



Unit 6: Resources to Support Volunteers



This is the final unit in the Indiana 4-H Volunteer Orientation series. We would like to thank you again for your interest in serving as a volunteer with Indiana 4-H. As we designed this orientation, we did so in hopes that it would help you get off to a good start and would make your time with the young people in 4-H more meaningful and rewarding.

This unit covers the types of local, state and national support you can expect as a volunteer.

County Staff



At the local level, 4-H Extension Educators work with volunteers, parents, youth and community partners to deliver all aspects of the county 4-H Youth Development program. Most county Extension offices also have Extension Educators focusing on areas such as Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health and Human Sciences, and Economic and Community Development. County support staff provide assistance to these Educators.

Please take time to introduce yourself to the 4-H Educator and County Extension staff. Become familiar with the county Extension office location and obtain the address, phone number, web address, and e-mail addresses of staff members.

Volunteer-Staff Partnership



Volunteers play an important role within 4-H's organizational structure. This partnership between 4-H staff and screened volunteers provides non-formal educational programs and experiences for thousands of youth across the state.



Indiana 4-H Youth Development

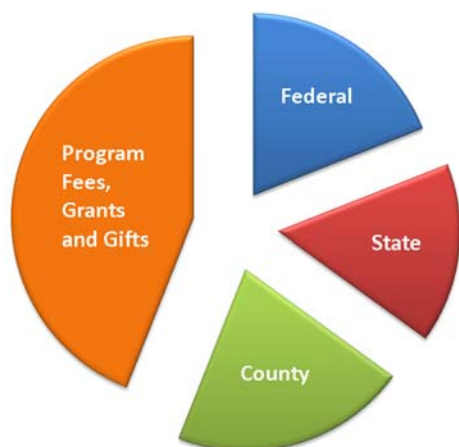


Indiana 4-H is housed at Purdue University's West Lafayette campus as a part of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.

Campus-based Extension faculty and specialists are responsible for coordinating the state-wide Indiana 4-H Program with the County 4-H Extension Educators. It takes a lot of people working together to provide youth with positive 4-H experiences.

The State 4-H Program Leader, along with other faculty and staff, work together to apply knowledge and research to program development and evaluation while supporting 4-H staff and volunteers in every county.

Funding Sources



4-H is supported by a combination of federal, state and county funds. Substantial support also comes from private sources on the local, state and national levels.

The National 4-H Council and the Indiana 4-H Foundation are not-for-profit organizations that support the 4-H Youth Development Program by working to acquire resources.

4-H Information



In addition to people available to support your volunteer work, a number of web-based and print resources exist. There is a wealth of 4-H information online.

A good place to start is the Indiana 4-H page at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/index.cfm>.

Here you'll find information on project resources for youth and leaders, links to 4-H events and a calendar with state and regional opportunities. There are also links to connect to county 4-H Web sites for local information.



Indiana 4-H Volunteer Page



Specific volunteer information is available at the Indiana 4-H Volunteer page at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/volunteer/index.cfm>. On this page, you will find several volunteer training resources, along with lessons plans and supporting materials to lead with your 4-H members.

National 4-H



Volunteers can connect with 4-H on a national level at www.4-h.org. The National 4-H Council has resources about programs, grants, volunteers and research. 4-H Web sites are updated regularly, so be sure to visit often.

If web access is an issue, libraries, friends or family, or the county Extension office may be able to provide internet access.

4-H Communication

There are multiple ways to receive communication about the 4-H program. Your primary source of communication will come through your County Extension Office.



A statewide newsletter, 4-H Volunteer Vision, is also published monthly, containing some information and programming suggestions for you to share with your 4-H members and their families.

Indiana 4-H is also on Facebook and Twitter. Like or Follow us to keep up-to-date on 4-H information.

Other communication may happen via email, text, blog, phone or direct mail. Talk to 4-H program staff about the best way for you to receive information.



4-H Source Book



The National 4-H Council Source Book offers a multitude of 4-H items for sale. It is the source for purchasing project resources that have been reviewed and recommended for 4-H use.

The Source Book is available in print and also online at www.4-HMall.org.

4-H Volunteers



We want you to be successful in, and satisfied with, your volunteer role. Understanding the organizational structure and staff roles as well as the available people, print and online resources will help you better support the 4-H mission. If you have further questions, please contact your local 4-H Extension professional for more information.

Thank you for your participation in this Indiana 4-H Orientation series!

Acknowledgments:

We gratefully acknowledge the University of Minnesota Extension for their willingness to share the 4-H Volunteer Orientation series they created. We have modified their original work to be used with 4-H Volunteers in the Indiana 4-H Program.