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**DUTCHESS COUNTY 4-H**  
**INDEPENDENT MEMBER PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

The 4-H Independent Member Program is an individual study 4-H delivery mode which involves youth participation in a planned 4-H program as 4-H members without 4-H club affiliation. It is a self directed, planned learning experience in a specific subject matter area with limited adult direction.

In an independent program, a 4-H member works directly with a designated adult volunteer in an informal setting but not in the traditional group setting. This adult may be a parent, mentor, project or club leader, camp counselor, teacher, or paid 4-H staff who has agreed to serve as a leader for the project. The independent program leader must be approved through the 4-H Staff and registered with the county 4-H office.

An independent 4-H program allows a young person to be a 4-H member and carry a project of his/her choice, even if it is not available in a local 4-H club. It gives the 4-H member an opportunity to study a non-traditional subject matter area, take a different direction in activities, or expand on an already existing project. It also gives the member the freedom to determine and complete his/her own project without being a member of an organized 4-H club.

Independent 4-H members are entitled to all of the same opportunities as traditional 4-H Club members.

NOTE: A 4-H member who is currently affiliated with an existing 4-H club may want to expand his/her involvement by carrying an independent project in addition to 4-H work in the club.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

All Independent 4-H members must complete the following:

1. Independent Program Application
2. Monthly Independent Reports to the 4-H office
3. County Level Public Presentation and Paper Clover Project Participation
4. 4-H Project Record Book

## INDEPENDENT PROJECT DECLARATION

*Instructions: Application must be completed and returned to the County 4-H Office prior to beginning the Independent Project. All members must also complete a 4-H Club Member Enrollment packet.*

### Member Information:

**4-H Member's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address/City/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Leader Information

**Name of the 4-H Independent Project Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Leader's Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the Dutchess County 4-H Independent Member Guidelines. I agree to follow the guidelines in providing guidance for the project of the above named 4-H member and will be responsible for signing the 4-H Project Summary and other required paperwork.

**Project Leader's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### OFFICE USE ONLY

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Enrollment Fee Collected:** YES OR NO **Cash OR Check: #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Fee Collected:** YES OR NO **Cash OR Check: #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Entered in Database:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



## 4-H Independent Member Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, desiring Independent Membership in the Dutchess County 4-H Youth Development Program, agree to:

1. Work with \_\_\_\_\_, my adult mentor, who will guide and support me in my project work. Having completed the official New York State 4-H Volunteer Screening Process, my mentor is recognized by New York State 4-H as a volunteer in good standing, and has agreed to assume the responsibilities outlined of 4-H mentorship.
2. Complete one or more community service learning activities during the year.
3. Publicly demonstrate my learning by giving a public presentation at one of the county wide Public Presentation Events.
4. Share with my mentor six or more times throughout the year my progress toward my goals and celebrate achievements.
5. Develop my skills in leadership, citizenship, communications, personal life management and knowledge through project work.
6. Submit a year end and monthly report of my 4-H experiences to my mentor and the 4-H Office.
7. Abide by all county, state and national 4-H policies and recognize the authority of Extension staff to establish and enforce rules and policies.
8. Ensure that my family does our part to contribute to the larger 4-H program by actively participating in county and state fundraising efforts; volunteering to lead or assist with 4-H committees, programs and activities; reading and responding to extension office correspondence; and remaining informed and current on 4-H opportunities, procedures and guidelines.

Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## INDEPENDENT MEMBER MONTHLY REPORT

Each independent member must submit a monthly report to the 4-H office detailing their 4-H activities for the month. *(To be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month.)*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Project Area:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Work:**

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**Community Service:**

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**Other 4-H Participation:**

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_