Cleaver 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 Cleaver Kids for the 2019-2020 club year, the child must be age six as of January 1, 2020 or must not have reached age nine by that time. Those who will turn nine before January 1, 2020 will register as Junior 4-H members.

Cleaver 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 Cleaver 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 Cleaver 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 Cleaver Kids at club level is about FUN, FUN, FUN and fun requires family involvement.

Cleaver 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 Cleaver Kids to discover and explore their own developing interests.

When Cleaver 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

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.

Clubs 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. Reference Policy 4.01 and the Leader Manual.

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) registered, screened leader is required to be in attendance at all Cleaver Kids activities and events.

Adult : Cleaver Kid ratio is 1 : 5 for all activities and events.

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

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

"Stand-alone activities" means that Cleaver Kids have separate activities and do not participate in regular 4-H Project activities. Cleaver 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 Cleaver Kids to be excited about becoming Junior Members that progression must exist or repetition may lead to boredom and disinterest.

Cleaver 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 Cleaver Kids to become full members. At the same time, Cleaver Kids need not be excluded from club meetings or portions thereof, recreational activities, outings and celebrations.

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

Providing fundamentals ☺ to develop strong, successful individuals is what Cleaver 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 Cleaver 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 Cleaver Kids may be reviewed annually.

Districts and regions that choose to allow Cleaver Kids to participate at events must ensure that stand-alone Cleaver Kids activities / sessions / workshops are in place. These must include appropriate supervision, leadership and supplies. Clubs requesting that Cleaver 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 Cleaver 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 Cleaver Kids at events.
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.

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, Cleaver Kids program development, resources and delivery.

Registration deadline is December 1.

Please note: Regions are not be 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.

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 1st 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 a 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.

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.