

4-H YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

Since 1994, the Wisconsin 4-H program has mandated that all counties implement the Youth Protection Program. The purpose of the program is to help guarantee the safety and well-being of youth and to provide information to all adult 4-H volunteers.

Components of the Youth Protection Program

Step 1 - Volunteer Certification Training

All volunteers must attend one volunteer certification training. A training session will cover the following topics:

- 4-H program philosophy
- Role of the 4-H volunteer
- How to work with 4-H youth
- Safe practices for 4-H youth and adult volunteers

Two sessions are usually scheduled each year and last less than two hours.

Step 2 - Volunteer Background Check

All volunteers must complete the 4-H volunteer application form. This form will be used to conduct background checks through the Department of Justice every four years. These checks will be conducted in the strictest of confidence and filed in a locked cabinet.

Step 3 - Volunteer Behavior Expectations Form

All volunteers must sign a Volunteer Behavior Expectations Form every year. The form outlines appropriate conduct for volunteers. It should be turned in to the Extension Office with enrollment forms and is due December 31 of each year.

What's in it for Volunteers?

Insurance Coverage - County liability insurance and accident insurance is only available to volunteers who have completed the Youth Protection Program.

Peace of Mind - As a parent, leader, or concerned adult you will know that all volunteers working with 4-H children have gone through the Youth Protection Program.

A Better Understanding - Volunteers will become familiar with the 4-H program through the certification process.

Support and Recognition - Volunteers have access to support, training and free literature from the Extension Office that will assist them in their roles. Certified volunteers may chaperone trips, camps or host a 4-H exchange student. Cumulative years of volunteer service are recognized at the annual banquet in October.