

4-H Volunteer Leaders' Series

The 4-H Club Advisory Committee

Mike Klumpp
Associate Professor -
4-H Youth Development

Each 4-H club should have an advisory committee. Committee members are selected once a year. Each of the three or more adults on the committee serve three-year terms.

Committee Responsibilities

The most important part of your job is to see that the club has sound leadership. The committee selects and supports the leaders who work with 4-H'ers.

Selecting means recruiting new volunteers and finding out what they enjoy and hope to do with boys and girls. Supporting means helping them get started and encouraging them along the way.

An advisory committee will support its club in many ways. Typical ways include:

- Promoting membership
- Promoting 4-H to the public
- Seeing that the club has a place to meet
- Visiting club meetings
- Representing the community at 4-H club activities

The advisory committee members may want to involve others with some of these tasks. Sharing responsibilities will strengthen the club's total 4-H program.

Some advisory committee members may wonder if they can also serve as a club leader. This is acceptable; however, spreading 4-H responsibilities among as many people as possible means not only sharing the load, but also sharing the involvement and caring.

In addition, working with boys and girls on one hand and recruiting club leaders on the other may be more than some people want to handle.

How to Get Started

Make sure you have a whole committee; then hold a meeting to elect someone as chairman.

Ask club leaders early in the program year which member projects will need volunteer leadership. If you want last year's club and project leaders to remain on the job, ask them in person as soon as possible.

Sometimes the members have suggested ideas for 4-H. Ask the organizational leader what she/he has heard the members request. Then, look for new leaders to fill the jobs. Look first among the parents of club members, but don't discount other adults in the community who like to work with youngsters, even on a short-term basis.

Sometimes it helps to get two people as a leader team. This arrangement provides for mutual support and encouragement as well as two heads and four hands to get the job done.



*18 U.S.C. 707

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.uaex.edu>

Spotting a Good Leader

You can spot a good leader because he or she . . .

- Believes that helping youth grow and develop is an important use of time.
- Likes to work with boys and girls at their level.
- Believes in himself/herself as capable.
- Knows that other volunteers are just as capable.
- Is able to take and wants training.
- Is willing to give the time and effort necessary for the job.

Recruiting a Leader

Emphasize the personal rewards a volunteer receives. Leaders get self-satisfaction by helping boys and girls grow and develop. Leaders have prestige in their community because they are people who do for youth – and 4-H has the best of reputations. Leaders grow personally by working with youth and through training sessions. Their training comes from other community 4-H volunteers, local and state Extension personnel, literature, experience, observation and contact with other leaders at the county, state and national levels. Remind potential leaders that 4-H is family oriented. It offers an activity the entire family can do together.

Make contacts in a person-to-person style:

- Make an appointment to visit with the potential leader.
- Lay all your “cards” on the table. Discuss specifically the tasks to be done, why they are important, a starting date and a completion date. Use the fact sheets included in the section called “Teamwork” to explain the responsibilities of the leadership role for which the person is being recruited.
- Be positive. Stress the facts that you and others have confidence in him/her and that you are entrusting a part of your children’s development to him/her.

4-H Club Advisory Committee – A Vital Part of the 4-H Team

Every good 4-H member and every good 4-H group needs the support of a team of actively interested adults.

Every good team is headed by a good advisory committee.

The success of the 4-H program is determined by your involvement and dedication as a volunteer team member. Working with youth is a privilege and a responsibility! Get involved, really involved.

You will experience many satisfactions, and your community’s boys and girls will be better for it.

Adapted for use in Arkansas from materials developed by the 4-H faculty, Kansas State University, Cooperative Extension Service.

MIKE KLUMPP is associate professor - 4-H youth development, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, Little Rock.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.