

4-H Parents



How Can Parents Help?

Parents can be encouraged to share their different talents, means, and available time with the 4-H program. Not all people do the same thing well. It takes some analysis to find who can and will do certain tasks. For example, the parent who will never appear in a public meeting may be willing to build a booth or float, etc.

The most successful 4-H members have the interest and support of their parents or another caring adult. Often parents are willing to help, but are not sure how, when, or where they may get involved. Below are some suggestions for how parents can support 4-H members at home (1-9) and beyond (10-15). Share these suggestions with parents of your 4-H members so that they are aware of and understand the ways to help. If you think of others, do not hesitate to add to the list.



- Learn about 4-H, what it stands for; how it operates; how it is funded.
- Advise your child in selecting 4-H projects. Help your child understand how many projects will be reasonable to complete in a given year.
- Show your interest in and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Find out what is suggested for the members to do and learn.
- See that when a project is started, it is also completed.
- Encourage your 4-H member when they succeed and even more when they fail. Help them see progress achieved and knowledge gained; not just the end result.
- Be an example! Help your 4-H member be a good sport and appreciate the successes of others.
- Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family. Be a 4-H booster in your community.
- Make 4-H club work FAMILY work. But, let the youth do their work and carry their own jobs to completion. Be their guide only.
- 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!

- Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
- Help your 4-H member find a way to participate in special events that interest them such as county contests, camps, fairs, displays, or shows.
- Support your local 4-H volunteers. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
- Offer your services to assist the local volunteer. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
- If the need arises, help find local volunteers for your 4-H club. Several kinds of volunteers are needed: organizational, project, and activity volunteers. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Applications are available in your local Extension office.



PARENTS' 4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my HEAD to give my child the information I can, to help them see things clearly and to make wise decisions.

I pledge my HEART to encourage and support my child no matter whether they have successes or disappointments.

I pledge my HANDS to help my child's club; if I cannot be a volunteer, I can help in many equally important ways.

I pledge my HEALTH to keep my child strong and well for a better world through 4-H, for my child's club, our community, our country, and our world.

Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop your children into outstanding, productive adults. The way they do their work, projects, and meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.