

## 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.*



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## 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.*



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## 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.*



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## 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



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## 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.*



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## 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!!*



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