



4-H Independent Member Adult Mentor Position Description

Time Required: One 4-H year

Purpose:

- Mentor, coach and guide 4-H independent member in the completion of their 4-H Independent Member Agreement.
- Promote positive youth development experiences.
- Inform and encourage member and parents/guardians to actively participate in appropriate 4-H opportunities.

Responsibilities:

1. Complete the Background Check screening process, unless a parent.
2. Participate in volunteer development trainings to stay current with information, learn new skills and maintain our 4-H standard of quality experiences for youth.
3. Advise the independent member regarding their contributions to, and participation in, 4-H project work, events and activities.
4. Welcome parent ideas, activity and project assistance, support and attendance at 4-H activities.
5. Meet/share with the member at least 4 to 6 times a year.
6. Assist the member in setting goals and developing a 4-H plan for the year that includes:
 - Developing skills in the areas of leadership, citizenship, communications, personal life management and knowledge through project work.
 - Completing a minimum of one community service project a year.
 - Publicly demonstrating their learning by giving a presentation or demonstration before a group.
 - Reflecting on plan progress.
7. Answer/research questions the member has about 4-H and 4-H opportunities.
8. Support the member, being sensitive to their abilities and needs and being available to coach as needed.
9. Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Iowa 4-H Program and the local 4-H program.

Qualifications:

- Enjoy working with young people.
- Ability to guide, coach and motivate while nurturing positive youth development, decision making, responsibility, and leadership in youth.
- Sincere interest in mentoring and sharing knowledge and skills with youth in an educational setting.
- Ability to effectively support the member in taking responsibility for their independent status.
- Be geographically accessible to the youth.
- Ability to work and communicate effectively in both verbal and written form.
- Willingness to become familiar with, support and work within the philosophy guidelines of Iowa State University, Iowa 4-H Program, and the local 4-H program.

Resources Available:

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Service 4-H Program agrees to:

- Provide training opportunities (local and/or area);
- Provide appropriate curriculum, newsletters, and other resource materials;
- Provide the screening required for volunteers;
- Listen to ideas to help improve the 4-H program;
- Provide appropriate recognition and awards to leaders.