

Utilizing Parents Fact Sheet



Parent support for the 4-H program can be obtained by...

- Asking the parents to help
- Identifying the parents' skills and interests that they would like to share
- Keeping the parents informed of 4-H Club meetings and activities
- Communicating clearly with the parents
- Helping the parents to better understand the 4-H program

Roles that 4-H parents can perform include...

- Assisting with club meetings and activities
- Transporting 4-H members to and from club events
- Serving on planning committees
- Sharing expertise in various 4-H project areas
- Supporting 4-H throughout the community
- Leading/assisting with service learning opportunities
- Promoting 4-H among their circle of friends and acquaintances
- Encouraging members to complete their 4-H projects

Expectations of 4-H parents include...

- Encouraging members to participate in and complete 4-H activities and projects
- Advising children with 4-H project selection
- Being knowledgeable and informed about 4-H
- Guiding, advising, teaching, and counseling members, but don't do the work for them
- Setting a positive example in good sportsmanship
- Encouraging children whether they succeed or fail
- Helping children make decisions and choices and reach their full potential
- Supporting the 4-H club as a positive parental influence

Methods to help parents, 4-H volunteers, and staff members to work together include...

- Establishing a mind-set that positive parent involvement is desirable
- Involving parents more fully in 4-H
- Asking parents for their input and participation
- Informing parents of the essential elements of positive youth development
- Sharing opportunities available in 4-H
- Keeping parents informed of dates, times, and locations of 4-H activities
- Welcoming parents to attend club events
- Providing contact information for those working with the club
- Rotating responsibilities among 4-H families so no one person or family is overloaded
- Sharing appreciation for parent support publicly and privately
- Providing opportunities for parents to offer constructive feedback and suggestions regarding 4-H

Offering a 4-H Parent Orientation Meeting is a recommended Promising Practice to help parents better understand the basics of the 4-H program.

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