

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF **4-H**

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BASICS FOR NEW LEADERS



Opportunities for 4-H Leaders

Key ideas

- Leader opportunities at the county, state, regional, and national levels
- Youth as resources
- Other resources for 4-H leaders

As you feel comfortable with one aspect of the program, you'll want to challenge yourself to take on new leadership experiences. You've probably discovered that, along with your members, you, too, are gaining new knowledge.

Many opportunities are available for 4-H leaders to learn more about the 4-H program, make new friends, and develop additional skills. Your county 4-H newsletter announces and describes these activities as they occur.

Opportunities at the county level

New 4-H leader workshops/meetings. You already may have attended a new 4-H leader workshop/meeting with your county staff, community coordinator, or other volunteer. If not, find out from your county Extension office when the next meeting will be held.

Project leader meetings. One of the best ways to become familiar with the 4-H program and to find out what other leaders are doing with their clubs is to attend 4-H leader meetings in your

county. Some counties have project leader meetings (e.g., livestock leaders, home economics leaders, horse leaders, small-animal leaders, expressive arts leaders, etc.). Not only will you find these meetings helpful and informative, but other leaders will appreciate your ideas and assistance.

County 4-H activities. Consider becoming a member of a planning committee or a volunteer organizer of one of the many county 4-H activities, such as: fair superintendent or assistant, judge's clerk, contest coordinator, fundraising committee, workshop director, or summer camp staff.

4-H leaders are the key to a successful 4-H program. Leaders who take an active part in county 4-H activities not only help the program succeed, but find they become more effective leaders while developing their own skills.

County 4-H leaders Association/committee. Many counties have an organized group of leaders who meet on a regular basis to discuss the county 4-H program, review 4-H activities, conduct 4-H program fundraising, and provide program advice to the county staff. This group may be called the "County 4-H Leaders Association," the "County 4-H Leaders Council," or the "County 4-H Youth-Adult Council."

Scholarship assistance. Some counties have limited scholarship assistance available for leaders who apply for area, state, regional, or national workshops. Information is available at your county Extension office.



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE

Adapted for AZ 4-H

Opportunities at the state level

State 4-H Youth-Adult Council Volunteer leaders may become involved on the state level. One way is with State 4-H Youth-Adult Council. This is opportunity to serve on a team of 2 youth and 2 adults to provide communication and program leadership. Youth-Adult teams are trained in leadership skills to serve as resource in their county and region.

State program opportunities

Program development and event management committees offer opportunities for adult volunteers to lend their expertise in curriculum development and activity planning. Check with your county extension office for applications and position descriptions.

State Fair. State Fair offers many opportunities for volunteer 4-H leader involvement. Volunteering as a judge's clerk is an excellent way to find out what judges are looking for in 4-H exhibits. Volunteer show chairs and vice-chairs (superintendents) plan, organize, and conduct many of the shows and activities that take place during State Fair. Talk to your county Extension staff about how to get involved in these opportunities usually are open to all volunteer leaders. County Extension offices receive announcements about upcoming judges' workshops.



Opportunities at the regional and national level

Western Region 4-H Leaders Forum. Every year a Western Region 4-H Leaders Forum is held in one of the 13 Western states in our region, usually in February or March. The program features 3 days of informative seminars and meetings, tours, and meals, and an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other 4-H leaders from the West.

National 4-H Center. The National 4-H Center near Washington, DC is available for 4-H leaders to stay with their families while visiting the nation's capital. Reservations must be made in advance. Check with your local Extension staff for more information.

Youth as resources A possible source of leadership help with your club might be an older 4-H member. An older 4-H member, experienced in the same project area, could be a valuable asset in acquainting you with the total 4-H program and could provide excellent assistance in teaching your club members. Sometimes it works very well for a club with a wide range of ages and skill levels to have an experienced older member work with the younger members. This arrangement also provides an excellent opportunity for older 4-H members to develop their leadership skills. Ask your county Extension staff for ideas about involvement of older 4-H members in leadership roles.

Other resources for 4-H leaders

As you can tell from this series of publications, the best resource persons for a new leader are your county's 4-H staff and other volunteer leaders. Don't hesitate to contact them for ideas, information, and assistance. In addition, the state 4-H staff is available for assistance. They can be contacted through your county Extension staff.

Master volunteers. Other agents in your county and trained Extension volunteers (such as Master Gardeners, Master Wildlife Stewards, Master Consumer Advisors) are useful resources for information for your 4-H club.

Audiovisual library. Your county Extension office has a catalog of audiovisual aids that you can borrow from the county or state 4-H office. These include teaching kits, slide sets with tapes, and videotapes covering different project areas, general leadership, and citizenship. These should be ordered 3 to 4 weeks in advance.

Publications. In addition to the publications already listed in this series, there is a multitude of resource publications at your county Extension office. Also available is the National 4-H Supply Catalog. Ask your county Extension staff about these.

Thanks for volunteering

We hope that the information in this series has been helpful to you. We know it's a challenge to be a 4-H leader, and we also know it can be one of the most rewarding experiences you'll have—helping young

people develop into successful, caring, and productive citizens.

Welcome to the role of volunteer 4-H leader!

Action steps

- Talk with county Extension staff about guidelines for involvement of youth as a resource in your 4-H club.
- Learn more about audiovisuals available for use with your 4-H club.
- Become involved in one or more opportunities for 4-H leaders at the county, state, or regional levels.

Reference materials

Copies are available at your county Extension office.

Fair handbooks

Leader Forum information

Audiovisual catalog

Contacting your county Extension office

To locate an address and phone number, look in your local telephone directory. It may be listed in any number of ways in the white pages or in one of the special sections. For example, it might be listed as: 4-H; University of Arizona Extension Service; or (county name) Extension Service.

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