

Youth and 4-H

Youth as Partners: Program Benefits

Better Learning through 4-H Clubs

October 1995

When implementing the *Youth As Partners* approach in your club or county programming, it is important that your group is receptive to the input of youth. It is important that adult volunteer leaders encourage and respect the ideas of youth within their club. Operating on this basis, members and volunteers may experience some or all of the benefits listed below.

Benefits for Youth:

- Have a voice in club activities.
- Understand and become involved in the process of club decision-making.
- Develop leadership and communication skills.
- Gain skills in working with others.
- Accept adults as partners.
- Have a greater appreciation for the benefits of living in the community, and thus, gain a feeling of commitment to the club and community.

Benefits for Adults:

- Develop skills in working with youth.
- Learn how to involve and accept youth as partners.
- Shared responsibility with youth to influence the future of the club and community.

Benefits for Club and County Programs:

- Youth and adults can partner sharing their ideas, energies and skills to benefit their community.
- Involve club leaders, both youth and adults.
- Engage youth and adults in truly collaborative efforts.

Benefits for Community:

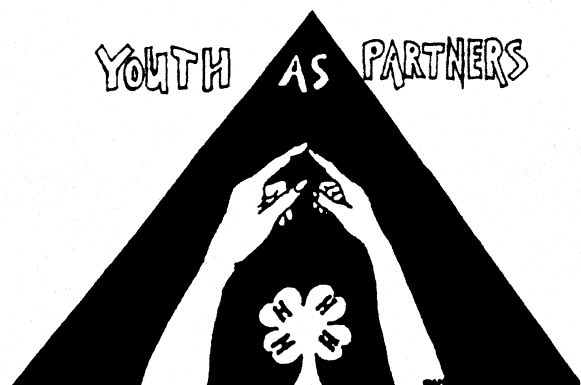
- Gain ideas, energies and skills from a traditionally untapped resource.
- Address citizen concerns through joint projects.
- Enhance the community's quality of life.

Benefits for Extension Staff:

- Promote the Iowa Youth and 4-H Mission by creating a supportive environment for youth and adults to reach their full potential.
- Provide an opportunity for youth and adults to develop their decision-making skills.
- Provide an opportunity for youth and adults to have a meaningful role through community service.
- Enhance Extension visibility within the community.

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