

ADULT LEADERSHIP

General Leaders

General leaders provide overall club leadership. They are responsible for the organizational aspects of the club and serve as liaisons to the county 4-H Leaders Association. They also coordinate members, parents, and volunteers and advise youth in making decisions for the club. General leaders should attend bi-monthly county Leaders Association meetings and are responsible for keeping club members informed.

Project Leaders

Adults are asked to share their skills by offering to be project leaders. Being an adult project leader in 4-H simply means being willing to spend a couple of hours each month leading a project meeting. The leader helps youth acquire skills and knowledge in their area of interest through hands-on experiences. A list is available at the Extension Office of people who provide county-wide project leader support.

Project leaders do not have to be an expert in the project but should be willing to share what they know and help members find additional project resources through the Extension Office, the library, the Internet, books, or from community members. At the Extension Office, a variety of leader guides are available to help leaders with project meetings and many resources are also available at www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/clubs/. The cost of project work is not the responsibility of the project leader but rather the individual members, but some clubs choose to help defray costs.

Committees

Committees are made up of adult and youth volunteers who are responsible for planning and conducting events at the county level. The 4-H Youth Development Educator serves as an advisor to committees. Volunteers may sign up each year in October to be on committees and will usually have two or three meetings per year. New committees will be designed based on need. The existing committees include:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| -Leadership | -Jump Start 4-H | -Family, Home & Health |
| -Cultural Arts | -Shooting Sports | -Fair |
| -Banquet and Awards | -Expansion and Review | -Nominating |
| -Premium List | | |

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of leaders elected by the 4-H Adult Leaders Association. Any involved adult volunteer can run for a position on the board. Elections take place in October and elected members serve a two-year term. The board is responsible for the final decision-making process for the county 4-H program. The board meets bi-monthly and is advised by the 4-H Youth Development Educator.

Adult Leaders Association

General leaders, project leaders, parents, adult committee members, and the Board of Directors are all part of the Adult Leaders Association. This association meets bi-monthly, on the month opposite the Board of Directors meeting.

Open Door Policy

All 4-H meetings operate under the assumption of an open door policy. This means that any individual that is interested in attending a meeting may do so regardless of whether or not he/she is part of a particular committee or association.

Leading 4-H as an Adult

The idea of getting kids and adults involved together is one of the basic tenets of 4-H. Parents have the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge with 4-H members. A home can become a school, laboratory or meeting place in various ways.

For every successful 4-H'er, there is a caring and supportive adult available (often a parent). In the same manner, for every strong 4-H club, there are parents who feel strongly about being a part of the club operation. Parents can participate in the following ways:

- Assisting members in selecting 4-H projects
- Helping members with project activities
- Attending club meetings
- Having fun with 4-H'ers
- Being supportive and showing interest in member and club activities
- Providing assistance to the general and project leaders
- Serving on a club committee of your choice
- Offering your skill(s) and talent(s). Parents make great project leaders!
- Providing transportation
- The sky is the limit -- talk to the club general leader about ways in which you can help.

4-H is a Family Affair!

The most important role of adults in 4-H is to support their children in the commitments they make, help them think through decisions, and assist them in reaching their goals.

By making 4-H a family affair, parents and adults can assist the youth of today to become tomorrow's leaders.