



4-H VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SERIES

N e b r a s k a 4 - H Y o u t h D e v e l o p m e n t

Develop a 4-H Volunteer Leader Team

Being a 4-H volunteer leader does not mean carrying the whole load alone!!

Too often the 4-H club leader becomes the “do it all” person – organizing the club, directing project selection, planning the club program and activities, encouraging presentations and communication activities, directing community service projects, assisting with record books and the list goes on. With this schedule, it doesn’t take long for burnout to set in.

Take advantage of the human resources available and establish a leader team. A leader team can make the leader roles more effective, enjoyable, and rewarding. Whether parents, past 4-H members, college students, teen 4-H members, or others from the community fill the leader role, a 4-H volunteer leader team can ease the load for everyone.

Everyone can benefit from having a 4-H volunteer leader team for the 4-H club.

- The **club** - can be better organized and offer more opportunities.
- The **members** - will have more leaders available to provide specialized help.
- The **families** - can have more involvement.
- The **leaders** - will have more time and energy to devote to specific areas; a greater pool of ideas and resources; less stress; a support group to call upon.

The 4-H Volunteer Leader Team

The size and number of members of the 4-H volunteer leader team will vary from club to club, depending on the size and structure of the club. Each club will identify its individual needs and decide on the leader team that will work best.

Some Volunteer 4-H Leader Options:

- **Organizational Leader** -
This is the main leader that serves as the primary contact between the club and County Extension Office and gives leadership to managing and organizing the club.

- **Project Leader -**
There might be several project leaders. Helping select projects and working on project activities would be the main focus for the project leader.
- **Group Leader –**
Clubs with a wide range of ages of members may chose to divide the club into groups according to ages instead of projects. A group leader would help a specific age group select projects and organize activities to enhance the projects.
- **Activity Leader –**
This leader would organize club activities such as community service, fund raising, trips and tours, promotional activities, and more.
- **Business Meeting Leader –**
The main role would be to help the officers conduct the business meeting using parliamentary procedure.
- **Career Portfolio Leader –**
Reviewing the Career Portfolio with the members and helping them keep records and complete the Career Portfolio would be the roles of this leader as well as being knowledgeable about possible awards and scholarships available.
- **Communication Leader –**
A communication leader would keep the members up-to-date with news and deadlines about local, county, state, and national activities that would be relevant to the club members and implement a contact tree (e-mail or phone) to remind about meetings etc.