



Frequently Asked Questions about New Jersey 4-H Cloverbud Program



1. Why did the Prep name change to Cloverbud?

- a. The 4-H Cloverbud program is a nationally recognized program for younger 4-H members. Many states are already using the Cloverbud name. As of September 1, 2009, New Jersey is aligning itself with the majority of the country.

2. What is the difference between the Prep program and the Cloverbud program?

- a. The Prep program was only open to youth in grades 1-3. The NJ 4-H Cloverbud program is open to youth in grades K-3. This also aligns with the majority of states who involve kindergarten students (youth age 5) in their program.

3. What happens to the prep materials that have already been purchased?

- a. The transition period, during which Prep materials may be used, is one year. If any county really feels as though this will be a hardship for them, they can contact the FCS committee. Creative ways to exhaust supplies are highly recommended.

4. Is this coming from the National 4-H Program?

- a. No, it is not. The Family and Consumer Science committee sent a survey to counties to be distributed both electronically and by hard copy. The survey dealt with improving the program to include Kindergarten (just as other youth serving organizations do). This survey was the basis for the update of the program. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Department of 4-H Youth Development faculty and staff did not make this decision without the input of nearly 150 volunteers from around the state.

5. Why was the name "Cloverbud" chosen?

- a. The Cloverbud program is still an exploratory program for young 4-H members; however, the name "Cloverbud" is more recognized through the 4-H community, and allows for more consistency between states. The original name of Prep came about in the early to mid 1980s and was derived from the idea of young 4-Hers being a part of a Preparatory 4-H program where they explored a variety of project areas. The concepts behind the Prep program are not changing, just the name.

6. What does changing the name do for NJ 4-H?

- a. It positions the NJ 4-H program for more creative marketing opportunities. Because this is a name that is recognized on a national level, it also allows Cloverbud members to feel like a bigger part of the overall 4-H program. They are also now able to purchase materials through the National 4-H Sourcebook (www.4hmall.org), which is something that was not available to them before.

7. How can volunteers help with the transition?

- a. Volunteers who are interested in working with younger youth can start a Cloverbud club, or work with existing 4-H Club leaders that have younger 4-H members. Volunteers can also help by promoting the new 4-H Cloverbud program in their local communities.

8. Why are Cloverbud leaders so important?

- a. Cloverbud leaders are very important people. They serve as role models to these younger 4-H members. They are also responsible for making sure that the child's first 4-H experience is a positive one.

9. For more information about the 4-H Cloverbud Program please go to

<http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/policies/members-cloverbudpolicy-2009-0901.pdf>.