

## 4-H PROJECT WORK

Consider the following when guiding a child in selecting a 4-H project:

- Interests, needs and capabilities of the member
- Opportunity for sufficient challenge and growth
- Family situation
- Availability of adequate financing
- Availability of equipment and space
- Availability of leadership for the project

4-H projects provide opportunities for:

- Developing subject matter skills
- Life skill development
- Participation
- Developing communication skills
- Keep records
- Share ideas
- Provide leisure time
- Recognition



**4-H PLEDGE** I pledge  
My **head** to clearer thinking,  
My **heart** to greater loyalty,  
My **hands** to larger service,  
And my **health** to better living  
For my club, my community, my  
country and my world.

**4-H PARENTS' PLEDGE** I pledge  
My **head** to give my child the  
information I can to help them  
see things clearly and make  
wise decisions,  
My **heart** to encourage and support  
my child no matter whether they  
have success or disappointments,  
My **hands** to help my child's club;  
if I cannot be a leader,  
I can help in equally important ways,  
And 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.



Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, visit <https://eoo.okstate.edu>.

# BEING A 4-H PARENT



## YOUR ROLE

### A parent's role in project work:

- Aid in selecting, financing and managing.
- Guide and support work without doing it for them.
- Encourage follow-through and healthy competition.
- Give praise and encouragement.
- Assist in gathering tools and supplies
- Encourage record keeping.
- Provide support and transportation.
- Assist organizational, project and activity leaders.
- Become a project or activity leader.
- Serve on committees to plan and implement club activities or project meetings.
- Become a certified 4-H volunteer.

### The family's role in 4-H:

- Encourage participation in 4-H programs at the local and county level and to assist in the development of the 4-H member.
- Support local and county 4-H program through time, talent and financial support.
- Work cooperatively with other families and 4-H volunteers.
- Participate in Parent-Volunteer continuing education to enhance personal knowledge of 4-H, as well as, to assist and guide your child.

## BEING A 4-H PARENT

### 4-H is a family affair.

4-H helps develop family unity by providing an opportunity to do things together.

4-H families become part of a larger extended family.

### Members benefit when parents are involved in 4-H.

Parents and volunteers who take time to learn about and understand 4-H are of greater assistance to their child and the 4-H program.

Members need parental encouragement to see project work through.

Keep members focused on what they are learning, not just *winning*.

### Parents are important people.

The time, talent and assistance provided by parents strengthen the total 4-H program.

### Parent participation strengthens the local 4-H club.

Parents are needed to chaperon and provide transportation for local and county 4-H events. 4-H members may need your assistance to provide refreshments at club meetings.

### Parents are needed to assume leadership roles.

A healthy club requires more than one organizational leader providing leadership for everything and everyone. As a vital link in the 4-H leadership team, parents will be asked to serve on local and county committees. The committees will plan and conduct activities and events. Adults are encouraged to create healthy youth-adult partnerships within the committee structure.

(cont'd) A parent may be asked to share subject matter knowledge with a project group. The subject matter could include a hobby or occupation. It may even include scheduling a tour or field trip. This may eventually lead to a parent serving as project and activity leaders for other 4-H members.

### Parents must stay informed.

Communication is vital in supporting your child's 4-H experience.

It is the family's responsibility to read and respond in a timely manner to the newsletter, yearbook and electronic/written correspondence received from local and county programs.

Don't hesitate to ask questions of local and county volunteers and Extension educators.

### Parents receive many levels of satisfaction from 4-H.

Parents may enjoy seeing their children grow and develop, grow personally through new experiences and challenges and have the satisfaction of serving the community.

