



iowa 4-H volunteer



belonging...generosity...independence...mastery



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A publication of the Iowa 4-H Foundation

The Art of Leading a Great 4-H Club

Being a caring adult and a volunteer for today's 4-H club has its challenges and calls for great leadership. The best clubs allow young people to work together to achieve common goals. Great volunteer leaders design the club experience so that all youth can contribute their ideas and strengths, take initiative, work together, make shared decisions and take responsibility for success.

This kind of leading is called the *facilitative leadership model*. 4-H volunteers follow this leadership model when they

- Create a safe environment for the participation of all 4-H members.
- Make certain that during the 4-H club meeting, event, or activity all youth have an opportunity to work together on some task or assignment.
- Share the power of decision making with members. All decisions needed to accomplish the task or event are made by the 4-H members and adults involved with the task or event.
- Remind 4-H members of the "big picture" and the overarching goal. They keep the club focused on the critical issues and activities without getting overwhelmed by or caught-up in the details.
- Help people see what is important to learn in each situation and not get hung-up

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CLUB ACTIVITY

Amazing Musical Paper Bags

Looking for a fun way to help your group make decisions and find solutions while working together? Try out the Amazing Musical Paper Bags!

Supplies needed:

Brown grocery paper bags: 5 per every 10-15 people is good. Music

Place the paper bags in a circle on the floor. Provide enough space for people to move freely around the bags.

Introduction

We're going to play musical paper bags this evening. When the music is playing, you get to move about the room, dance if you choose, much like "Musical Chairs." The goal is for every person to have both feet on a paper bag when the music stops.

Each time the music starts again, I will remove one or two paper bags. Your challenge continues to be for everyone to have both of their feet on a bag when the music stops.

Do:

1. Give the group a few minutes to think about the challenge before you begin to play.
2. Turn on music and begin to play the game. Each time the music stops, remove a paper bag (or two, depending on the length of time you have to play the game).

For the facilitator:

As bags are removed, the group will need to work to get everyone's feet on the bags. If the group struggles to figure out a solution, you might prompt them with a question such as, "Is there any way you can think of to increase the space on the bag?"

Some groups may end up ripping the bag to make it bigger. That's okay. Some will find other solutions. Creativity is great!

Reflect and Apply

Thank you for taking part in Musical Paper Bags! You can each take your seat again. I'd like to ask a few questions...

- What was easy about this activity?
- What was difficult about this?
- How did you decide how to get more people on each paper bag?
- What leadership skills do you use in this activity? (Decision-making, listening, caring about others, following, suggesting ideas, using others ideas, etc)
- In what ways did you work together to accomplish the goal? In what ways was this challenging?
- Share other times at school or at home when it is a challenge to work together.
- How can you solve those challenges?



Note

from Chuck Morris



The 4-H Youth Development program believes in developing leadership in young people. Our former 4-H members talk about how they developed their leadership skills in the 4-H program all the time. And, as you know, it is one of five outcomes of the program. Hence leadership is one of the key aspects of the 4-H Youth Development experience. **Leadership is the ability to influence and support others in a positive manner for a common goal. One of the best ways to help young people develop good leadership is to make sure they have a voice in club decisions and the opportunity to work together to reach club goals.** This issue of the volunteer newsletter is focused on leadership development and its importance to both the 4-H member and the 4-H volunteer. Enjoy reading about how the 4-H Youth Development program works to build leadership into the 4-H experience.



Colwell Embraces Leadership Opportunities

Mike Colwell has never shied away from leadership opportunities. He served on the Iowa 4-H Youth Council in 1993-94 and Sergeant First Class Mike Colwell left for his third deployment with the Iowa National Guard on June 6, 2007.

Leadership skills he learned through 4-H have served Mike well throughout his 15-year career in the Iowa National Guard. He served in Kuwait in 2001, in Afghanistan in 2005, and now he and Company D, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry are heading for duty in Iraq.

Mike can count on his mom, Dee Colwell, 4-H County Youth Coordinator for Harrison County, to support his own three children and the rest of the children of Company D while their dads and moms are deployed. Through Operation: Military Kids Community Partner Program, Dee has secured funding to provide for youth activities during monthly Family Readiness Group meetings at the armory in Crawford County.

Dee's willing recruits in this project are 4-H members from Harrison and



Dee Colwell and son SFC Mike Colwell assist Colwell kids to plant trees at Harrison County's ISU 150th Celebration.

Crawford counties who will assist with youth activities at Family Readiness Group meetings. The cycle continues as Dee helps a new generation of 4-H members develop their leadership skills.

ISU Grad Lauds 4-H

by Nathaniel Johansen

Looking back at my last four years of college, I realize that my 4-H involvement has played an important part in all of my accomplishments. One of my most enjoyable and rewarding experiences was the time I spent on the Iowa 4-H Youth Council. This experience provided me with leadership skills in public speaking, fundraising, presentation skills and more. I was also able to start some great friendships that I continued through college.

One of my greatest accomplishments at Iowa State has been as VEISHEA General Co-Chair for the University's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Because of my 4-H experiences working at the Iowa State Fair in the livestock department, we were able to avoid some of the challenges that large attendance events have. Working with a variety of personalities from different backgrounds was very rewarding. This is an important life skill that I learned in 4-H and have already applied to my daily life.

I am very fortunate to have been involved in some great 4-H programs; involvement at all levels helped me become the person that I am today. 4-H has enriched me and has provided memories that I will never forget.

4-H Leadership Materials

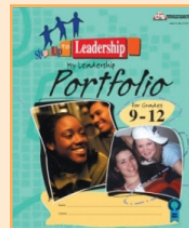
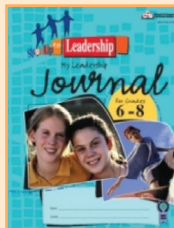
4-H is all about building leadership skills in youth. The following materials are available for youth and volunteers on leadership through your county extension office.

1. Step Up to Leadership

- Workbook for grades 3-5
- Journal for grades 6-8
- Portfolio for grades 9-12

2. Step Up to Leadership Mentor Guides

- Mentors for grades K-5
- Mentors for grades 6-12



Youth guides include a workbook, journal, and portfolio. They are packed with lots of fun activities to help youth become effective leaders. The mentor guide provides volunteers with information and guidance on how to mentor youth. These leadership curriculum materials can be the basis for designing a leadership learning experience for young people. Contact your county extension office to order these materials.



4-H Fights Stereotype of 'Cows and Cookies'

by Lieutenant Matt Gleason,
United States Navy

What I realized as my 4-H career blossomed was how much more the program really is. The majority of urban and suburban Americans visualize a 4-H youth baking an apple pie or leading a steer through a show ring. In all actuality is an international organization that prepares young people for whatever career path they may choose, from anesthesiologist to zoologist and beyond. Developing leadership is the bedrock of the 4-H experience, and the opportunities extend far beyond the club and county youth council levels.



Lieutenant Matt Gleason

I was very fortunate to be a two-time member of the Iowa 4-H Youth Council as well as a delegate to the National 4-H Congress and the National 4-H Conference. These experiences provided me with not only lifelong friends, but life experiences that serve me to this day. Whether it was leading 65 freshmen through their tumultuous first year away from home, or leading 320 Naval personnel through chemical warfare drills in the Persian Gulf during Operation Iraqi Freedom, I can look back and thank 4-H for instilling in me the leadership skills and wherewithal to succeed.

My life experiences have been by no means the exception to the rule. Fellow members of my two state councils are thriving in various jobs throughout the country, including a doctor in Iowa, a landscaping company owner in Minneapolis, a USDA Customs official in Chicago and a Congressional liaison in Washington D.C. We all have our experiences at and above the county level to thank for our successes in life. As I continue my career I will always strive to be the best citizen for, "My club, my community, my country, and my world"!

CLUB TIPS

Welcome to the Tips column—the place to find tips to help you manage your 4-H club. To share a tip in an upcoming newsletter, pass it on to the address listed below.

4-H Volunteer Tips
3630 Extension 4-H Youth Building
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-3630

Current tip source:

Vanette Grover
4-H Youth Development Specialist
ISU Extension, Howard County

The Next Best Thing to Sliced Bread?

So, what is the next best thing to sliced bread? It's providing our wonderful 4-H volunteers with the resources to help you do your club leader role even better! The Iowa 4-H Program is proud to unveil a new online resource:

Making 4-H Clubs Great for Youth, our Iowa 4-H Club Guide.

Check out the URL: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/Volunteers/clubguide.htm>. You will find a multitude of great ideas, some of which include:

- Tips for conducting club meetings
- Troubleshooting ideas for clubs
- Approaches to club money management and fund raising
- Helps for facilitating 4-H club experiences
- Ideas to generate and encourage family involvement
- Ways to start new traditions in your club
- Means to establish a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Techniques to coach youth in implementing an efficient meeting so that less time is spent on business and more time is spent on the main reasons youth join 4-H—Fun, Friends, and Learning.

This site is evolving. Much more will be added in the months to come.

Be sure to check out this extremely useful resource!

Use Coupon at the Iowa 4-H Center

Plan a retreat, outing, family camp, club meeting, or project workshop at the Iowa 4-H Center this year. Use the attached coupon; FREE day-use lodging or \$3 per person for an overnight stay. Call the Center TODAY! (515) 795-3338.

Web site: www.extension.iastate.edu/4hcenter

Good for One 4-H Club Day-Use

FREE

Restrictions apply. Call for available dates.

Coupon Good February 18, 2007 to February 18, 2008.
Not available June 1 to August 9, 2007



**(Art of Leadership continued from cover)**

on rules and regulations that may no longer be relevant to the task at hand.

- Remain flexible and open. They encourage others to share their ideas or perspectives without being defensive or judgmental.
- Show willingness to adjust plans to meet new and changing needs.
- Refresh their outlook. They don't do the same thing over and over because it is easier or traditional. Instead, they look at the situation anew, ask what is needed and remain open to input based on those needs.

In today's rapidly changing world our models of leadership must change as well. The best 4-H club experiences and volunteers promote participation, focus on critical issues and adapt to change. The art of leading a 4-H club today calls for the *facilitative leadership model*.

—Don Broshar,
4-H Youth Development and
Communities Specialist

State 4-H Council is an opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills beyond the county level. Encourage the 10th and 11th grade members in your club to check with your county extension office to see when area applications are due.

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

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4-H Calendar at a Glance**August 20, 2007**

- Early bird deadline for North Central Region Volunteer Forum

September 1, 2007

- Regular deadline for North Central Region Volunteer Forum

September 20, 2007

- Final deadline for North Central Region Volunteer Forum

November 15, 2007

- 2006 Pioneer Grant reports due in County Extension office

December 1, 2007

- 2007 Pioneer Grant applications due in County Extension office

December 15, 2007

- Iowa's Promise . . . Our Youth Grant 2006 reports due in Iowa 4-H Youth Development office

January 18, 2008

- Early Bird deadline for State Leaders' Retreat registration

January 26, 2008

- Registration deadline for State Leaders' Retreat

February 1, 2008

- Iowa's Promise . . . Our Youth Grant applications due in state 4-H office
- Iowa 4-H Scholarship forms due in state 4-H office

February 9, 2008

- State Leader's Retreat, Newton, Iowa

The Iowa 4-H Center always needs volunteers with all sorts of talents—call them at (515) 795-3338.

Mission: Possible...4-H Needs You!

Who: Fifty 4-H volunteers who have a passion to grow more 4-H youth/families (10 from each extension area)

What: Be part of an elite response team to participate in electronic discussions on how we can provide support to clubs and leaders and be the first to try out activities and tools developed by the Expanding 4-H Clubs state team to strengthen and grow 4-H.

Where: On your computer and try activities in your 4-H club

When: Starting Fall 2007

How: submit your name, mail address, and e-mail address to

David Seilstad
Harrison County Extension
304 E. 7th Street
Logan, IA 51546
Email: seilstad@iastate.edu
Phone: (712) 644-2105

**Check out the new Iowa 4-H Volunteer Website!**

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/volunteers/>

Everything a volunteer needs to know about the Iowa 4-H program should be here. If not contact Judy Levings, jlevings@iastate.edu to offer suggestions to make it even better for you and others.

