

# Working Effectively with 4-H Parents

## Fact Sheet

4-H parents are important to the overall success of the 4-H program. Their involvement can have positive benefits for 4-H members, parents, volunteers, and the club as a whole.

### ***Involvement of 4-H Parents***

Get to know 4-H parents through an interest survey, a special information meeting, or casual conversation. Find out where they would like to help and ask for their support. Be as specific as possible with your request.

Keep parents informed throughout the year of 4-H activities. Keep schedule changes to a minimum. Identify the most effective method by which to communicate events with the parents and maintain open lines of communication with them.

Help parents understand the basics of the 4-H program, opportunities available, and expectations of members and parents.

### ***Roles of 4-H Parents***

- Attend meetings.
- Pick up and drop off children on time.
- Serve on a planning committee.
- Provide refreshments.
- Assist with the operation of the 4-H Club.

### ***Expectations of 4-H Parents***

- Help 4-H members attend meetings.
- Read 4-H information to keep up-to-date on coming events.
- Advise members on appropriate projects to select.
- Encourage completion of projects and accurate record-keeping.
- Guide and support the member's project work, but don't do it for them.
- Serve as a positive role model for children.
- Support the 4-H Club as a positive, active parental influence.

### ***Recognition of 4-H Parents***

- Involve members in the recognition.
- Be creative and personalize the recognition.
- Plan a special parent recognition program.
- Provide opportunities for parents to become more involved in the 4-H Club.
- Send thank-you notes, place phone calls, and publicly thank parents for their contributions.

