

4-H Volunteer Leaders' Series

Our 4-H Club Team

Mike Klumpp
Associate Professor -
4-H Youth Development

Who belongs to your 4-H club team?

Remember the Member!

The team begins with the 4-H members – youth who belong to your club. The entire 4-H program is designed to provide “experiences for learning” for 4-H members. Each 4-H member is the reason for 4-H to be!

Officers and Teen Leaders

The “stars” of your team are club officers and teen leaders; these 4-H members are “front and center.” Officers conduct club meetings and participate in all planning for the club. They do much of the work of the club. Teen leaders are 4-H members 14 years of age or older who are learning to be leaders. They assist the officers and adult leaders, volunteer for leadership tasks and assist younger members to learn and do. They may assist with project leadership. 4-H encourages older members to be involved in as many leadership roles as possible. The “4-H Club Officers” fact sheet included in this section gives additional information on officers and officer training.

Adult volunteer leaders provide the kind of support system which makes it possible for youth leaders to do their jobs well.

Sharing Leadership With Youth

Adult leaders are on the scene to “walk with” and “walk beside” youth who have accepted leadership responsibilities. Adults are friends of youth who over the long term maintain the club structure. In whatever role they serve, adult volunteers facilitate “front and center” leadership by 4-H members.

Adult Volunteers – Very Important People!

Volunteer leaders are the “front line”; they make possible the first and primary 4-H experiences for 4-H members. They are often parents but may be friends of youth from the community. Ninety percent of these volunteers have children who are 4-H members. Women are more likely to assume club leadership roles; men are more likely to work with projects. Most stay in 4-H for significant periods of time. Thirty-four percent give 3 to 5 years of leadership to 4-H, 28 percent give 6 to 10 years, 16 percent give 11 to 15 years and an additional 10 percent give 16 or more years of service to 4-H youth! More than 75 percent feel that 4-H is effective in meeting the needs of youth. They become and remain 4-H leaders because they want this 4-H program for their children, 4-H is a family-centered program, 4-H provides



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opportunities for their personal growth and 4-H provides opportunity for service to others.

These adult volunteer leaders serve in several kinds of roles in the 4-H club:

- Organizational leader
- Project leader
- Activity leader
- Records leader
- Resource/support volunteer

For detailed information relating to each of the above leadership roles, see fact sheet 4HCD4, “The 4-H Club Leadership Team.”

4-H Club Advisory Committee

In addition to the adults who serve as members of the 4-H club leadership team, another group of people may exist which helps the club.

The 4-H Club Advisory Committee is composed of local citizens who have an interest in seeing a 4-H club in their community. These people provide the link between the club and the community. They help secure people to fill 4-H club leadership team positions, and they assist with any problems or needs that arise with the club.

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

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