



Independent Membership Guidelines and Agreement

The Alabama 4-H Independent Member enrollment is an individual study program designed for 4-H members without 4-H club affiliation. 4-H Independent Membership is a self-directed, planned learning experience in any 4-H subject matter area. An independent member works directly with an adult in an informal setting, not in the traditional group setting. This adult may be a parent, mentor, project or club leader, counselor, teacher, or paid 4-H staff member. This adult agrees to serve as a leader for the project and the member's involvement for the year. The independent project mentor/adviser must be approved and registered in 4HOnline. If he or she is not the parent or legal guardian of the member, he or she must complete the Alabama 4-H volunteer screening and training process.

Alabama 4-H recognizes that small groups (clubs) are not the optimal learning environment for every youth. Nor may a club be available to every youth because of meeting times, travel, expectations, etc. Alabama 4-H recognizes independent membership as a form of program membership/delivery. Procedures are in place to guide independent membership to ensure there is a quality learning experience for the young person. An ultimate goal for 4-H Independent Membership is to transition to 4-H club membership when possible.

I _____, desiring independent membership in the _____
County 4-H Program, agree to the following:

- Complete annual 4-H enrollment in [4HOnline](#).
- Enroll in at least one 4-H project area for independent study.
- Complete and submit this form (4HYD-2163) to your [county Extension office](#) each year.
- Submit to the county Extension office an educational plan/calendar including at least three goals for the year and educational resources to be used.
- Complete one or more community service projects/activities during the year.
- Publicly demonstrate my learning by giving a presentation before a group and/or participating in a county 4-H event or competition.
- Abide by all county, state, and national 4-H policies.

Signature of Member

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date