



# UConn 4-H Fact Sheet

## 4-H Explorers Program Policy



**UConn** | EXTENSION

The UConn 4-H Explorers is a unique membership category that is age appropriate for youth 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 UConn 4-H Explorers program follows a set of program guidelines based on developmental appropriateness.

- It is neither the intent nor the objective of the UConn 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 UConn 4-H Explorers is a component of the overall UConn 4-H Youth development Program, and UConn 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.
- Additional information is available on the UConn 4-H Explorers Web page.

## 4-H Explorers Shall

- Be at least 5 years old as of January 1 of the 4-H year.
- Be enrolled in UConn 4-H as Explorers, and their chosen project area is by default ‘UConn 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 UConn 4-H Explorers Activity Summary. 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 and state events (including the 4-H Fair), where specific Explorers program activities have been put in place.
- Have leaders who attended the UConn 4-H Explorers training and are approved UConn 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
- 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 a 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. When developmentally appropriate, 7 year olds and any age special needs youth may participate as a 4-H Explorer. UConn 4-H Explorers can enroll as Independent members. The parent must contact their county 4-H office for training and curriculum. When incorporating 4-H Explorers into a multi-age club, there is a separate sub-group for Explorer members led by a designated, trained 4H Explorers Leader. They can meet at the same date/time/location, but preferably in 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.

## Becoming a 4-H Explorers Leader

- Contact your county 4-H Office to notify them of your intent and set up your training.
- Become an approved UConn 4-H Volunteer: first by submitting the volunteer application.
- Complete steps 1-3 of the UConn 4-H on-line training.
- Complete UConn background checks and trainings as required.
- Attend a UConn 4-H Explorers Leader Training (offered on a county level or online).
- Agree to follow the UConn policy and guidelines for the 4-H Explorers program. Use the recommended 4-H curriculum: