



NAVIGATING 4-H CLUBS AS A VOLUNTEER

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH 4-H PARENTS

Parents are important to the success of 4-H. See below for ways to actively engage parents in your club.

Parent Expectations

- Provide clear, consistent communication with parents so they know what is expected of them (i.e. making a sincere effort to have their child attend meetings, picking them up promptly, stay up-to-date on 4-H events, etc).
- Encourage parents to attend meetings and directly ask them to help with tasks when appropriate
- Set boundaries so that parents understand when/how they can contact you.

Parent Involvement

- Involve the whole family in the planning process.
- Hold parent meetings or have club newsletters to keep everyone updated
- Help parents of new members understand what 4-H is all about
- Use a 4-H Parent Interest Survey to discover what parents are willing to contribute and then ask them.
- Create parent committees that meet at the same time the club meets
- Inform parents about ways they can contribute to their child's success.
- Thank parents when you see them; call them when they've done a bit extra.
- Hold a parents' appreciation and recognition night.
- Write thank-you notes, mail cards, or send e-mails to express appreciation for parent support.

Youth Behavior

- While we want all youth to behave appropriately, sometimes they are experiencing things at home or outside of the club that cause a negative impact on their attitude and behavior. Be aware of what may be going on at home and reach out to parents when necessary.