



# 4-H Independent Membership

## Adult Mentor Position Description

**Time Required:** One 4-H program year

**Purpose:**

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

**Responsibilities:**

- Complete the Child Protection Policy screening process, unless a parent.
- Participate in volunteer development trainings to stay current with information, learn new skills and maintain our 4-H standard of quality experiences for youth.
- Advise the independent member regarding their contributions to, and participation in, 4-H project work, events and activities.
- Welcome parent ideas, project assistance, support and attendance at 4-H activities.
- Meet/share with the member at least 6 times a year.
- 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.
- Research and answer questions the member has about 4-H and 4-H opportunities.
- Support the member, being sensitive to their abilities and needs, being available as needed.
- 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 with youth in an educational setting.
- Ability to 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.

**The Iowa State University Extension 4-H Program agrees to:**

- Provide training opportunities (local and/or area)
- Provide appropriate curriculum, newsletters, and other resource materials
- Listen to ideas to help improve the 4-H program
- Provide appropriate recognition and awards to leader

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