

## Volunteer in the 4-H Program

Do you have a caring interest in youth, their learning and skill building? Do you want to be a part of the 4-H mission: to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults? The 4-H program offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, and one or more may interest you! See requirements and examples of volunteer opportunities available in the Story County 4-H Program. If interested in a volunteer opportunity, contact Story County 4-H Coordinator, Mary Wilkins at 515-382-6551 or [mwilkins@iastate.edu](mailto:mwilkins@iastate.edu).

### Requirements of volunteers:

1. Child Protection and Safety Policy (CPSP) Process is required of all volunteers.

Because Iowa 4-H Youth Development is committed to helping create safe environments for young people to learn, have fun and develop socially, we work to ensure that the adults we entrust to work with young people only have the best interest of youth at heart. The Child Protection and Safety Policy process is a tool we use to recruit and orient volunteers. Once the process complete and accepted, the county Extension Council approves to appoint each individual as a recognized volunteer of the county 4-H program.

2. There are two required trainings per year. The trainings are required for volunteers in the following roles: club leaders, assistant club leaders, mentors to independent members, project leaders for clubs, and county project leaders. One training is provided in the fall, the other in the winter. If unable to attend the face to face training, the training may be completed online at home or a time can be scheduled to view the dvd at the Extension office.

### Support to volunteers:

- \* Extension staff
- \* 4-H project guides, possible materials, etc.
- \* Extension resources materials – publications, possible materials, etc.
- \* 4-H Youth Development Committee and Story County Extension Council
- \* Fairboard for activity volunteers/ superintendents for county fair activities/events.

List of volunteer opportunities begin on the next page.

## Story County 4-H Volunteer Opportunities

**Organizational Club Leader** –be the main contact for Extension staff and provide overall leadership to a club, whether it is a current club or getting started with a new club. New clubs could be project specific, even afterschool. Invite others (assistant leaders, officers, members, families) to help complete tasks as needed. There are three county meetings per year (fall, winter, spring) for club leaders. Assistant and club project leaders are welcome to attend too. Two of these meetings follow the required annual trainings.

**Organizational Assistant Club Leader** – provide support to the club with specific tasks as determined with the club leader. Invite others (assistant leaders, officers, members, families) to help complete tasks as needed.

**Organizational Mentor/Leader** – be a mentor to an independent 4-H member. These members are enrolled, but are not connected to a specific club. Meet with these members to visit about their projects, 4-H records, doing a service project, etc. Help guide them in the full 4-H experience.

**Project Leader for a club or the county** – share your expertise in a project area with club members by implementing a project workshop, etc for one or more clubs. May ask members or others to help plan and implement such activities.

**Project Leader for the county 4-H program** - share your expertise in a project area with Story County 4-H members by implementing a project workshop, etc . These could be independent events or on-going. May ask members or others to help plan and implement such activities.

**Activity Leader/Fair Superintendent** – be in charge of planning and implementing a fair event at the county fair. This could be a livestock or non-livestock event. An example would be to be in charge of a department on check-in/set-up day. There is a superintendent meeting before and after the county fair.

**Resource Volunteer** – serve on a committee that offers guidance/ assistance to the County 4-H Program. The Youth Development Committee is for high school youth and adults that typically meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7 pm each month (except December, July, and August)

The Inspiration Committee is for high school youth and adults that typically meet four times per year on a Monday evening at 5 pm. This committee is in charge of the Hattery Fund used to plan and implement an annual Inspiration Program in July. One year the committee brings in a guest speaker while the opposite year the committee supports high school 4-H'ers participation in the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) 4-H trip to Washington DC and the National 4-H Center.

The Historical Committee loves history and meets to preserve Story County 4-H history. They also share this history during the county fair and other events.

The 4-H Foundation Board is in charge of the Story County 4-H Endowment and plans events, etc to benefit the endowment. Through the endowment they offer dollar opportunities like 4-H enrollment scholarships and grants.

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## Story County 4-H Volunteer Opportunities

**Independent Volunteer** – help with one or more independent events/activities in the Story County 4-H Program. Examples of opportunities include and are not limited to:

- \* Evaluate county 4-H award applications in late September. Evaluations with criteria are provided. Experience in a project area is not required in order to evaluate.
- \* Help to promote 4-H by hosting a display for a couple hours (at KidzDayz, North Grand Mall Community Fair, etc)
- \* Help chaperone a county 4-H event.
- \* Plan and implement one session of the 4-H officer training held in November.
- \* Help with a livestock weigh-in
- \* Host one of the contest rooms Friday evening or Saturday morning at the Communication Contest at the end of March in Story City.
- \* Help with check-in on county fair entry days (includes fair at the mall)
- \* Write comments for judges on county fair entry days
- \* Offer an ISU Extension activity at the county fair
- \* Host the 4-H food stand for part of a day during the county fair

## State 4-H Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are frequently needed to help with events and activities like:

- State Fair <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/StateFair/StateFairInfo.htm>
- Iowa 4-H Youth Conference <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/StateConference/index.htm>
- Legislative Day <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/LegislativeDay/index.htm>
- Clothing Event
- Curriculum Fairs
- Judging Workshops
- Youth Shooting Sports Matches <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/SESS/shootingsports.html>
- Iowa 4-H Center (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hcenter/>) always needs volunteers with maintenance, cleaning, etc.

For more initial information, contact Story County 4-H Coordinator, Mary Wilkins at 515-382-6551 or [mwilkins@iastate.edu](mailto:mwilkins@iastate.edu).

## County Fair Judges Training

Interested in becoming a county fair judge? Training is available. To learn more, visit

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/publicjudgesinfo.htm> or contact Story County 4-H Coordinator, Mary Wilkins at 515-382-6551 or [mwilkins@iastate.edu](mailto:mwilkins@iastate.edu).