

## The 4-H Volunteer

The 4-H Volunteer is the key to a 4-H member having a successful experience in the 4-H club program. Volunteers are the people who can help members develop into caring, responsible citizens of the community.

As a volunteer, you will find that your work with 4-H youth is challenging and frustrating at times. But, overall, your work with these club members will be exciting, fun, and memorable! You are almost guaranteed to gain personal satisfaction from knowing that you have influenced someone to reach their potential! That potential cannot be reached overnight, however. 4-H club members want **and need** guidance, boundaries, and encouragement as they strive to develop their own abilities and discover opportunities for life-long learning.

4-H youth in Louisiana and in our parish need volunteers who possess different kinds of leadership skills. One volunteer might serve as the organizational leader while another may be suited to volunteering in a specific project area.

Here are roles available for volunteers who want to work with 4-H club members:



### 4-H Club Organizational leader

This person organizes and manages the operation of the day to day activities of a school or community based 4-H club. In many cases, this person is often a school faculty member who is assigned the responsibility of being the **4-H club sponsor**.

### Assistant 4-H Club Organizational Leader

The **assistant club leader** often is a parent of a club member. This position usually takes on one of the tasks of the main organizational club leader.

### Project Leader

The **4-H project leader** is a volunteer who chooses a specific 4-H project area to teach to 4-H members. They coordinate lessons and oversee the 4-H member's completion of their project book.

#### 4-H Activity Leader

An **activity leader** is responsible for managing a particular activity whether it be on the local club level (which is at the school-based club) or on the parish level. This person would develop the guidelines needed to conduct the activity, acquire all needed materials and resources, and then conduct the actual activity (with help, of course!). Examples might include these activities on the school level: club fund-raisers, field trips, community service projects, or recognition programs. On the parish level, an activity leader might coordinate a parish contest, a parish service-learning project, a parish-wide fund-raiser, or a parish event.

#### Parish 4-H Activity Volunteer

A person is considered a **parish 4-H activity volunteer** when they serve as a helper at a parish 4-H event. The events needing help from this type of volunteer include: the Parish Fair, parish cookery contests, parish livestock shows, 4-H Achievement Day, and more.

#### 4-H Foundation Board of Directors' member

The parish 4-H program utilizes a Foundation to oversee the financial operations of the parish 4-H program. These members are elected to serve by the existing members of the 4-H Foundation and have a varying length of service. The Board of Directors elects their own officers and are responsible for complying with reporting procedures of the IRS, the State of Louisiana and any LSU AgCenter policies.

#### 4-H Advisory Committee member

The parish 4-H program has an advisory committee comprised of selected volunteers who represent a cross-section of the local community in a variety of criteria. Members meet to view overall goals and objectives of the parish 4-H program and provide guidance for program implementation. Task forces and/or sub-committees exist for specific areas of 4-H program work.

#### 4-H Teen Leader

Teen leaders are 4-H club members who join a specific project club that focuses on leadership development. 4-H members in grades 9-12 may join the **Teen Leader Club** and must commit to serving as a leader in the parish and represent all youth on issues of interest. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade 4-H members may join the club known as **4-H Teens in Action**. Both clubs require annual dues in addition to the membership dues a 4-H'er pays to join at school. These clubs are parish based and all information/activities of these clubs is handled through the parish 4-H office.

#### 4-H Helper

A **helper** is any person who wishes to volunteer as needed to assist 4-H in any capacity at the time the help is needed.

#### 4-H Overnight Chaperone

An **overnight chaperone** is a person over the age of 22 years who has been certified by the parish 4-H program to serve as an overnight chaperone for a parish based 4-H group. A back ground check is required and training is an integral part of the approval process.

#### Collegiate 4-H member/mentor

A **collegiate 4-H member/mentor** is a college-aged young adult who wishes to volunteer to assist with 4-H club or parish activities. They must be certified as an overnight chaperone to attend overnight events but cannot attend in place of an adult who is the appropriate age (over 22 years of age).