



Iowa 4-H Youth Development

# Effective 4-H Youth Committees and Advisory Groups

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## An effective 4-H youth committee or advisory group...

- has a clearly defined purpose and goals which support the mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- actively promotes openness to and acceptance of a diverse range of people, with the goal to be inclusive, rather than exclusive.
- provides members with a position description which outlines their roles, responsibilities and expectations.
- includes opportunities for input from both youth and adults.
- has a set of by-laws, which are consistently followed and reviewed periodically to make sure the group is operating fairly, efficiently and within the mission of the 4-H Program.
- utilizes a committee structure which allows for small groups of members to set goals and accomplish tasks outside of meeting time.
- operates in cooperation, collaboration and partnership with the paid 4-H staff.
- sets and follows an agenda for each meeting.
- includes volunteers who serve in leadership roles, fulfilling their roles as described in the by-laws.
- capitalizes on the skills, knowledge, talents and resources of all of its members.
- actively participates in all phases of program planning – providing advice; planning, conducting and evaluating educational programs; and securing financial support for program efforts.
- shows concern for the group's growth and promotes outreach to eligible non-members.
- promotes the 4-H program to all potential youth and adult clientele, as well as other stakeholders.
- enhances the image of the 4-H Program by serving as positive role models.
- maintains open, frank and honest communication among the membership and with the paid staff.
- keeps the concern for the physical, social, and emotional well-being of 4-H youth at the forefront of all decisions that are made and actions that are taken.

Reference Iowa 4-H 113 - 4-H Youth Program Committee Handbook

*Adapted from: Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Department of 4-H Youth Development, author: Rita Natale Saathoff*

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Volunteers/Documents/311EffectiveGroups.pdf>

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