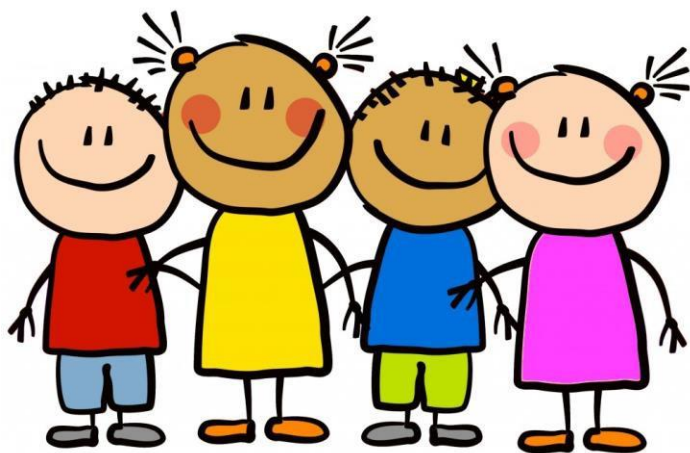


# CT 4-H Explorers Program



**4-H FOR 5-6 YEAR OLDS**

2016-2017 CT Pilot Program

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# CT Policy on the 4-H Explorers Program

The 4-H Explorers is a unique membership category that is an age appropriate program for youth ages 5 and 6 years old (as of Jan. 1 of the program year). These programs require more adult supervision and the focus is on cooperative learning rather than competition. The CT 4-H Explorers program follows a set of program guidelines based on developmental appropriateness.

It is neither the intent nor the objective of the CT 4-H Explorers program to duplicate 4-H member experiences that are designed for older youth, nor to create a “mini 4-H” club. While the CT 4-H Explorers is a component of the overall CT 4-H Youth development Program, and CT 4-H Explorers members are recognized as full-fledged members, they are considered and enrolled as a special membership category with regard to activities and policy.

CT 4-H Explorers do not take on projects: Explorers programs are activity based and not project focused. As the name implies, CT 4-H Explorers engage in hands-on activities that introduce the entire scope of 4-H programs. They do not have any one specific project area that covers a year of meetings. 4-H Explorers experience the broad spectrum of topics offered by 4-H. Leaders will fill out a CT 4-H Explorers Feedback Form at the end of the pilot year.

The focus of recognition for CT 4-H Explorers is participation.

Explorers may receive participation ribbons, certificates, or other appropriate 4-H recognition which encourages continued involvement. It is a non-competitive program. There is no judging or evaluation, either individually or in a group effort. Special comment forms can be used instead of judging forms, for positive feedback with suggestions for improvement.

# CT 4-H Explorers

## 4-H Explorers SHALL:

- ❖ Be at least 5 years old as of January 1 of the 4-H year.
- ❖ Be enrolled in CT 4-H as Explorers, and their chosen project area is by default 'CT Explorers'
- ❖ Learn to get along with others
- ❖ Explore a variety of interests through hands-on activities
- ❖ Build self-confidence through healthy experiences
- ❖ Have their own program activities, and do not just 'join in' with older youth
- ❖ Receive participation recognition
- ❖ Fill out the CT 4-H Explorers Recordkeeping. An adult may assist in filling out the form and it can be done as a group record or individual.
- ❖ 4-H Explorers may participate in county/state events (including the 4-H Fair), where specific Explorers program activities have been put in place.
- ❖ Have Leaders who attended the CT 4-H Explorers training and are approved CT 4-H Volunteers

## 4-H Explorers SHALL NOT:

- ❖ Have on-going projects of any kind (including animals, large or small)
- ❖ Participate as competitive exhibitors
- ❖ Submit verification forms, as they do not have any on-going projects
- ❖ Do not hold any offices or leadership roles in their club
- ❖ Hold voting privileges
- ❖ Receive any placing ribbons or awards (including Danish)
- ❖ Focus on a single project area

# Starting up an Independent 4-H Explorers Club

The strongest program delivery for 4-H Explorers is where all participants are of Explorer age (5 and 6 years old), meeting as small groups of children with a trained Leader. These groups explore a wide variety of subject matter through short-term activities.

If developmentally appropriate, 7 year olds may participate as a 4-H Explorer.

CT 4-H Explorers cannot enroll as Independent members in the 2017 4-H year.

# Incorporating a 4-H Explorers sub-group into an Existing Club

When incorporating 4-H Explorers into a multi-age club, there is a separate sub-group for Explorer members led by a designated, trained 4-H Explorers Leader. They can meet at the same date/time/location, but preferably with a separate room or area to utilize Explorer materials and resources. 4-H teens may serve as Junior Leaders but only under the direct supervision of the trained Explorers Leader.

A club can choose to not include 4-H Explorers in their club.

# Becoming a CT 4-H Explorers Leader

- ❖ Become an approved CT 4-H Volunteer Submit application
- ❖ Complete steps 1-3 of on-line training
- ❖ Complete CT on-line Mandated Reporter Training Face-to-face meeting with 4-H county staff
- ❖ Attend the CT 4-H Explorers Leaders Training
- ❖ Agree to follow the CT policy and guidelines for the 4-H Explorers program.
- ❖ Fill out and submit the CT 4-H Explorers Feedback form Keep Explorers Recordkeeping
- ❖ Use the recommended 4-H curriculum

## Explorers Leader Training

Topics covered in the training will include:

- ❖ Steps to Getting Started
- ❖ 4-H Ages and Stages
- ❖ Experiential Learning
- ❖ Planning and Implementing for Success
- ❖ Positive Learning and Group Management
- ❖ Curriculum Review
- ❖ Record Keeping Review

# 4-H Explorers Curriculum

Below is a list of curriculum Leaders can use with their 4-H Explorers.

- ✿ *Clover Adventures: A Leader's Resource Guide*. University of Maryland, Frederick County 4-H Youth Development curriculum  
[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/\\_docs/Clover%20Adventures%20%283%29.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/Clover%20Adventures%20%283%29.pdf)
- ✿ *Welcome to 4-H, All About Insects, All About Pets* National 4-H curriculum, <http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/educationresources.aspx>
- ✿ *CT 4-H Explorers Animals Around Me*
- ✿ *The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities*, Ohio State University  
<http://estore.osu-extension.org/The-Big-Book-of-4-H-Cloverbud-Activities-P451.aspx>
- ✿ *CT 4-H Explorers At the Fair*
- ✿ *CT 4-H Explorers Record Book*

All Leaders attending the CT training will receive copies of the curriculum, along with a Feedback Form, Record Keeping, and other information.



For more information on the CT 4-H Explorers Program or 4-H in general, please contact your local 4-H Staff:

**Fairfield County Cooperative Extension Center**, 67 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, CT 06801, 203-207-8440 *Edith Valiquette, Extension Educator*, [edith.valiquette@uconn.edu](mailto:edith.valiquette@uconn.edu)

**Hartford County Cooperative Extension Center**

West Hartford Campus, University of Connecticut  
1800 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117, 860-570-9010 *Jennifer Cushman, Extension Educator* [jennifer.cushman@uconn.edu](mailto:jennifer.cushman@uconn.edu)  
*LaShawn Christie-Francis, Program Coordinator, Urban 4-H*  
[lashawn.christie@uconn.edu](mailto:lashawn.christie@uconn.edu)

**Litchfield County Cooperative Extension Center**

843 University Drive, Torrington, CT 06790, 860-626-6240  
*Laura Marek, Extension Educator*  
[laura.marek@uconn.edu](mailto:laura.marek@uconn.edu)

**Middlesex County Cooperative Extension Center** 1066 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT 06438, 860-345-4511 *Emily Alger, Program Coordinator* [emily.alger@uconn.edu](mailto:emily.alger@uconn.edu)

**New Haven County Cooperative Extension Center** 305 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT 06473, 203-407-3161 *Margaret Grillo, Extension Educator* [margaret.grillo@uconn.edu](mailto:margaret.grillo@uconn.edu)

**New London County Cooperative Extension Center**

562 New London Turnpike, Norwich, CT 06360, 860-887-1608  
*Pamela Gray, Program Coordinator*  
[pamela.gray@uconn.edu](mailto:pamela.gray@uconn.edu)

**Tolland County Cooperative Extension Center** 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT 06066, 860-875-3331 *Maryann Fusco-Rollins, Program Coordinator* [maryann.fusco@uconn.edu](mailto:maryann.fusco@uconn.edu)

**Windham County Cooperative Extension Center**

139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234, 860-774-9600  
*Marc Cournoyer, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development*  
[marc.cournoyer@uconn.edu](mailto:marc.cournoyer@uconn.edu)

**State Administration Office**

Cooperative Extension System, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources The University of Connecticut  
1376 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06269-4134  
*Michael P. O'Neill, Associate Dean & Associate Director, UConn Extension*  
[MP.ONeill@uconn.edu](mailto:MP.ONeill@uconn.edu), 860-486-6270  
*Bonnie E. Burr, Department Head, UConn Extension*  
[bonnie.burr@uconn.edu](mailto:bonnie.burr@uconn.edu), 860-486-8944  
*Nancy Wilhelm, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development, UConn Extension*  
[nancy.wilhelm@uconn.edu](mailto:nancy.wilhelm@uconn.edu), 860-486-4127, 1-888-FOUR-H-CT (for CT only)

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