

# Wabaunsee County 4-H Independent Study Overview

The 4-H Club provides a small group learning environment for the positive development of young people. There may be extenuating circumstances where Independent Study memberships would be warranted if the young person cannot join a club. The circumstances should be carefully reviewed and granted sparingly as an exception.

Per the Kansas 4-H Youth Development Policies (revised April 2013): An extension board may grant an individual study membership status to an eligible youth or family. Individualized study should not ordinarily be allowed when the potential exists to participate in an organized 4-H club. If the extension board chooses to grant individual study membership status, expectations must be clearly stated. Re-enrollments in succeeding years will be based on the completion of the Independent Study Year-End Completion Form and approval by the extension board.

Independent Study 4-H members (also referred to as Individual Study 4-H members) participate in planned learning outside of a club setting. Their work is self-directed with guidance and support of parents and mentors. Self-study, home study, mentoring or shadowing with an “expert”, and whole families learning together are examples of 4-H Independent Study membership.

These expectations must be completed by each due date. Each item listed below is based upon requirements set for individual study by Kansas 4-H Youth Development.

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
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**January 1**

- Enroll through 4-HOnline
- Mentor approved as VIP
- Submit to Extension Office:
  - Independent Study 4-H Member Application
  - Participation Form
  - Letter (requesting Independent Study membership) to Executive Board

**First Monday in October (at completion of 4-H year)**

- Submit to Extension Office:
  - Independent Study Year-End Completion Form
  - Personal Page
  - 4-H Story
  - 4-H Permanent Record

**Additional Information:**

- During County Fair, Independent Members will:
  - Compete in Livestock Herdsmanship Contest as “Independents” rather than a club
  - Work Concession Stand shifts and maintain cleanliness around the fairgrounds as assigned by the Extension Office <these maybe be assigned jointly with a club>