



## Iowa 4-H Volunteer Philosophy

**Iowa 4-H Volunteers stand apart as being motivated by positive purposes in helping youth become caring, competent, and contributing members of their family and community.**

- See potential in youth
  - We encourage youth.
  - We engage youth where they are and help them grow where they want to go.
  - We are constantly learning and maximizing our potential.
- Make the young person, not the activity, the priority
  - We provide high quality, research based, relevant, developmental learning experiences.
  - We serve an increasingly diverse public.
  - We are leaders in experiential learning.
  - We nurture leadership skills in all young people.
- Convey a sense of power and purpose for themselves and for the young people around them
  - Our trust in each other is guided by adherence to the 8 Essential Elements.
  - We show the highest ethical and fiscal responsibility.
  - We value differences and are confident about our own worth.
- Are authentic – real, not phony, with a genuine interest and concern for all young people
  - We develop trusting relationships.
  - We are willing to share of ourselves not just share our knowledge.
  - We practice shared leadership and mutual respect.
- Are motivated to give back to the communities, neighborhoods, or families in return for the good things they received from caring adults when they were young.
  - We are present in every community.
  - We collaborate with other organizations.
  - We engage youth in meeting new, emerging needs in their communities.

Revised 2005 by Judy Levings, state 4-H youth development specialist, Youth and 4-H, Iowa State University Extension.

Adapted by J. Deidrick in 2000 from principles in “Caring Adults Support the Healthy Development of Youth,” Walker & White, *The Center*, Winter 1998.

... and justice for all

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