

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Being a leader involves commitment and responsibility. As a leader, it is your duty to follow through on what you start.

Many types of leadership opportunities are available in 4-H:

CLUB OFFICERS (ages vary by club)

All officers will be expected to work together with their club leaders in establishing their specific roles and responsibilities. Clubs usually have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian/Reporter. Some of the main responsibilities are as follows:

President

- Planning is everything!
- Your tasks will include making a written agenda and conducting the meetings.
- You will work together with adult leaders to plan and carry out the goals of the club.

Vice President

- In the president's absence, you will run the meeting.
- A good vice president also supports the president by bringing up items the president may have forgotten.

Secretary

- Responsibilities include taking roll call and recording the minutes of each meeting.
- Minutes are the record of what happened at each meeting and must be written neatly in the secretary's book.
- Usually it is a good idea to take the minutes during the meeting and transcribe them to the secretary's book later to keep it neat. This is a permanent record of your club's business meetings.
- You should also read the last meeting's minutes at each meeting for club approval.

Treasurer

- It will be your job to collect the dues, pay the bills, make bank deposits, and keep financial records.
- Each month during the meeting you will read the treasurer's report.
- Your club is responsible for turning in the financial report at the end of the 4-H year to the County Extension Office.

Historian

- You create a permanent record of your club's activities in a scrapbook.
- Enter the year's activities and events, newspaper clippings, and photographs as they happen.

Reporter

- It is your responsibility to report the happenings and upcoming events of your club by sending information to newspapers, newsletters, radio, TV, and school newspapers.

Other officer positions your club might consider are roll call chairperson, recreation leader, flag holder, song leader, or any other position you might want to create. All officers are expected to attend the Club Officer's Training at the Extension Office in November. If your club chooses to elect younger officers, you might consider having a non-related adult mentor guide them.

AMBASSADORS (any grade)

The job of an ambassador is to promote the 4-H program on a local level while developing leadership and communication skills. Any adult or child affiliated with the Douglas County 4-H program can apply to be an ambassador. Twelve to fifteen people are chosen by the 4-H Youth Development Educator each September to make a one-year commitment to this position. Ambassadors' duties may include: encouraging families to get involved in 4-H, seeking support for 4-H from the community, and promoting 4-H at county-wide events and at the Head of the Lakes Fair. By fulfilling their obligations as ambassadors, 4-H'ers will increase their knowledge of 4-H, improve their self-confidence, and get others excited about joining 4-H.

YOUTH LEADERS (grades 8 and above)

4-H'ers are eligible for a variety of leadership positions when they are in grade 8 (or in some cases ages 14). They may enroll in the Youth Leadership project (4-H'ers in grades 3 and older can also enroll in this project) and learn valuable skills that will enhance their abilities to excel in various leadership positions. 4-H'ers in grades 8 and above may participate in the county Youth Leaders Association which meets once a month. They learn leadership skills by planning and executing a variety of community service and social activities. At the club level, youth leaders may volunteer for leadership roles within the club such as club officer, youth project leader, Cloverbud helper, mentor, or club activity coordinator.

STATE AND NATIONAL TRIPS (grades 8 and above)

These trips are described in more detail on pages 22-24 of this manual.

CAMP COUNSELORS (ages 14 and older)

Youth ages 14 and older are eligible to apply for various positions at a three-day overnight 4-H camp at Leisure Lake Youth Camp in Trego, WI. Depending on age and experience, positions include assistant camp director, camp counselor, kitchen aid or lifeguard. 4-H'ers fill out an application in March. Counselors must attend two face-to-face training sessions before attending camp. Counselors are selected by the 4-H Youth Development Educator and will be recognized at the county banquet in October.

COUNTY-WIDE ACTIVITY COORDINATORS (grades 8 and above)

Adult and youth partnerships are the key to planning a successful 4-H event. Youth may volunteer to be part of a planning committee for any of the county-wide 4-H events. Responsibilities include attending planning meetings, volunteering for various jobs to prepare for the event, helping out the day of the event, and cleaning up after the event.

DAY CAMP COUNSELORS (ages 12 and older)

Older 4-H youth can provide leadership to younger youth at a one-day camp at either Lucius Woods or Pattison Park. Youth will work with adult volunteers to provide fun games and activities that will keep Cloverbud and Exploring members busy all day.

SUPERIOR DAYS PARTICIPANTS (grades 11-13)

Juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to team with other concerned community members to form a lobbying committee to represent our region. The trip includes legislative leadership, breakfast with the Governor, and the opportunity to be in groups discussing the concerns and successes of our region with legislators. Youth are selected by the 4-H Board of Directors as part of the M.E. process (see Appendix C) or they can complete an application form that comes in the mail in October.

