



UConn 4-H Fact Sheet



UConn | EXTENSION

4-H Volunteers - Called to be a leader

A 4-H volunteer is a crucial partner in helping today's youth grow to see their personal worth and unlock their true potential. 4-H leaders serve as guides, teachers, mentors and a gentle hand to lead young people in exploring the world around them and the role they can play in it now and in the future. The UConn 4-H program depends on volunteers to implement educational programming and outreach in partnership with university staff, other adult volunteers and young people in a variety of ways and in a host of settings.

Types of Volunteer Involvement

In 4-H, volunteers have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of different capacities. They can provide direct service to a group of young people or help in a more indirect way by serving on an advisory committee or foundation. Many volunteer leaders serve in multiple capacities. Below are some of the leadership roles and the responsibilities involved.

Club Leader

- Oversees the workings of a 4-H club including meetings, events and overall 4-H project supervision of club members.
- Keeps members informed of club activities and events.
- Works to insure all members remain in good standing and adequately fulfill 4-H requirements.

Assistant Leader

- Aids club leader with overall club responsibilities.
- Assumes leadership in the absence of the club leader.

Project Leader

- Instructs 4-H members in a specific activity or project area.

Junior/Teen Leader

- Serves as a peer leader to other youth under the guidance of an adult volunteer.
- **Note:** Youth must be 12 years old or older as of January 1st

Advisory Committee Member

- Assists programming efforts in conjunction with 4-H Extension Educator(s)
- Assists in promoting 4-H at various levels to select audiences
- Possibly assists with fundraising or other 4-H special project areas.
- May be involved at the local, county, or state levels.

4-H Camp Foundation/Board Member

- Responsible for oversight of camp properties and programs.
- Assists with fundraising and facility maintenance efforts.

Program/Event Committee Member

- Serve as a member of a planning team for a specific 4-H program or event in partnership with other adults and youth organizers.
- Organizes, implements and evaluates program/event activities.

Getting Started

- Decide that you want to serve as a 4-H volunteer.
- Contact your county 4-H Educator to discuss how your time and talents can best serve 4-H and it's members.
- Complete and return the UConn 4-H volunteer application.
- Complete online volunteer training and screening (Screening includes contacting of personal references and a criminal background check under the direction of UConn HR this is for direct, custodial volunteers)
- Once approved, complete a face to face volunteer orientation with a 4-H Educator about the 4-H program and being an effective volunteer leader.
- Begin your journey as a 4-H volunteer leader.

Being Part of a Shared Journey

It is important to remember that once you become a 4-H volunteer leader, in whatever capacity to choose to serve, you are now part of the UConn 4-H family. A few important things to keep in mind:

- You are not required to have all the answers, just a desire to work with young people and their families.
- The resources you need to succeed are readily available. 4-H Educators and other seasoned leaders are here to help you get started with the tools you need to make a positive impact in the lives of young people. There is over a 100 years of 4-H experience at your fingertips.
- UConn 4-H Educators are always available to walk you through the steps and be there for you whenever you need support.
- You will learn as much from the young people you lead as you could ever hope to teach them.
- Whatever level of support you can provide is welcome.