



HOW TO...

Support Youth in Leadership Roles

Youth develop leadership skills through hands-on leadership experiences:

- Youth can share in planning and decision making with adults and other youth.
- Youth can teach or demonstrate at club meetings and project meetings.
- Experienced youth members can serve as mentors to other youth members.
- Youth of any age can be responsible for tasks that are age appropriate.
- Youth can lead or join a committee or group.

Adults should apply practices that best support engaging youth in leadership experiences:

- Adult Invitation – encourage and individually invite youth to step forward into leadership roles.
- Authentic Contribution – provide experiences that make a meaningful contribution toward addressing authentic needs and issues.
- Recognition and Voice – give youth the opportunity to feel valued and have a real voice in their leadership experiences.
- Opportunities to Practice Leadership Skills – engage youth in experiences that aid in learning and practicing communication, teamwork and decision making skills.
- Youth/Adult Partnership – work with youth to have shared leadership and ownership.

Provide appropriate levels of adult involvement:

- All members are at different ages, stages and levels of experience.
- Younger members require more direct, hands-on involvement than older youth.
- The role of adult leaders is to work with all youth and give each of them the opportunity to grow, learn and lead.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Developing leadership skills in youth is one of the primary goals of 4-H.

Leadership experiences help youth strengthen skills in communication, teamwork, decision making, self confidence and more!

Different levels of adult involvement are needed in different situations.