is the officially recognized program in Nebraska for children under age 8. The program is designed to provide 5 to 7 year-olds a variety of educational and recreational experiences in a non-competitive environment. Clover Kids provide an excellent opportunity for youth to achieve his/her highest potential because early life experiences affect future development.

Goals/Purpose of Clover Kids

The primary goal is to promote the child's stages of development
– intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally.

- Develop Self Esteem
- Decision Making Skills (making positive choices)
- Comprehension Skills (learning how to learn; positive attitudes toward learning)
- Mastering Physical Skills (enjoying constructive and creative play)
- Social-Interaction Skills (getting along with others)
- Diversity Skills (acceptance of others; exploring family and community relationships)

Children possessing these life skills are less likely to have problems with drug use, school failure, delinquency, and depression as they move into their teenage years and then into adulthood.



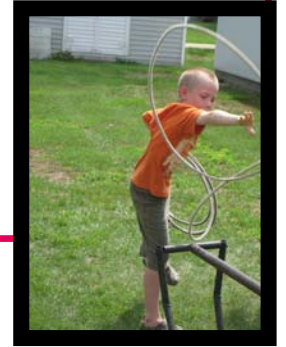


Is A Clover Kid in 4-H?

Yes, but they participate in a different way than a 4-H member. Clover Kids do count toward 4-H years, thus a youth can be involved for 14 years.

What Type of Projects Can Clover Kids Sign Up For?

Projects can range from cooking, crafts, gardening, pocket pets (fish), and bottle lambs for example. Clover Kid projects do vary from county to county. You should contact your local Extension Office for more information regarding precise projects available.



How to Enroll in Clover Kids?

Contact your local Extension Office for enrollment deadlines and if any fees are associated with joining.

Can Clover Kids Exhibit at the County Fair?

YES, Clover Kids are encouraged to exhibit something at the county fair. Clover Kid exhibits are noncompetitive and for exhibition only, they do receive participation ribbons. A Clover Kids “show-n-tell” is an example of how youth can feel part of the fair without being competitive. Members are provided a place and time to talk about their exhibit and show what they have learned.



Can Clover Kids Go to Camp?

YES!! Clover Kids may attend camps especially designed to meet their developmental stages. A Clover Kid camp involves youth in a one-day or a multi-day “camp like” setting where educational, hands-on activities occur.

Can Parents, Grandparents, or Guardians be involved?

Once again, YES everyone can volunteer! Whether it is making food for a club meeting, driving members to activities, becoming a 4-H leader, or interacting with your child with various projects. There is always room for everyone in a child’s life to become involved. Contact your local Extension Office for more information about the Clover Kids program.

What is the Difference Between Clover Kids and Older 4-H Members?

Children 5 to 7 years old develop and learn in ways different from younger children (2-4 years old) and older youth (8-18 years old). Knowing these differences, projects and activities are designed to provide a foundation for Clover Kids to develop effectively.

| | 5 to 7 year old 4-H Clover Kid | 8 to 18 year old 4-H Member |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Type of Learning | Activity Centered | Project Centered |
| Type of Instruction | Leader/Parent Directed | Self-study, Individual or Leader/Parent Directed |
| Recognition of Standards | Participation | Achievement |
| Recognition of Goals | Participation | Competition, Achievement |
| Learner Resources | Project Resources | Project Manuals |

The following link provides more information regarding stages of development related to age:

http://4h.unl.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=ac2c9a3c-733b-440d-945b-f568e2883e4c&groupId=466759&.pdf

Why is the Clover Kids Program Noncompetitive?

Studies prove noncompetitive environments are more likely to develop confidence, creativity, and competence in children. The Clover Kids program corresponds with the child's stages of physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development.

Why Can't Clover Kids Show Large Animals (Horse, Market/Breeding Beef, Dairy, Market/Breeding Sheep and Swine)?

For safety, liability, and competitive reasons often associated with livestock shows, some restrictions are necessary to maintain Clover Kids program objectives. According to the 4-H Policy and Procedure Handbook, Clover Kids should not participate in animal events when the animal is greater than 350 pounds or more than six months of age at the time of the show. Children eight and under often lack the mental and physical skills for controlling and understanding the strength of large animals. Please check with your local Extension Office for more specific information.