

# Volunteers

## How to Become a 4-H Volunteer

To prepare you for your responsibilities as a 4-H volunteer, you will be invited to special training meetings for 4-H volunteers and receive newsletters and other written materials to help you with your job. County Extension Educators and other volunteers provide personal help throughout the year. Ask for the name of an experienced 4-H volunteer who lives near you to call if you have any questions or need help.

### A 4-H Volunteer must:

- enjoy working with youth
- have a positive attitude
- be caring and nurturing
- have access to transportation and a telephone
- embrace the mission of 4-H and The Ohio State University

## Ways to Volunteer

### Community Club Advisor

Advise a diverse group of 4-H members, (usually in one geographic area) enrolled in a variety of projects.

### Project Club Advisor

Share your skills, talents, and special interests in a single project area.

### Cloverbud Advisor

Lead children in grades K-12 through hands-on learning activities as they develop social skills, learn, and grow.

### Short-Term Volunteer

Teach a special interest program, or assist a 4-H group with a special project.

### Teens Can Be Volunteers

Train to serve as a teen leader, camp counselor, or as a junior fair board member.



## Volunteer's 4-H Pledge

I pledge my **Head** to give children the information I can, to help them see things clearly and to make wise decisions.

I pledge my **Heart** to encourage and support children no matter whether they have success or disappointments.

I pledge my **Hands** to help children's groups; if I cannot be a leader, I can help in many equally important ways.

I pledge my **Health** to keep children strong and well for a better world through 4-H, for children's groups, our community, our country, and our world.

## 4-H Volunteer Standards of Behavior

Serve as a positive mentor and role model by exhibiting good sportsmanship, showing respect and being courteous.

Promote and support Extension 4-H programs.

Responsibly perform duties including handling animals, operating machinery, vehicles and other equipment to safe guard the well-being of your club membership.

Uphold the rules, policies and guidelines established by the Ohio State Extension 4-H Youth Development Program

Provide safe and healthy programs for all club members.

Supervise members using positive behavior management strategies in a group setting, never intentionally being one-on-one with any 4-H member.

## Saying Thank You

Many 4-H members receive medals, certificates, scholarships, bonds, trips, and other awards in recognition of efforts put forth in the 4-H program. One among many lessons to be learned from receiving awards is the importance of saying "thank you."

Without thank you's from the award winners, many of the donors would decide 4-H'ers are not grateful for their awards. If we don't have donors, we won't have awards. Please be sure to thank your sponsor or donor.

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## 4-H Advisor's Handbook

The Ohio 4-H Advisor's Handbook is a play-by-play guide to 4-H club management and positive youth development. Club leaders can find helpful and timely information in these sections:

- **Inside the 4-H's** is a handy collection of 4-H basics—the organization, mission, vision, motto, and more. It's all here!
- Let's say you're ready, willing, and able to start a 4-H club. Now what? **Club Management** has everything you need to get and stay organized.
- What's so special about 4-H? Is there a secret to 4-H's success? Look in **Learning the 4-H Way** to read about project-based learning, the experiential learning process, and teaching and evaluating the 4-H way. Includes information on community service.
- After covering the basics about who can be a 4-H member, **Club Members** taps the expertise of our child development specialists who address everything from youth and teen needs to character development.
- Ohio 4-H relies on its volunteers, the best of whom continually improve their abilities to plan and conduct learning experiences. See how you can make the most of your efforts in **Volunteering**.
- Parents and guardians are the "fans" behind every 4-H'er. Read **A Family Fan Affair** to recognize their essential role and how best to engage them.
- **Managing Risks** offers practical advice and forms for managing everything from permission slips and insurance to safety and travel.



**Ohio 4-H Volunteer Conference**  
**Columbus Convention Center**  
**Saturday, March 14, 2009**

**Mark your calendars to attend this annual state-wide volunteer training and recognition conference.**

**Share a full day of educational seminars, an outstanding awards luncheon and fun with your peers!**

**Special thanks to our luncheon sponsor:**

**Bob Evans**  
**FARMS®**



Need to order 4-H apparel, 4-H gifts, 4-H resources, 4-H stickers, or anything 4-H? Just visit [ohio4h.org](http://ohio4h.org) and click 4-H mall. Orders placed through this special link benefit your 4-H Youth Development program!

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## The National 4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

*For more information of how to become a volunteer in your county, please contact your local county Ohio State University Extension office. Their contact information can be found on page 36.*