
4-H LEADS FOR LEADERS

THE 4-H LEADER

905011

Leader's Guide



A local 4-H program requires a *team* effort. The volunteers, Extension staff, parents and members work together to plan and carry out a program for the growth and development of young people.

The size of the group you work with determines the number of leaders needed and the roles they assume. Small clubs may only have one or two leaders who do everything from organization to project training. Larger groups may recruit volunteers for specific tasks.

A brief description of each major volunteer role is given here. More detail on each responsibility may be found in other sections of *Leads for Leaders*.

General Leader

The organization leader is responsible for: (1) coordinating activities and schedules; (2) for maintaining communication with the local Extension office and; (3) working with youth for local club program planning, training and resources.

This may include enrolling 4-H members, organizing the club, election and training of officers, helping members plan, carry out and evaluate their 4-H programs, keeping members, parents and leaders informed of programs and club activities.

Project Leader

The project leader's main responsibility is to teach skills and subject matter in a project area. Project leaders help members learn to keep good records and prepare demonstrations and exhibits. They may conduct workshops, tours or field trips related to the project, and encourage members to participate in project-related events and activities.

Sometimes the project leader does not have the necessary technical information to lead a particular project. In this case, the project leader finds resource people to give the project help.

Activity or Event Leader

The activity leader assists with specific events or activities in which club members participate. These may include: local achievement nights, field trips, paper drives, judging contests, health, safety, public speaking, career exploration, community service, and so forth.

It may be a long- or short-time commitment. These events or activities can be carried out at regular club meetings or at times that work into the club program. Some examples are given below:

Recreation Leader

The recreation leader works and plans recreational activities with youth and adults. These activities may include: singing, games, crafts, camping, plays, softball games, picnics or talent contests.

Demonstration Leader

One leader might work with all members on demonstrations, regardless of subject or project area. Emphasis might be on organization, presentation, preparation and use of visuals, and so forth.

Community Pride Leader

Community Pride activities can be rewarding. One leader who has skills in working with other community organizations, can help members as they carry out these activities.

Resource Leader (supports either project or activity leaders)

Resource leaders are people in the community with special skills, talents and abilities that are needed to help 4-H members learn about specific projects. Many people are willing to share their training and experience with young people on a limited basis—perhaps an evening or two. Resource leaders usually are recruited by other leaders or invited by a 4-H member to meet with the group. Resource leaders may be found among business and professional men and women, public officials, technicians, civic leaders, homemakers, farmers or ranchers. They need a brief orientation about 4-H and its purposes along with specific details on the job they are expected to do.

Key Leader (Area or County Leader)

Key leaders are selected to assume specific responsibilities on a multiple club or county level. They may train and assist all leaders in a project area (clothing leader), be in charge of a contest and training a team (livestock judging coach), give training in a specific subject (record books), have a county-wide project group, or give leadership to fund raising.

Key leaders should be qualified to train other leaders in a specific subject matter area. They may be assigned to serve leaders in one community, several adjoining communities or a whole county, depending upon the need and the size of the county. They may give assistance to individual leaders and clubs when requested. A key leader may have had past experience as a project or organizational leader working directly with youth.

Junior or Teen Leader

Colorado 4-H members may enroll in the junior leadership project and assume responsibilities in their 4-H clubs and/or the county program. Some youth may be given complete responsibility for a project group or club. They usually have an adult they can call when needed.

Older youth may take the place of an adult in a leadership role. They may do this whether or not they are enrolled in the junior leadership project.

