



Position Description

4-H Parent (Home Helper)

Objective: Provide positive support to your child in 4-H.

Responsibilities:

1. Help your child enroll in 4-H and meet the 4-H requirements.
2. Help your child select one or more suitable 4-H Projects to complete.
3. Plan your schedule so your child can attend 4-H Club meetings. Post and help your child use the club calendar. Provide or arrange for transportation.
4. Help your child complete 4-H responsibilities for which he or she may have volunteered, been elected, or selected.
5. Attend at least three Club meetings with your child as an observer.
6. Help with at least one 4-H Club activity during the 4-H year. Contact the 4-H Club Leader to volunteer your assistance, don't wait to be asked.
7. Support your child's 4-H project work.
 - A. Encourage your child to attend relevant project workshops. Provide or arrange for transportation.
 - B. Help your child gather materials needed.
 - C. Offer support as your child completes one or more items for exhibit and see that these exhibits are checked-in on time at the local County 4-H Fair. Provide transportation and encouragement.
 - D. Help your child complete, and turn in on time, 4-H project records.
8. See back side of this sheet for other ways you can help as a 4-H Parent.

Assistance Available:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. 4-H Club Organizational Leader | 5. 4-H Project Records |
| 2. 4-H Project Leader | 6. Local Office of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service |
| 3. Experienced 4-H Parents | |
| 4. 4-H Project Manuals | |

Time Commitment:

One 4-H year includes about 1.5 hours/month for club meetings and 1 hour/week for 4-H project work. An average a total of 15-30 hours per year is typically required.

Benefits:

Help your child learn and grow; share experiences with your child; improve relationships with your child; make a contribution to youth in your community; make new friends and contacts; and develop a sense of accomplishment.

Qualifications:

- Interest in youth
- Commitment to the 4-H member
- Ability to take time to focus on the development of the youth
- Ability to assist, but still allow the member to do his/her own work.

Here are some other ways that 4-H Parents can help in 4-H...

1. Learn about 4-H; what it stands for; how it operates; how it is funded.
2. Advise your child in selecting 4-H projects.
3. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Find out what is suggested for the members to do and learn.
4. Help guide your child, but don't do the project or task for him/her.
5. See that when a project is started, it is also completed.
6. Encourage your 4-H'er when he/she succeeds and even more when he/she fails. Help him/her see progress, not just the end result.
7. Be a positive example! Help your child be a good sport and appreciate the successes of others.
8. Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family. Be a 4-H booster in your community.
9. Make 4-H club work FAMILY work. But, let the boys and girls do their work and complete their own responsibilities. Be their guide only.
10. Provide transportation to local meetings and county events in which your child and others of the club are interested. Or, provide refreshments for meetings or special functions. Don't wait to be asked, just volunteer this help!
11. Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
12. Help your 4-H'er find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, camps, fairs, displays, or shows.
13. Support your local 4-H Leaders and Extension Staff. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
14. Offer your services to assist the local leader. You have knowledge, skills, and abilities that are needed in 4-H.
15. If the need arises, help find local leaders for your 4-H Club. Several kinds of leaders are needed: organizational, project, and activity leaders. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Volunteer applications are available in your local Extension Office.
16. Remember the real purpose of 4-H is to develop your sons and daughters into productive, contributing citizens as adults. The way they work on projects, participate in meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for supporting your child's participation in 4-H!