

Marion County 4-H New Volunteer Leader Orientation Evaluation

Issue:

There is always a need to orient incoming volunteer adults with the 4-H Youth Development program regardless of their prior 4-H and/or volunteerism experience. The unique nature of the 4-H Youth Development program demands that there is an entry level face to face meeting either one-on-one or in the group setting. This especially gets new volunteers off to a good start and gives them a personal connection at the Extension Office/4-H.

Extension response :

An evaluation instrument was designed and offered for completion to measure participants' personal level of knowledge, comfort and intent to utilize the topics covered in-session. The evaluations were sent to those who had completed the required New 4-H adult Volunteer orientation within the previous year. Participation was clearly noted to be voluntary and anonymous with responses used for program improvement and to report impact to stakeholders and clientele. Nearly 30% completed and returned evaluations of their experiences. They were specifically asked to rate their before and after level of knowledge of several questions and to give anecdotal feedback regarding knowledge gained from their orientation

Respondents reported their personal gain of knowledge and awareness as a result of their participation in the new 4-H adult volunteer leader orientation as:

Impact:

- 100% reported being able to identify a 4-H Extension Educator and key resource individuals representing Purdue Extension Marion County
- 100% reported increased knowledge in identifying educational materials that may be utilized by 4-H clientele
- 100% reported being able to identify volunteer behavioral expectations as well as county specific policies and procedures
- 100% reported being able to describe the basics of financial integrity, managing 4-H funds and reporting requirements
- 100% reported being able to identify multiple methods of program delivery for 4-H Youth Development programs
- 100% reported being able to explain responsible use of the 4-H clover and trademark name

Since their participation in the new adult volunteer orientation, respondents rated their knowledge gained as:

- 75% reported increased understanding of the relationship between national, state and local-township 4-H programming
- 100% reported increased understanding of the Learning by Doing method of working with 4-H youth participants and utilizing the Experiential Learning model
- 75% reported increased understanding of position description/roles of 4-H professional staff & local-township volunteer individuals/boards
- 75% reported increased understanding of the principles of risk management & how to minimize risks associated with 4-H activities.

When asked to identify one thing that they learned during orientation that would help them be successful when working with youth participants, respondents replied:

- * "How to ask and seek questions and answers"
- * "How to ask questions that get answers"
- * "Overview of rules and regulations"

When asked to share one idea or principle that they plan to use when working with youth as a result of the orientation:

- * "Be enthusiastic and encouraging"
- * "Make sure that a sense of accomplishment and pride comes with each experience"
- * "Make learning fun"
- * "Encourage them to try new things"

Partners: N/A

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Purdue Extension IRB # 07-5036X

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