

# Cloverbud "Graduation" Ceremony

This ceremony is to be used as seven-year-old Cloverbud members "graduate" from Cloverbuds to a 4-H community club. It requires no props, except some recognition items such as a certificate or other items for the graduating members. You may want to include members and parents from both Cloverbud clubs and the community club and make it a festive gathering.

## Directions for Ceremony:

*(4 Cloverbud members stand face-to-face with arms in the air over head.)*

A flower bud is a flower that is still growing and developing. Cloverbuds are 4-H'ers who are learning and growing. They will soon become involved with all parts of the 4-H program.

As a Cloverbud turns into a 4-H Clover each leaf grows and develops. The leaf representing the **head** grows knowledge, learning how to solve problems. *(One Cloverbud drops his/her arms to side then makes a big circle with arms, taking one step back, to form one leaf of the clover.)* As a 4-H'er continues to learn they gain clearer thinking skills.

Cloverbuds have learned to work and learn together with others. And as 4-H members their **heart** will learn loyalty to family, friends, and community. *(Second One Cloverbud drops his/her arms to side then makes a big circle with arms, taking one step back, to form one leaf of the clover.)*

Cloverbuds have developed skills with their **hands**, but a 4-H'er will learn new skills and how to use their hands for service to others. *(Third One Cloverbud drops his/her arms to side then makes a big circle with arms, taking one step back, to form one leaf of the clover.)*

Cloverbuds have learned how food and exercise help them be healthy. As 4-H members they'll learn to use their **health** for better living in their club, community, country, and world. *(Fourth One Cloverbud drops his/her arms to side then makes a big circle with arms, taking one step back, to form one leaf of the clover.)*

As 4-H members these young people will learn skills for life. *(Cloverbuds who are still to young for a community club return to the rest of the group.)*

I would now like to have each Cloverbud member who will be moving on to 4-H club please come forward as I call your name. *(Congratulate member and award a Certificate for participating in the Cloverbud program and have them join their family.)*

Would you all join me in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and then to the 4-H Flag.

*(If more than 4 Cloverbuds are graduating, form several Cloverbud groups to make the clovers. If fewer than 4, ask other children to help.)*

## 4-H Cloverbud County Graduation Ceremony

Today you are officially being recognized as a graduating member of the \_\_\_\_\_ County 4-H Cloverbud program. As a graduating member you have the opportunity to advance into the traditional 4-H program. This right of passage is bestowed upon you as you have grown with knowledge and with age to become a 4-H member. This opportunity comes with the responsibility to continue your efforts “to make the best better” and to continue to live your lives according to the words in the 4-H pledge.

As a 4-H member we hope you will use your *head* to think clearly to make good decisions and choices; that you will put your *heart* into your new club and 4-H projects; that you will make use of your *hands* to assist and help others; and that you will take care of your body and mind by choosing a *healthy* lifestyle. We hope that you will do these things not only for yourself, but for your family, your club, your community, your country and your world. (Add the individual leaves of the clover as you say this.)

While you may feel like only one small segment of our population, you must know that the adults sitting in this room will be looking to you in twenty to thirty years as our future leaders. We have high expectations for you and know that you will be able to achieve anything you put your mind to. The beauty of the four leaf clover is that it cannot develop and would not be complete without the support of the stem. The stem represents your 4-H volunteers and parents who support you. (Add the stem to complete the four leaf clover.) Let's take a moment to thank the 4-H Cloverbud leaders and your parents for their support of your involvement in this program. {Applause.}

The 4-H Clover is now complete: **Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.** May the principles of 4-H help you grow into a responsible citizen. 4-H Cloverbud members, please join me as we repeat the 4-H pledge.

*I pledge my head to clearer thinking,  
My heart to greater loyalty,  
My hands to larger services,  
My health to better living,  
For my club, my community, my country and my world.*

Now, I will call each of your names individually and ask that you come forward to receive your “graduation diploma” (whatever token you wish to bestow on each graduating 4-H Cloverbud member).

Welcome to the \_\_\_\_\_ County 4-H program. We look forward to your participation in a community club next year. Use your enthusiasm and your energy to make your 4-H experience the best it can be!

Congratulations!

7/05