



10/2015

1. Does California 4-H have a uniform?

Yes, California 4-H has a uniform; however, it cannot be required for participation in any 4-H sponsored activity, event, meeting, or occasion (see 4-H Policy Manual Chapter 5, Section XIII). California 4-H adopted a new uniform on July 1, 2015; for more information visit: <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/216262.pdf>

2. Why was the 4-H uniform modified?

In 2014, the Associate Director of 4-H Program and Policy asked the State 4-H Incentives and Recognition (I & R) Advisory Committee to examine and make recommendations regarding the 4-H uniform (see #3 below for the process). The request to review the 4-H uniform was in response to calls and complaints from 4-H parents, youth, volunteers and counties requesting uniform changes.

3. What was the process of selecting the new 4-H uniform?

The State 4-H I & R Advisory Committee facilitated an extensive process that included a 4-H member design contest and voting input from 4-H members and adult volunteers across the state. 4-H members submitted design ideas. From the submissions an ad hoc 4-H I & R subcommittee prepared multiple uniform options. 4-H members and adult volunteers voted on these options at the State 4-H Field Day in May of 2014 and via an online survey. The results were analyzed and evaluated, and the final uniform recommendations were submitted to the State 4-H Policy Advisory Committee for review and to the Associate Director of 4-H Program and Policy for final approval.

4. Were there specific criteria when selecting the new uniform?

Yes, the criteria for the new uniform were:

- The pieces of clothing must be readily available to ALL youth.*
- The uniforms must be affordable for a wide range of family budgets.*
- The uniform must have an identifying logo and display the brand of the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development Program and it must have a place to display recognition items.*

5. With the adoption of the new 4-H uniform guidelines, effective July 1, 2015, have the uniforms requirements for 4-H exhibitors at fairs been modified?

The dress requirements for 4-H exhibitors are determined by each fair and exposition. The State 4-H Office sent a letter to each California fair in October 2015 requesting





10/2015

that they change their uniform requirements for exhibiting 4-H members to include the following:

1. *Official green 4-H hat branded with the UC ANR and the 4-H clover logo mark. To view the new hat: http://4h.ucanr.edu/About/Uniform/California_4-H_Hat/.*
2. *A plain white shirt with a collar. Any length of sleeve, including sleeveless is acceptable.*
3. *Dark blue, black, or white pants (all fabric types are acceptable). Alternative Casual Uniform: Shorts may be worn for casual, non-livestock activities (e.g., still exhibits). Alternative Business Uniform: Dress slacks or skirts may be worn for business events and activities (e.g., interviews or formal presentations).*
4. *OPTIONAL: A traditional 4-H tie or scarf worn with the collared white shirt. The tie and scarf are both worn under the collar. Any member can wear either the scarf or the tie, whichever the member is most comfortable wearing.*

Youth may continue to use the current green hat with only the 4-H clover logo mark for the remainder of their 4-H careers. Youth who are currently senior level members may continue to use their white hat for the remainder of their 4-H career. Senior members may also convert to the green hat as they choose.

5. Why was dark blue, black or white pants chosen?

The rationale for requesting that 4-H members be given the option to exhibit in dark blue, black, or white pants is that the [California 4-H Dress Guidelines](#) call for “bottoms that are appropriate to the event or activity” and this general statement may have resulted in varying opinions as to what is “appropriate” show attire.

6. If the 4-H uniform is not required for participation in 4-H then why did the State 4-H Office notify fairs of the uniform changes?

Fairs are not under the jurisdiction of the 4-H YDP and may require their own clothing for showing. Dress requirements for 4-H participation at fairs and expositions is determined by each fair or exposition. Most (if not all) fairs require 4-H exhibitors to wear the 4-H uniform. As such, the State 4-H Office sent letters to notify the fairs of the uniform changes.

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