

CROSS COUNTY 4-H MEMBERSHIP REQUEST GUIDELINES



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Alameda and Contra Costa County 4-H Programs

Why Request 4-H membership in another county?

California youth are expected to affiliate with the 4-H program in their county of residence. The Cooperative Extension programs are typically supported at the local level by taxes, and so it makes good sense that a child would participate in the county program into which their parents or guardians are supporting with taxes. However, there can be circumstances in which membership in a county other than where they live may be a practical and reasonable request.

Common situations or conditions found **acceptable** for asking such a transfer of membership include the following:

- The school district in which the child attends is located across two counties. The child's school friends may therefore be members in a county other than where the child resides.
- The county of residence does not offer the 4-H program being sought, typically shooting sports or special interest program. In those cases, a youth can request membership across county line to participate in a program not available in the county of residence.
- The parents of the child are no longer together and live in two different counties. The request for membership in the county in which the 4-H project work will be completed is reasonable.
- The request is being made before each county's membership enrollment deadline, and the youth in question is a member in good standing.

Reasons that are **not appropriate** for granting a transfer of membership include:

- The Fair Livestock auction prices are typically higher in the other county.
- The Parents and/or grandparents of the 4-H member were members of the club in the other county, and so it is hoped the youth can have membership in the same family legacy.
- The camp or county fair schedule in the other county fits the family's vacation plans better.
- The county fair schedule in the other county fits better with the youth's school schedule.
- If animal projects are involved, the animal will be housed on someone else's property in the other county. If this is in fact the case, the 4-H member is encouraged to select a different project entirely.
- The 4-H membership has been banned or suspended for rule infraction in the county membership. Suspended membership is the suspension of the 4-H membership, and thus the suspended member is not eligible to transfer membership to another county to avoid enforcement of consequences for rules infractions.

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