



# CLEAVER KIDS



## Quick

## Reference

**2024 - 2025**

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Clever Kids



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4-H Alberta

- **Clever Kids introduces youth aged 6-8 to 4-H Alberta.**
- **Clever Kids explore, grow and learn new skills.**
- **Clever Kids Learn To Do By Doing!**

## Clever Kids

Clever Kids is an early introduction to 4-H Alberta through fun, hands on learning that is age appropriate for youth aged 6 to 8 years.

To register with Clever Kids for the 2024-2025 club year, the child must be age six as of December 31, 2024 or must not have reached age nine by that time. Those who will be nine years old on or before December 31, 2024 will register as Junior 4-H members.

Clever Kids enjoy learning about 4-H by first learning about the basic requirements and then focusing on the four areas of skills development

outlined in this document and the Clever Kids Leader Guide.

4-H Clubs can be creative and design stand-alone activities that foster skills development in a progressive manner. Stand-alone learning activities, that are age appropriate and different than 4-H Members' project activities, serve to prepare Clever Kids to transition into Junior 4-H Members and progress through the 4-H program. Keeping learning fresh at each stage helps to ensure that they remain engaged and interested. Engagement of Clever Kids at club level is about 4-H FUN! and fun requires family involvement.

## Skills Development

### **Clever Kids focus on:**

1. *Developing new **friendships**.*
2. *Creating a sense of **belonging** to the **club** and **community**.*
3. *Developing **listening** skills and abilities to **express** themselves.*
4. *Learning to **set goals, track progress** and, of course, **celebrate achievements**.*

Exploring and enjoying all that is 4-H, while positively developing early leadership skills is a great way to introduce Clever Kids and their families to 4-H Alberta.

Clever Kids focus on these four areas rather than on one traditional 4-H project. These areas of skills development are taught through hands-on, age appropriate, learning activities. Mini projects offer creative opportunities for Clever Kids to discover and explore their own developing interests.

When Clever Kids graduate to become Junior 4-H Members, they will have learned the basics of 4-H. They will have had opportunities to explore and learn about which 4-H member project opportunities fit with their interests and what they love to learn!

## 4-H Clubs with Cleaver Kids

### Club check list:

- **Review Cleaver Kids requirements and Cleaver Kids Leader Guide.**
- **Draft your program plan: new Cleaver Kids activities; who can participate; in which club activities will Cleaver Kids participate; how will Cleaver Kids progress and so on.**
- **Vote on Cleaver Kids becoming part of your club and finalize program plan.**
- **Elect a Cleaver Kids Leader.**
- **Communicate plan throughout club.**
- **Register Cleaver Kids online with club registration.**
- **Evaluate as you go.**
- **Have some FUN!**



To get started, review the Cleaver Kids requirements and the Cleaver Kids Leader Guide. Ask questions if you need clarification. Cleaver Kids' involvement at the club level may vary from club to club.

### Clubs are encouraged to discuss:

- **How will we effectively engage 6-8 year olds as part of the club?**
- **What unique, age appropriate activities can be incorporated for Cleaver Kids?**
- **What are some potential benefits of Cleaver Kids being part of the club?**
- **How will Cleaver Kids progress?**

### Program Plan:

Clubs develop a draft plan to present to members and, once it is approved, to potential Cleaver Kids and their families. This program plan includes designated club activities for Cleaver Kids and a framework for progression as they grow into Junior Members.

Club plans/programs for Cleaver Kids differ from traditional 4-H member club plans/programs. Cleaver Kids are not expected to fulfill the five basic 4-H Member Requirements as they are not age appropriate for Cleaver Kids.

The **program plan** must **focus on skills development** and not on one particular activity or traditional 4-H project. The plan must include **goals** and **sample activities**. Once the plan is approved by the club, it is shared with Cleaver Kids parents, leaders, members and families.

### Club Requirements and Inclusion:

Clubs must adhere to all club requirements and be a club in good standing prior to incorporating Cleaver Kids. For reference, see The 4-H Alberta Reference Guide.

Clubs must vote in favour of inclusion of Cleaver Kids and their separate program plan. Clubs are not required to have Cleaver Kids and each club may have a different Cleaver Kids plan.

Cleaver Kids may be open to any youth aged six to eight years or may just encourage participation from younger siblings of 4-H members; this is a club decision. Cleaver Kids are a part of the 4-H club family and, within the requirements, can be incorporated to meet the needs of clubs and families.

### Cleaver Kids Leaders:

Clubs must have a **volunteer leader dedicated to Cleaver Kids**. One (1) screened, trained, dedicated Cleaver Kids leader is required to be in attendance at all Cleaver Kids activities and events AND an additional screened leader/volunteer must also be in attendance as rule of two (2) applies.

Adult : Cleaver Kid ratio is 1 : 5 for all instructional and all Cleaver Kids program delivery purposes, activities and events **BUT a minimum of two (2) screened leaders / volunteers must always be present, including for groups of 5 or fewer Cleaver Kids.**

Project leaders working with junior, intermediate and senior members are not to be responsible for planning Cleaver Kids activities. That is the responsibility of the Cleaver Kids leader.

**REMEMBER:** *In order for Cleaver Kids to have the best experience possible, they need to be engaged in unique, age appropriate ways.*



## Participation

### Club Level & General Information

***Clever Kids participate at club level in a manner that is pre-determined by the individual club.*** Clubs incorporating Clever Kids must have stand-alone activities, sessions, workshops, and so on.

"Stand-alone activities" means that Clever Kids have separate activities and do not participate in regular 4-H Project activities. Clever Kids are like "mini-members". They undertake activities designed to prepare them to be future 4-H Members. This allows for "progression". Progression is a key component when planning. For Clever Kids to be excited about becoming Junior Members that progression must exist or repetition may lead to boredom and disinterest.

Clever Kids activities provide an introduction to 4-H program basics, such as the pledge and motto, and to 4-H values, organizing principles and community service. Various activities,

crafts, games, mini projects and basic skills development help to prepare Clever Kids to become full members. At the same time, Clever Kids need not be excluded from club meetings or portions thereof, recreational activities, outings and celebrations.

Within the requirements, clubs design their own Clever Kids program plans. Thus, clubs determine what best suits the needs of the clubs' families and the abilities of the Clever Kids. All Clever Kids participation and activities must include appropriate supervision, leadership and supplies.

Providing **fundamentals** ☺ to develop strong, successful individuals is what Clever Kids is about. Don't rush learning or set expectations outside of their developmental abilities. Remember to always leave something to look forward to and explore fun ways to prepare them for what is to come.

### Districts and Regions Levels

***Participation of Clever Kids at district and/or regional events is at the discretion of the district and/or the regional council and/or the organizing committee.***

District and regions can set their own parameters of involvement, providing that they remain within the current requirements set by 4-H Alberta. Event policies regarding Clever Kids may be reviewed annually.

Districts and regions that choose to allow Clever Kids to participate at events must ensure that **stand-alone** Clever Kids activities / sessions / workshops are in

place. These must include appropriate supervision, leadership and supplies. Clubs requesting that Clever Kids be allowed to attend an event must contact the district and/or regional council well in advance of the event.

District and/or regional councils may deny attendance of Clever Kids at any district or regional event if appropriate activities and/or resources (staff; instructors; prizes; funding; leaders) will not or cannot be made available.

On the other hand, districts and/or regions may specifically request the attendance of Clever Kids at events.



Visit [4hab.com](http://4hab.com) for downloadable **Clever Kids Leader Guide**, logos and activities. Visit often and check out 4-H Alberta's monthly newsletter, **SCOOP**, where you can find updates, resources and fun ideas for Clever Kids.

Contact your regional **4-H Alberta Area Coordinator** with any questions and for help, ideas, lesson plans and more!

***One of the greatest successes noted within the Clever Kids program is the remarkable creativity demonstrated by clubs that have embraced Clever Kids.***

Clever Kids



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## Registration

All Cleaver Kids must be registered by the club in the 4-H Alberta club online registration system (just as members are registered). Follow the instructions and register Cleaver Kids in the appropriate category with the Cleaver Kids project.

Cleaver Kids tools and resources are part of the club supplies order form.

The provincial registration fee is \$30 for each Cleaver Kid. \$30 = Insurance, program development, resources and delivery. **Registration deadline is November 15.**

Please note: Regions are not charged for registered Cleaver Kids.

## You need to know

Cleaver Kids **cannot** make a **personal profit** from personal items, animals or mini projects.

Cleaver Kids **may** participate in CLUB fundraising initiatives.

Cleaver Kids activities can be **tracked at club level.**

Cleaver Kids activities and years of tenure are **not** utilized or counted in **4-H yearly diaries** and/or for **4-H scholarship** purposes. Six to eight year olds are Cleaver Kids, not 4-H Members.

The decision to involve Cleaver Kids at district or regional events is at the sole discretion of that specific district or region. Decisions of the district and/or region **must be respected.**

Cleaver Kids do not take part in traditional 4-H projects.

**★ Clubs that do not adhere to the requirements and parameters around participation with livestock will be suspended, by 4-H Alberta, from incorporating Cleaver Kids into their clubs in the future. See column at right for important details.** →

### Cleaver Kids may participate in livestock activities provided\*:

- ➔ Safety is the number one priority.
- ➔ **Animal is a calendar year animal that must be born after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the club year (Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine). No individual breeding or market animal can be used as a Cleaver Kids mini project.**
- ➔ Cleaver Kids cannot have a herd when starting as a Junior 4-H Member.
- ➔ When advancing from Cleaver Kid to Junior member, all 4-H project policies must be followed.
- ➔ Cleaver Kids may ride skill and age appropriate horses at the club's discretion.
- ➔ Cleaver Kids must not be assessed in the equine 4-H project levels until they are a junior member.
- ➔ **All equine activities must be stand-alone, focusing on fundamentals and safety.**
- ➔ Helmets must be worn for all riding activities.



### 4-H Alberta

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Contact your Area Coordinator for more information.

Visit our website:  
<https://www.4hab.com>

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