



UConn
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

EXTENSION

UConn 4-H Fact Sheet

YOU - The 4-H Volunteer

CALLED TO BE A LEADER

A 4-H volunteer is a crucial partner in helping today's youth grow to see their personal worth and unlock their true potential. 4-H leaders serve as guides, teachers, mentors and a gentle hand to lead young people in exploring the world around them and the role they can play in it now and in the future.

The UConn 4-H program depends on volunteers to implement educational programming and outreach in partnership with university staff, other adult volunteers and young people in a variety of ways and in a host of settings.

TYPES OF VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

In 4-H, volunteers have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of different capacities. They can provide direct service to a group of young people or help in a more indirect way by serving on an advisory committee or foundation. Many volunteer leaders serve in multiple capacities. Below are some of the leadership roles and the responsibilities involved.

⇒ **Club Leader**

- Oversees the workings of a 4-H club including meetings, events and overall 4-H project supervision of club members.
- Keeps members informed of club activities and events.
- Works to insure all members remain in good standing and adequately fulfill 4-H requirements.

⇒ **Assistant Leader**

- Aids club leader with overall club responsibilities.
- Assumes leadership in the absence of the club leader.

⇒ **Project Leader**

- Instructs 4-H members in a specific activity or project area.

⇒ **Junior/Teen Leader**

- Serves as a peer leader to other youth under the guidance of an adult volunteer.

⇒ **Fair Association Advisor/Mentor**

- Mentors 4-H youth leaders in organizing and conducting annual county 4-H fair.
- Assists county 4-H Educator to insure youth officers and association members are completing necessary tasks to guarantee a successful fair.

⇒ **Advisory Committee Member**

- Assists programming efforts in conjunction with 4-H Extension Educator(s)
- Assists in promoting 4-H at various levels to select audiences
- Possibly assists with fundraising or other 4-H special project areas.
- May be involved at the local, county, or state levels.

⇒ **4-H Camp Foundation/Board Member**

- Responsible for oversight of camp properties and programs.
- Assists with fundraising and facility maintenance efforts.

⇒ **Program/Event Committee Member**

- Serve as a member of a planning team for a specific 4-H program or event in partnership with other adults and youth organizers.
- Organizes, implements and evaluates program/event activities.

GETTING STARTED

- Decide that you want to serve as a 4-H volunteer.
- Contact your county 4-H Educator to discuss how your time and talents can best serve 4-H and it's members.
- Complete and return the UConn 4-H volunteer application.
- Complete online volunteer training and screening. (*Screening includes contacting of personal references and a criminal background check under the direction of UConn Human Resources*)
- Once approved, complete a face to face volunteer orientation with a 4-H Educator about the 4-H program and being an effective volunteer leader.
- Begin your journey as a 4-H volunteer leader.

BEING PART OF A SHARED JOURNEY

It is important to remember that once you become a 4-H volunteer leader, in whatever capacity to choose to serve, you are now part of the UConn 4-H family. A few important things to keep in mind...

- You are not required to have all the answers, just a desire to work with young people and their families.
- The resources you need to succeed are readily available. 4-H Educators and other seasoned leaders are here to help you get started with the tools you need to make a positive impact in the lives of young people. There is over a 100 years of 4-H experience at your fingertips.
- UConn 4-H Educators are always available to walk you through the steps and be there for you whenever you need support.
- You will learn as much from the young people you lead as you could ever hope to teach them.
- Whatever level of support you can provide is welcome.

UConn 4-H VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

UConn 4-H Volunteer Application

http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form_61_1299503299.pdf

Annual 4-H Volunteer/Club Leader Enrollment & Agreement Form

http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form_73_2914480884.pdf

UConn Criminal Background Check Packet

http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form_79_2402918728.pdf

Becoming a Volunteer of Record Checklist

http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form_78_4213254251.pdf

Other relevant 4-H Forms and Instructions

<http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form.php>

For information on 4-H contact:

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