



Illinois *Leader*

Publication for Illinois 4-H Leaders

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4-H Mission Mandate: Citizenship and Leadership

According to the National 4-H Citizenship Mission Mandate, citizenship is defined as a “*set of abilities that give youth the capacity to move beyond one’s individual self-interest and to be committed to the well-being of some larger group of which one is a member*” (Sherrod, Flanagan, & Youniss, 2002). This definition serves the 4-H program well as we seek to further engage young people in addressing the challenges and opportunities that they face.

We believe that:

- Citizenship is about an intentional process
- Active youth contribution leads to a lifetime of engagement
- With appropriate adult support, access to resources, and knowledge and skills, youth can and will take an active role in their communities.



So how can we as volunteers help 4-H youth become strong leaders and citizens? We need to encourage their involvement in our local club, county, regional, and state programming efforts; treat them as “equal partners” in decisions that affect them; stimulate their interest in new ideas and innovative thinking; and provide them with opportunities to express their thoughts, share their knowledge and practice new skills in open and accepting environments.

Do your members have a voice in planning their 4-H meetings and programs? Does the club president run your meetings or are parents and leaders taking the helm? Has your club or county offered scholarships to help youth attend events beyond the county level – Jr. Leadership Conference, Illini Summer Academies, The Great Debate, or Space Camp? Do you encourage your members to volunteer for leadership opportunities beyond the local club – perhaps as a county Ambassador or Federation member or apply to serve on a state event planning committee? Opportunities abound for members to strengthen their leadership and citizenship skills and serve as equal partners with adults.

The State 4-H Office is currently offering at least three different opportunities for older members to become involved in equal partnership, leadership groups. Applications are currently posted on-line for members to apply for the following positions: ***Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee 4-H Representative; Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team; and State Fair Jr. Department Advisory Committee.*** Deadlines vary from **June 15 to August 23**, depending upon the position available. Check out our new website at: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/members/leadership.cfm> for more information.

2009 North Central Region Volunteer Forum

The **2009 North Central Region Volunteer Forum** will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, **October 1- 4, 2009**, at the Downtown Holiday Inn. The theme of the forum is “*Giving them our BEST.*” The forum will feature speakers, seminars, educational tours, entertainment, and networking. Information on the program, lodging, and registration will be available soon on-line at <http://4h.unl.edu/volunteers/forum.htm>. All 4-H leaders are welcome to attend.

4-H Overnight Chaperone Orientation



With summer upon us, there are many opportunities at the club, county, regional, state, and national level to be involved with young people in overnight events. *Any adult* who chaperones a 4-H overnight event needs to complete the **4-H Overnight Chaperone Orientation** in addition to being screened as a 4-H volunteer. The web site is located at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/4hchaperone>.

The purpose of the web site is to provide training for individuals who will be responsible for the health and safety of 4-H participants at overnight events and activities. Having adult chaperones complete this training will provide reassurance to parents for their children's well being. It will also clearly outline the expectations for volunteers who serve in the overnight chaperone role.

The orientation includes seven sections: overview and screening process, adult behavior expectations, youth development, youth behavior expectations, risk management, health and safety, and personal information. Chaperones will complete three short quizzes and then will be able to print out a certificate of completion. The State 4-H Office and the local Extension office are notified when persons complete the training. Adults only need to complete the training once during their tenure as a 4-H volunteer. For more information, contact your local Extension office or Sheri Seibold at sseibold@illinois.edu.

Risk Management and Insurance Reminders



Don't forget to implement risk management strategies as you plan summer events and activities. Clubs should have a risk management plan written and shared with participating youth and adults for club tours, field trips, judging events, etc. An excellent resource on risk management is the *Helping You Help Youth* fact sheet: **Avoiding a Can of Worms: Risk Management for 4-H Clubs/Groups** downloadable at www.4-h.uiuc.edu. Go to Volunteers: Volunteer Support: Risk Management Resources: and Helping You Help Youth.

If your club or county does not participate in the full year accident/medical insurance program, you may want to purchase special activities accident/medical insurance from American Income Life for your events. Information is available at <http://www.americanincomelife.com/> or from your local Extension office.

Report on Your Club's Success

Share your club's success this year by assisting your members in completing an **Illinois 4-H Club/Group Report** and submitting it for statewide judging. The report requests information on how your educational activities were planned, implemented, and evaluated by the group. Clubs can submit in one or more of the seven curriculum areas, but each area's submission should be on its own form. Clubs may submit in the following areas:

- Agriculture (*includes Animal Sciences & Plants & Soils*)
- Community Involvement & Global Awareness
- Engineering & Technology
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Food, Nutrition & Health
- Home & Family
- Personal Development

The Illinois Leader is your publication. Submit story ideas and comments to:
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Reports are available through your local Extension office or by downloading it from the 4-H website:

http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state4h/volunteers/support_recognition.cfm. The report must be submitted through your local Extension office. However, it must **arrive at the State 4-H Office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17**. Check with your local Extension office for their deadline.

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