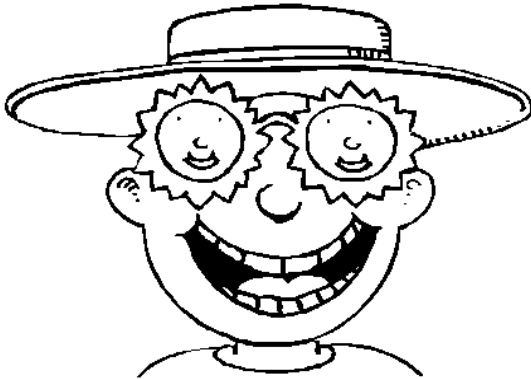




4-H CLOVERBUDS

A Great Start in 4-H!

The Cloverbud program is a special part of the total Alabama 4-H youth development program. It is a “have fun while learning” way to build confidence, social skills, decision making abilities, knowledge, and physical skills of 5-8 year olds. In Cloverbuds, young people take part in a unique blend of activities and opportunities specifically designed for their age level.



How Are Groups Organized?

Cloverbud Clubs

Members meet separately from any other group or club. Cloverbud clubs may meet in community centers, schools, libraries, childcare settings, churches or in the homes of interested parents or trained adults.

In the Classroom

Cloverbud materials are ideal for kindergartners and early elementary students. Teachers trained in their use receive support and resources from their county extension office.

As Part of an Existing Community 4-H Club

Cloverbud members can be part of a community 4-H club, but meet separately from the 9-19 year-old members while doing Cloverbud activities.

How Do Cloverbuds Differ from Older 4-H?

How Kids Learn:

Cloverbud learning is activity centered. Older member learning is often project based.

How Instruction is Given:

Cloverbud instruction is leader directed. Older members receive instruction from a leader and through self-study.

How Kids are Recognized:

Cloverbuds are recognized for participation alone. Older members are recognized for participation, goal achievement, achievement of standards, and through competitive events and activities.

Learning Resources:

Cloverbud activities may come from approved statewide curriculum, or may use materials that follow the Cloverbud program guidelines and are approved by their county agent. Older members use project manuals or other materials designed for their age group.

How Cloverbuds Participate

The Cloverbud program is geared toward an informal, easy-going approach to activity-based learning. Curricula are based on age appropriate research and involve cooperative, experiential, and noncompetitive activities.

Cloverbud lessons address such subjects as character, expressive arts, the environment, personal development, and plant and animal science – or other 4-H topics.

May Cloverbuds Go to Camp?

The answer is yes! County partnerships often develop camps that are designed to meet Cloverbuds’ developmental characteristics and needs. A Cloverbud day camp (or overnight camp) could involve youth for one day or several days in a “camp like” setting where educational, hands-on activities occur. Summer environmental day camps or a spring gardening camp are perfect examples of Cloverbud camps.

Who Teaches Cloverbuds?

Much of the Cloverbud program is guided by an adult volunteer, whether in a club-like setting, a school, or a special emphasis group. Adult and teen volunteers guiding the Cloverbud program receive educational instruction on how to work with this particular age group.

What Is Expected of a Cloverbud Volunteer?

Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- being committed to young people;
- following the guidelines and policies of the Alabama 4-H Cloverbud program;
- assisting members in all 4-H learning experiences;
- maintaining open communications with other volunteers and the Extension office;
- helping the members select appropriate activities;
- encouraging parents and other guardians to support their child's involvement and activities while in the program;
- participating in appropriate volunteer development opportunities.

An individual serving as a 4-H Cloverbud volunteer must have:

- a sincere interest in working with youth;
- the ability to teach and motivate youth;
- organizational skills;
- the ability to work with minimal supervision;
- willingness to become familiar with and work with the philosophy and guidelines of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama 4-H program, and the county 4-H program.



Chuck Hill and Molly Gregg,
4-H Specialists

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and other related acts, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Alabama

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