

# Wisconsin 4-H Club Constitution

## Article I – Name/Identity

### Section I-Name

The name of this organization shall be:

**FOX RIVER PATRIOTS 4-H CLUB**

### Section II-Motto

The club motto shall be:

**TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER**

The sub-motto shall be:

**LEARN BY DOING**

### Section III-Emblem

The club emblem shall be:

**GREEN FOUR-LEAF CLOVER  
BEARING A WHITE "H" ON EACH LEAFLET**

### Section IV- 4-H Pledge

**I PLEDGE ...**

**MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING  
MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY  
MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE, AND  
MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING, FOR  
MY CLUB, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD**

## Article II – Mission & Purpose

### Section I – Mission of Fox River Patriots 4-H

The 4-H Youth Development Program through the University of Wisconsin Extension Office will use a “Learn by Doing” approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes and expertise they need to become competent, caring and productive citizens of the global society. This objective is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of the land grant university system, along with the involvement of caring adults to improve the well being of area youth.

### Section II – Purpose

The purpose of this club shall be:

- 1) To provide “Learn by Doing” educational experiences
- 2) To have FUN while learning practical life skills

- 3) To simulate members personal growth and development. Help gain confidence and personal values. Provide learning experiences for members to practice and evaluate their growth.
- 4) To help youth develop responsible citizenship, learn democratic ways and group living skills through practice. Share in community service and citizenship projects and activities.
- 5) To foster effective leadership and volunteerism for youth and adults.
- 6) To build partnerships between youth, adults and community.

### Article III – Nonprofit Status

The Fox River Patriots 4-H is a nonprofit organization. Any funds received by the club for carrying out its purpose shall not accrue to the benefit of individuals or families, but to the benefit of the 4-H Youth Development Program.

### Article IV – Membership

#### Section I – Eligibility

Any youth, boy or girl, in this country may become a member of the Fox River Patriots 4-H Club by applying for membership in one of the approved club projects and agreeing to live up to the standards set by the club. Youth enrolled in grades K-2<sup>nd</sup> may be 4-H CloverBud members. Memberships with the vast 4-H projects begins when a child is at least age 9 and/or enrolled in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Youth graduation from 4-H is the member's senior year in high school or one year after. Membership is open to any youth regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, handicap, marital or parental status.

**Home Schooled:** Children are to enroll based on their chronological age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current program year.

**Special Needs Members:** Participant who are in Special Education are encouraged to enroll based on their chronological age and/or educational level.

#### Section II – Member Responsibility

4-H members work as individuals and as a TEAM. They:

- Select projects with guidance from a 4-H leader, parents or guardians, older 4-Hers, or other resource individuals.
- Complete the outlined project work.
- Keep a record of project, community service and other notable work.
- Participate in local and county 4-H activities and events.
- Exhibit project work at the Green Lake County Fair
- Participate in committee assignments
- Participate in community service activities.
- Abide by the 4-H Code of Conduct
- Perform a demonstration and/or perform a drama skit or some other public address. This is for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> and up each year to achieve county level awards.

- Attend 4-H meetings and project meetings \*\*\*

\*\*\*Attendance:

All members are expected to attend scheduled bi-monthly club meeting. A member may be excused from attendance by notifying either a club leader or the club secretary.

It is understood, that with a number of families there are problems attending club meetings and/or project meetings and/or club activities. The club's leadership shall try and help out the families in these situations and will be dealt with case by case situation. The intent of the Fox River Patriots are to try and give the youth in our area an open mindedness to try and Make the Best Better for each and every family.

However, it will still remain, in order to have county level achievement and awards on special trips, standards of club meeting attendance, project work, community service activities, working together as a team, and record books must be achieved. If this is not met, the Fox River Patriots 4-H Club will not recommend a member for any special award and/or trip.

### Section III – Committees

Committee participation is a tool to accomplish the work of the club. Sign-ups for committees shall be requested at club meetings with the chair being appointed by the majority of members who volunteered or were selected to the committee by the president or leaders. Committees allow for a much more understanding by the membership involved on the subject matter that needs to have planning and/or decisions made before the general meetings. Also, this builds strong team work and leadership within the club.

### Section IV – Leadership Responsibility

The general co-leaders or general leader shall meet leadership requirements determined by the University of Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development and the County 4-H Leader's Association. The general co-leaders shall assume or delegate responsibility for new enrollments of members and leaders, helping members with all 4-H matters, advise the club membership during the election of officers, plan yearly and monthly programs, serve as contact person between UW-Extension and the club and continue to work together with members, parents and families in club activities.

The project leaders are essential in carrying out the 4-H Youth Development Program. Project leaders teach youth skills and knowledge in an area of their interests. In addition, project leaders are interested in young people, and they:

- Help members plan & organize their project work.
- Help members organize & conduct project meetings.
- Obtain project literature & distribute materials.
- Encourage members to set attainable, measurable objectives & develop their own standards for project work, according to their abilities & interests.
- Keep members informed about project-related events in which they are eligible to participate; give members ideas on how to prepare for these events if they need help.

- Give recognition for any kind of progress to encourage continued improvement.
- Spend some time at the end of each year with each member showing them how to measure & evaluate the overall progress made in their project.
- Talk with parents of members who need extra help or who have problems working with other members.
- Participate in leaders' meetings, keeping the organizational leader or leaders informed of their own group's work & progress.
- Delegate work to junior & teen leaders.

Junior and Teen Leaders are another part of the leadership team. Junior leaders are 4-H members in junior high and teen leaders are in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above. These members participate in a Leadership Development Project in order to learn leadership skills. It is important for adults to let the junior and teen leaders assume as much responsibility as possible.

#### Article V – Amendments

The constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the total membership at any regular meeting. Adequate notice is needed of such amendments shall have been given at a previous meeting.

#### Article VI - Meetings

##### Section I – Dates/Location/Time

The Fox River Patriots 4-H Club shall meet regularly on scheduled months usually, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the scheduled month. Business meetings will be held at the Princeton American Legion Hall. The time and place of extra activities will be determined at the previous meeting. Meetings will be held at 6:00pm.

The club shall hold at least 6 business meetings per year. Project meetings are determined by the individual project leader and will vary every year.

The general co-leaders and/or the club president may call as needed special meetings. Adequate notice is needed.

##### Section II – Quorum

With the necessity to constitute business at each meeting for the next couple of months before the club would be able to meet again, it is essential that business will be determined at the current meeting with the membership that attends. Basically, business will be taken care of with the numbers present at the meeting.

If there are issues that can be sent to the meeting if a member can not be present due to an excusable reason, these matters can be introduced into the business meeting.

##### Section III – Order of Business

The order of business shall be determined by the general co-leaders and executive club officers for the regular club meetings.

## Article VII - Officers

### Section I – Club Officers

The officers of this club shall be: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and reporter. To be elected to an office, only active members of the Fox River Patriots 4-H program, a member in good standing and in at least the 5<sup>th</sup> grade of school. All terms will be for one year with elections to be held at the September meeting. Voting is by majority and done by secret ballot. Officers may be re-elected for two consecutive terms.

If there are no members interested present of 5<sup>th</sup> grade or higher, the general co-leaders shall determine whether or not someone at a lower grade will be allowed for the election of an office.

### Section II – Duties of Officers

The President – shall preside at all meetings of the Fox River Patriots 4-H Club and shall have in mind the best interests of all club members. It is the responsibility of the president to make the meeting meaningful and interesting that will make the membership continue to look forward to each meeting. The president may call special meetings with the consent of the general co-leaders.

The Vice-President – shall in the absence of the president, preside over the business meeting. All committees shall report to the Vice-President on their progress and recommendations.

The Secretary – shall keep minutes of all club meetings and send a copy of the minutes to the County 4-H office shortly after the meeting. The secretary shall keep a current roll of members and their attendance and shall be responsible for any and all correspondence involving the activities of the club.

The Treasurer – shall receive, deposit, disburse & keep a complete & accurate accounting of all monies of the Fox River Patriots 4-H Club. The treasurer shall be prepared to present a current report at each meeting of the club. A final report will be prepared for submission to the County 4-H office at the end of the program year. Any disbursement of money for an event or to an individual over \$75, shall first be approved by the general co-leaders or otherwise not allowed to be issued.

The Reporter – shall serve as public relations officer and shall prepare news reports of the club's meeting, community service activities and other Fox River Patriots items needed to be reported to the news media. It is expected for the reporter to keep a scrapbook and to be turned into the leaders at the end of the year for possible county awards. After any

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possible awards, the reporter's scrapbook will then become part of the Fox River Patriots 4-H Club's historical records and future promotional efforts.