So you want to be a Volunteer 4-H Horse Club leader….

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PRINCIPLES OF A 4-H CLUB

✓ Uses experiential learning—learning by doing—as a primary teaching approach.
✓ Must have programming that shows evidence of promoting the Essential Elements of 4-H Youth Development.
✓ Includes planned opportunities to learn and apply life skills such as leadership, citizenship, community service and public speaking.
✓ Provides individual project experiences to develop in-depth knowledge about science, engineering and technology; citizenship; and healthy living.

PRINCIPLES OF A 4-H CLUB

✓ Provides programs, curricula, and procedures that are based in research and are developmentally appropriate.
✓ Provides members and volunteers access to resources of land-grant universities and to county, state, and national 4-H opportunities.
✓ Fosters youth-adult partnerships that encourage active involvement and participation by youth and adults.
PRINCIPLES OF A 4-H CLUB

✓ Provides safe and healthy physical and emotional environments.
✓ Offers projects in a wide range of subject matter areas relevant to the Land Grant University knowledge base to meet youth needs and interests.

Volunteering 101

• Make sure the expectations on both sides are clear.
• Be sure to include kids who own horses and those who do not.
  – When trying to gauge interest, many counties will advertise an organizational Horse Club meeting at their school club meetings, in the newspaper and to their livestock or horse mailing lists.

Volunteering 101

• All volunteers must be screened and go through a background check.
• Riding instructors are excellent potential horse club leaders.
  – Be sure they will not favor one riding discipline over another and be sure they will involve all kids, not just those that ride or board at their barn.
Volunteering 101

- Volunteers are crucial to the success of a county 4-H Horse Club.
  - They offer the expertise, time and enthusiasm that is necessary to make your horse club function

Club Structure

- A good working relationship between the county Extension personnel and the volunteer leader cannot be stressed enough!!! It is the basis for a successful 4-H Horse Club.
- Some clubs meet two times a month, some meet four times a year, most meet once a month.

Club Structure

- To the extent that you can, it is good to involve the youth in leadership roles, as in all 4-H programs.
  - Most county horse clubs elect or appoint youth officers in addition to the adult leaders.
  - This is just another way 4-H horse clubs can teach life skills to 4-H'ers and allow them to develop leadership skills.
Don’t Forget….

• Don’t burn out!!
  – It is a good idea to use several volunteer adults rather than have one person do it all.
  – Co-leaders:
    • horse judging team coach
    • horse quiz bowl coach
    • meeting program chairman or even refreshment chairman or phone committee chairman.

Don’t Forget….

• Delegation is the name of the game!!
• Use time/term limits
• When planning your horse club programs, be sure to offer programs that appeal to all riding disciplines (ex. Farriers, vets, etc.).
  – It is educational for all kids to understand not only their riding discipline, but others as well.

Don’t Forget….

• Offer programs and activities for kids who own horses as well as those who do not. Many 4-H'ers will not have the facilities, finances or parental support to own their own horse.
• Use power points from this training
  – Make written tests
• Enjoy your time working with your group!!