

## 4-H AND BEST FRIENDS 4-H CLUB ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Updated 2/10/2023/lsc



There has been some confusion over the yearly new enrollment and/or re-enrollment procedures for 4-H and Best Friends 4-H Club. These step-by-step instructions should help clear up the puzzlement.

**First off** ... for your 4-H hierarchy and financial comprehension ... 4-H's fiscal year always begins on September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and runs through to August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Renewing your membership for your 4-H club(s) begins on September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>. New members are accepted year-round.

**CLUB DUES:** There is a Best Friends 4-H Club dues of \$10.00 per year and must accompany your "Best Friends 4-H Club's Paper" registration form(s). If you are having financial difficulties, please speak with the coordinator privately. She loves to barter for your timely services behind the scenes.

**REGISTRATION ITSELF:** There are three (3) steps for your child's and/or your own enrollment in 4-H and 4-H clubs.

**STEP ONE: BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN 4-H ENROLLMENT** – Berrien County, Michigan 4-H enrollment is completed online at <http://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>. If, per chance, you do not have the opportunity to have a computer at hand, then there are two ways to enroll:

1. Make an appointment with either your club coordinator or MSU Extension Office (located at 1737 Hillandale Road; Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Phone: 269-927-5674) and use their computer to register.
2. Contact your club coordinator and ask for the "Paper Forms" to enroll with MSU Extension Office 4-H Programs for the upcoming year.

When you register with Berrien County, Michigan 4-H you can join and participate in as many 4-H clubs that you can handle. This is also where your 4-H years and project records are kept up to date and contact information is kept current.

**STEP TWO: BEST FRIENDS 4-H CLUB REGISTRATION** – Because Best Friends works with 4-H'ers and dogs on several 4-H dog projects and training agendas, as well as having several Canine Therapy programs that are available to the public there are certain liability topics that must be legally addressed.

1. What type of member are you? *Example: Team Instructor, Nontraditional 4-H'er or Traditional 4-H'er?*
2. What dog training projects do you wish to be involved in? *Example: Year-round canine therapy programs or just the Summer Dog Project.*
3. Will you need a canine to work with? Or do you have your own canine to work with?
4. Current contact information.
5. Did you read and understand the Website Policy and the Canine Policy?
6. Do you give or not give consent to have audio, video, film, and/or print images used on the website?
7. Liability Agreement must be signed by your adult self or your parent or guardian.

**Therefore, once you have registered with MSU Extension 4-H, the coordinator and/or secretary will mail a Best Friends 4-H Club simple two-page registration form for yourself and/or the 4-H'er's parent/guardian to complete, to sign and mail back.** Please note: *"No individual can be accepted into the Berrien County, Michigan Best Friends 4-H Club until this form has been completed by the youth's parent/guardian, or by the individual if he or she is of legally competent adult age of eighteen (18) or older."*

**STEP THREE: BEST FRIENDS 4-H CLUB CANINE REGISTRATION** – Yes. Dogs are members too and must be registered with Best Friends 4-H Club yearly. By training with their traditional (TR) 4-H'er and/or owner or volunteering their services by being paired with a nontraditional (NTR) 4-H'er and Team Instructor, Best Friends Team Canines work toward their American Kennel Club (AKC) Therapy Dog Titles and Canine Good Citizenship and Obedience titles. And, yet again, the club has to prove that the dog is registered with the club and is fit for duty ... a duty that meets the 4-H, the AKC and the Berrien County Youth Fair's (BCYF) health standards and dog training levels.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Best Friends 4-H Club is an AKC recognized Canine Therapy Dog Competition organization and AKC is our ADAPTED dog training and dog competition program foundation.