

Farm Bureau Article: June, 2012
Frequency Project

Dear Lynn,

As a new project volunteer in 4-H, can you tell me what the minimum number of educational hours required for a project?

Sincerely, Mike Minute

Dear Mike Minute,

Currently the minimum hours needed to complete a project is six hours of instruction. However, recently in academic circles there has been a lot of discussion around not only the hours of education, but also the needed frequency of educational opportunities in order to positively impact learning. As such, I am part of a research project taking a look at the impacts of educational frequency on 4-H members participating in a Veterinary Science project.

Beginning in the fall of 2012, 4-H members in grades fourth through sixth from Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties, and their volunteer leaders will have an opportunity to help us answer questions regarding how often 4-H projects should meet in order for the experience to be beneficial and for learning to occur. Through participating in the new California 4-H curriculum "Youth Development through Veterinary Science," youth will engage in fun, hands-on interactive learning session on either a weekly, bi-weekly, or tri-weekly schedule, thus helping us to determine the best frequency for learning, as well as providing youth and volunteers with new curriculum, training and educational materials.

If you would like to learn more about this project or participate, please contact Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty at lschmittmcquitty@ucdavis.edu or 831-763-8026.