



# 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADER ROLES

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Leadership means guiding and influencing others to achieve goals. Leadership means getting things done.

In 4-H, most volunteers lead projects for a local year-round club or short-term 4-H groups. But there are many ways that volunteers get involved. 4-H volunteer leaders are youth and adults that are working to make a difference in the lives of young people.

**Project Leader** - Coordinates and teaches members within a specific project area, such as photography, foods, or dairy. 4-H volunteer project leaders are the "backbone" of 4-H.

**4-H Club Team Leader** - Provides overall 4-H club leadership. Also coordinates members, parents, and the involvement of other leaders. 4-H Club Leaders can be an individual, a team, or a group of people that have specific roles that fulfill the 4-H Club Leader responsibilities. Team members can be a youth adult partnership.

**Activity Leader** - Directs activities, such as drama, fund raising, recreation, community service, and promotion. Members learn through involvement in the activity.

**Key or Resource Leader** - Serves as a resource to leaders or members in a specific project or activity area.

**Teen or Youth Leader** - Older 4-H member who develops leadership skills and teaches other 4-H members. The 4-H Youth Leadership Project is designed to give youth the experience they need under the guidance of an adult volunteer. 4-H'ers learn leadership skills by teaching, working with others, and taking on responsibilities.

**County 4-H Leader Organization** - The county 4-H Leader Organization supports their county 4-H program through one or more of the following roles:

- Conduct supplemental county level programs for youth
- Support volunteer education
- Raise funds and manage a budget to support 4-H Youth Development work
- Coordinate county level recognition
- Represent 4-H Youth Development to the community
- Advocate for 4-H Youth Development
- Provide input on new 4-H Youth Development opportunities and youth and volunteer needs

**Leaders Association Organization Board of Directors** - While County Leader Organizations are structured in a variety of ways, many operate with a board of directors. Leadership roles the board may provide for the Leaders Organization:

- Organizational planning
- Policy making that relates to the organization
- Enforcement of policies and grievance handling
- Legal responsibilities
- Financial responsibilities

**State 4-H Adult Leader Council** - Composed of one delegate per county selected annually. This group selects an Executive Board. The purpose of the group is to provide a statewide forum for 4-H Youth Development adult leaders on:

- Issue awareness and discussion;
- Education on new opportunities;
- Topic/interest sharing between counties;
- Opportunities for volunteers to be involved in planning and evaluating specific statewide programs; serve on state committees; and as chaperones for state and national programs.

**State 4-H Youth Leader Council** - Composed of 24 youth from across the state who have completed 8th to 10th grade at the start of their two-year term. A slate of candidates is picked from applicants, with selection at the Fall Forum Annual Meeting by youth delegates. Officer elections are held at the June State 4-H Youth Conference. The opportunity to be a candidate is announced in county 4-H newsletters. The Council works to strengthen the statewide 4-H Youth Development Program by addressing youth issues, promoting 4-H, providing leadership at State Youth Conference, and communicating needs between local and state levels.



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